

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



***We're Going on a Nature Hunt* by Steve Metzger**



When three friends take off on a lovely spring morning, they have no idea where the day will lead them. On their adventure they explore plants and wildlife, having fun spending time together and appreciating the beauty of nature.

If you enjoy this book, check out



Choosing Books



This year many libraries will design their summer programs with an “adventure” theme. Here are some fun adventure books to look for:

Are We There Yet? by Dan Santat

Bear Came Along by Richard T. Morris

Field Trip to Volcano Island by John Hare

Red Knit Cap Girl to the Rescue by Naoko Stoop

Scaredy Squirrel Goes Camping by Mélanie Watt

We Walk Through the Forest by Lisa Ferland

Wonder Walkers by Micha Archer



Talk



Go on a nature walk with your child. Talk about what you see and hear. Do you see things you've never seen before? What colors do you see? Can you count the trees? The flowers? Expand on what your child notices with words that are new to them.

Write



This will develop the little finger muscles needed in order to write: Help your child gather some green leaves. Find a tiny straight twig and let your child poke one hole in each leaf. Tie a piece of string or thread tightly to one end of the twig, and help your child thread the leaves to make a leaf necklace.



Play



While Walking in the Woods One Day

While walking in the woods one day (*walk in place*)

I found a little fox along my way (*make a fist and put two fingers up*).

That fox trembled (*tremble*), that fox shook (*shake*),

That fox gave me a long, long, look (*fingers above head to make ears, eyes wide*).

Then that fox trotted the other way (*run in place*),

And I continued on my way (*walk in place*).

Repeat with other forest animals:

bunny (hopped) squirrel (scampered), deer (ran), racoon (scurried), owl (flew), beaver (swam), bear (stomped)



Sing



A Hunting We Will Go

To the tune of The Farmer in the Dell

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go!
We'll catch a fox and put him in a box,
And then we'll let him go.

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go!
We'll catch a mouse and put him in a house,
And then we'll let him go.

Repeat:

... frog... put him on a log...
... goat... put him in a boat...
... bear... put him in a chair...



Can you think of others?

See a video of this song, along with other versions, from the King County Library System:

<https://kcls.org/content/a-hunting-we-will-go/>

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!