# Idaho Family Reading Week -

# Storytime Ideas

## Opening:

Try adding a game to your opening ritual. You can go around the room and have everyone clap the syllables of their names. Try making a silly rhyme with a name (like Anna Banana). Talk about favorite games and fun things families like to do together.

## Books:

Start out with longer books like *How to Code a Sandcastle,* by Josh Funk, or *Rosie Revere, Engineer,* by Andrea Beatty. Use a book that is more interactive during the middle of storytime. Books that encourage discussion like *What to Do with a Box* by Jane Yolen, or a wordless book like *Chalk,* by Bill Thomson, work great. Finish up with a shorter book, like *Not a Stick,* by Antoinette Portis, or *The Birthday Box*, by Leslie Patricelli.

## Activities:

Almost any activity that you do in storytime would be considered Fun and Games. Try to introduce activities that families can replicate at home. Show how to recreate a puppet experience using stuffed animals or make a flannel board activity with paper and popsicle sticks. Pass out instructions for making instruments at home with recycled materials. Check out the Family Reading Week page for LOTS more activity ideas:

## Songs:

Want to have a Fun and Games dance party? Or just shake up your traditional song choices? Check out these options:

* *Fun, Fun, Fun* by the Beach Boys
* *Quit Playin’ Games* by The Backstreet Boys
* [Gameshow Songs](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuKKJ5FR6_i8lNoasIeVs7TusTDXHeK9a&app=desktop) channel on YouTube

## Comments on Early Learning:

* Play-based activities that help children build creative thinking and fine motor skills, learn about engineering, and use their imaginations.
* Brainstorm ways to transform your house into play zones that promote learning.
* Coming to an agreement with a friend on what to play is an important executive function skill for kids to master before school. You can help them learn by doing activities as a family where you all agree on a course of action.
* When we transform everyday objects into toys, your child engages in symbolic thought, which is important for developing language skills.
* YOU are your child’s best teacher, and doing things together helps your child learn.

## Tips for Families on How to Encourage Learning and Play

* Label everything – chairs, toy containers, the TV. This promotes print awareness, an important early literacy skill.
* Use letters, especially the letters in a child’s name – this promotes letter knowledge.
* Talk about numbers and find ways to count things.
* Find opportunities to sort things by color, size, shapes, etc. This helps with alphabet knowledge and is an important early STEM skill.
* Find ways to measure and compare to promote STEM thinking.
* Imaginative play involves opportunities to dress up and use props.
* When children play together, they learn to take turns, share, and develop self-regulation skills – all of these are important aspects of executive function.
* Blocks and other building toys help strengthen engineering skills.
* Take a book or story you know a child loves and act it out with them; or encourage them to act out a story they know.

## Tips for Virtual Storytimes:

* Make sure that you have checked the [publisher permissions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw) on the book you read
* Test audio-visual technology ahead of time
* Make sure you have good lighting
* Practice reading your book before recording
* Demonstrate or suggest activities that can be done at home with minimal materials

## Publisher Permissions for Books on the Themed Booklist:

* *What to Do with a Box* by Jane Yolen
  + Not specified – contact Publisher directly
* *Not a Box & Not a Stick* by Antoinette Portis (for littles)
  + Publisher: Harper Collins; permissions extended until Dec. 31, 2020; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.c19kmpdof1zi).
* *A Stick is an Excellent Thing* by Marilyn Singer
  + Publisher: Clarion, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; permissions extended until Dec. 31, 2020; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beatty
  + Publisher: Abrams Children’s Books; permissions extended until Dec. 31, 2020; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Mabel and Sam at Home* by Linda Urban
  + Publisher: Chronical Books; permissions extended until unspecified date; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Star Jumper: Journey of a Cardboard Genius* by Frank Asch
* *This Is My Dollhouse* by Giselle Porter
  + Not specified – contact publisher directly
* *Christina Katerina and the Box* by Patrica Lee Gauch
  + Publisher: Boyds Mills & Kane; permissions expired on Sept. 7; contact directly
* *Origami Yoda* (series) by Tom Angleberger
  + Publisher: Abrams Children’s Books; permissions extended until Dec. 31, 2020; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Windows* by Julia Denos
  + Publisher: Candlewick; permissions restricted to private channels only; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Blackout* by John Rocco
  + Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; permissions extended until Dec. 31, 2020; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *The Birthday Box* by Leslie Patricelli (for littles)
  + Publisher: Candlewick; permissions restricted to private channels only; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *Chalk* by Bill Thomson
  + Publisher: Two Lions, a division of Amazon Publishing; permissions restricted to private channels only; more info [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/113E-0ffElTRoI7zsvk6gjxrAgepeD-JGAD55-ftSfrc/preview?pru=AAABcsP7PlY*8TGmRKir4t9SAn6nn_sRYw#heading=h.zgez1uipb8zx).
* *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk
  + Not specified – contact publisher directly