

## 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 ...

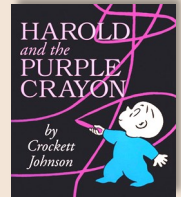


- ❖ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ❖ Keep books in your bag and in the car. When you have wait time in an office or while you are driving, books can keep your child interested and engaged.
- ❖ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local 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



### ***Harold and the Purple Crayon*** by **Crockett Johnson**



One night when Harold is not sleepy he decides to go for a walk with his purple crayon. He uses his crayon to draw himself into many adventures, and his imagination takes him to all kinds of interesting places. This classic story was first published in 1955 and is still a childhood favorite!

## Choosing Books



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

*Arlo Draws an Octopus* by Lori Mortensen

*The Artist* by Ed Vere

*Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg

*Ellie* by Mike Wu

*I Ain't Gonna Paint No More* by Karen Beaumont

*I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry

*It's Not Scribble to Me* by Kate Ritchie

*Look! Look! Look!* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

*Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

## Talk



Summer time can be a challenge for families when children's schedules change and they have more free time. Talk with your child about what they would like to do and learn, and make a list or calendar so you can mark them off as you do them. Do they like to cook and could help you prepare meals? Would they like to learn to swim? Are there places around your community that are free or low cost that you could take day trips to? Do they want to learn to tie their shoelaces? Summer should be a time of fun and relaxation, but it is also a good time for exploring and learning.

## Write



Use crayons or markers and paper, or go outside and use sidewalk chalk, to draw a squiggly line or the beginning of a shape. Ask your child to use their imagination to finish the drawing. You can play, too!



## Sing



### Color Song

*Sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell"*

Mary is wearing blue,  
Oh Mary is wearing blue.

Hi-ho the derry-o, Mary is wearing blue.

Jack is wearing yellow,  
Oh Jack is wearing yellow.

Hi-ho the derry-o, Jack is wearing yellow.

Mommy is wearing red,  
Oh Mommy is wearing red.

Hi-ho the derry-o, Mommy is wearing red.

*Continue with other names and colors.*

Hear the tune at:

<https://kcls.org/content/farmer-in-the-dell/>

(King County Library System)

## Play



### Color Rhyme

If your clothes have any **blue**,  
Put your finger on your shoe.

If your clothes have any **red**,  
Put your hands up on your head.

If your clothes have any **green**,  
Wave your hand so you'll be seen.

If your clothes have any **yellow**,  
Smile like a happy fellow.

If your clothes have any **brown**,  
Turn your smile into a frown.

If your clothes have any **black**,  
Put your hands behind your back.

If your clothes have any **white**,  
Clap your hands with all your might!

## 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!