

Did you know...



Summertime is a great time to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your young child so they can continue building early literacy skills.

Take time to go to the park and bring books with you for an outdoor storytime. Make reading bedtime stories a family tradition and sing songs as you take walks around your neighborhood. Play games with your child so they learn to follow directions and take turns. Talk to your child during routines like grocery shopping and bath time.

Visit your local public library to borrow books and games, or use the library's online services. Be sure to sign up for the library's summer reading program, where prizes can be earned for reading to your child or doing fun activities. Library programs are free!

Here's how...



- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books in your bag and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ❖ 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. When children choose books they enjoy, they love to learn reading and become better readers when they start school.

Read



***Ocean Friends: A Journey Beneath the Sea*, by Anna Krusinski (KUBO)**



This nonfiction book brings children and parents together into the magical undersea world of our oceans, where all sorts of creatures live. These beautiful photographs will spark curiosity and wonder, and help develop a love for ocean life and our planet.

Choosing Books



This year many libraries will design summer programs around an ocean theme.



More books about the ocean:

Alphabet Boats, by Samantha R. Vamos

Commotion in the Ocean, by Giles Andreae

Deep Underwater, by Irene Luxbacher

In the Sea, by David Elliott

Seashells by the Seashore, by Marianne Berkes

Show Us Where You Live, Humpback, by Beryl Young

Summer at the Seashore (Taking a Walk series), by Sue Tarsky

Wave, by Suzy Lee

Where the Ocean Meets the Sand, by Beth Costanzo



Children are very curious about the world around them. They want to know about the weather, how things work, facts about animals, etc. Nonfiction, or information, books help children learn about the things that interest them.

Nonfiction books should have a lot of photos or drawings to help children see what they are reading about. If there are a lot of words on each page, you don't have to read every one. Read the main points on each page and then ask questions to see what your child is interested in.

Don't shy away from some of the higher level words that are often in nonfiction books. Your child needs to hear lots of different kinds of words in order to learn to read later on.



A Sailor Went to Sea

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea
To see what he could see, see, see
But all that he could see, see, see
Was the deep, dark bottom of the sea, sea, sea.

Hear tune: [www.mothersgooseclub.com/
videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/](http://www.mothersgooseclub.com/videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/)

There are lots of ways to make this song a game:

- Clap each time you sing "see/sea"
- Put hand up to eyes each time you sing "see/sea"
- Sing song faster and faster each time you sing it

For a fun hand-clapping game see <https://youtu.be/rndGYcEBB3U>

To play with vowel sounds see: [www.songsforteaching.com/folk/
asailorwenttosea.php](http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/asailorwenttosea.php)



Down by the Bay

Down by the bay
Where the watermelons grow
Back to my home
I dare not go
For if I do
My mother will say,
"Did you ever see a bear
Combing his hair,
Down by the bay?"

Repeat, adding different rhymes each time:

Did you ever see a whale
With a polka dot tail?

Now add some of your own rhymes!

Did you ever see a cat, _____

Did you ever see a bug, _____

Did you ever see a dog, _____



Hear this song:

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
down-by-the-bay](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/down-by-the-bay)

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!