

## Did you know ...



During the summer, schedules change and routines are sometimes harder to keep. It is important to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your child so their early literacy skills continue to grow. Studies show that children who do not keep their reading routines over the summer can *lose* many of the skills they developed during the school year. Look for programs at your library or in the community that will be fun and provide opportunities for your kindergartner to learn.

Be sure to sign up for summer library programs, where prizes can be earned for reading and learning with your child. Most Idaho public libraries offer a summer program, and library programs are free!

## Here's how ...

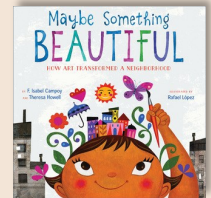


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live out of the taxing district.
- ✦ Let your child pick out books they enjoy, even if you have to read the same books over and over.
- ✦ Check out audiobooks from the library. Children learn a lot about reading by listening, especially about how words and phrases sound.

## Read



### ***Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*** by Isabel Campoy



Mira lives in a gray neighborhood until a painter arrives, bringing paints and brushes. Together, Mira and her neighbors make a beautiful mural that brings color, hope, and joy to the neighborhood. This book is based on a true story.

## Choose Books



This year many libraries will design their summer programs with an “art” theme. Here are some fun art-related books to look for at your library:

*Art and Max* by David Wiesner

*Chalk* by Bill Thomson

*Chester's Masterpiece* by Melanie Watt

*The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt

*The Dot* by Peter Reynolds

*Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett

*Mix It Up* by Hervé Tulley

*Purple, Green, Yellow* by Robert Munch

*Still Life* by Alex London

*Time to Make Art* by Jeff Mack

## Talk



At this age, children are just beginning to understand that the world is a bigger place than their neighborhood. Use maps, globes, books, and the internet to show them pictures of faraway places. Go to [lilischools.org](https://lilischools.org), click on the databases for K—4, choose World Book Kids, then click on “Explore.” Talk with your child about some of the fun places you see! (LiLI Schools is a set of online tools for Idaho students, provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.)

## Write



Cut open a large paper grocery sack or use large pieces of packing paper—something big enough to cover a large surface area. Tape corners down so it doesn’t move. Put on some fun music. Gather crayons, colored pencils, pens, or washable markers. Then sit down with your child and just fill the space together with lines, shapes, or sketches. The fun is in the *doing*, not the finished art.

## Play



**Try these word games with your child.**

**Put two words together to make a new word:**

What word would we have if we put ‘cow’ and ‘boy’ together? What about ‘foot’ and ‘ball?’ ‘Bed’ and ‘spread?’

**Take words apart:**

What two words do you hear in ‘hotdog?’ ‘Moonlight?’ ‘Crosswalk?’

**Breaking words into little sounds:**

Say ‘clap.’ Now say it without the ‘c’ sound (lap). Now say it with ‘n’ at the beginning (nap). Now add the ‘s’ sound at the beginning (snap). You turned a ‘clap’ into a ‘snap!’ Can you keep going?



## Sing



### The More We Get Together

The more we get together,  
together, together,  
The more we get together,  
the happier we’ll be.

‘Cause your friends are my friends,  
and my friends are your friends.  
The more we get together,  
the happier we’ll be!

*Add more verses!*

The more we paint together...  
The more we draw together...

*Hear this song from King County Library System  
“Tell Me a Story”*

[https://kcls.org/content/  
more-we-get-together/](https://kcls.org/content/more-we-get-together/)



## At your library ...



Be sure to check your library’s website and/or Facebook page for special summer activities in the library and out in the community!