# Ready to Read

**At-home activities to do with the child in your life**

### Sing...
- A song based on a nursery rhyme (like "I’m a Little Teapot")
- A song with hand motions like Itsy-Bitsy Spider or Baby Shark
- A song you can dance to (try Jim Gill or Greg & Steve)
- A kid version of a top 40’s song

### Talk...
- About a family memory or event, like when your child was born or said her/his first word
- Signs you see in the car or at the store – what do they mean?
- Your favorite food – why do you like and what does it taste like?
- Words that rhyme – find a picture of a word and try to rhyme it

### Read...
- A book about starting school – ask your child what they are excited about
- A book with only pictures – ask your child questions about what they see
- A book from the library – consider getting a library card
- A fairy tale or folk tale, like Little Red Riding Hood or Goldilocks and the Three Bears

### Write...
- Draw picture of your favorite character from a book
- A list of all the people in your family
- Your name with a crayon or marker in your favorite color
- Draw a map of your house and write the names of the rooms

### Play...
- With measuring cups – in the bath or make cookies
- With bubbles and talk about shapes
- Take a walk and count what you see – sticks, leaves, flowers, acorns, etc.
- With sounds – how many silly rhymes can you find for your name?

- With puppets – tell your favorite story with puppets or stuffed animals

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*Illustrations and icons are included for each activity to make it more engaging.*
UNCOOKED PLAYDOUGH

1/4 cup salt
1 cup flour
1/4 cup water

INSTRUCTIONS
Have your child mix the flour and salt in a bowl then add water. Knead and squeeze the dough to make a clay consistency. You may need to add more water. Add food coloring.

BUBBLE BLOWING SOLUTION

3 cups water
1 cup liquid dish detergent
1 T. Sugar

INSTRUCTIONS
Combine ingredients well. Dip bubble wand in and blow. To make a bubble wand, you can bend a pipe cleaner into shape. For colored solution, add food coloring. (Optional: coloring can stain!)

GAK

1 cup Elmer’s glue
food coloring, your choice of color
(Optional: coloring can stain!)
1 cup liquid starch

INSTRUCTIONS
Pour glue and coloring in plastic container. Stir until color is thoroughly mixed in. Add starch a little at a time, stirring with a spoon or kneading with your fingers as mixture thickens. Keep stirring until mixture holds together like putty. Test with your fingers: if too sticky, add more starch in small amounts until mass is smooth and rubbery.

Website Resources

libraries.idaho.gov/publications/bookworm/
Read or sign-up to receive “The Bookworm” from the Idaho Commission for Libraries, an early literacy newsletter for parents and caregivers.

youtube.com/yt/kids/
Try “Cocomelon” - Nursery rhymes, kids songs and videos to help kids learn.

pbskids.org/apps/play-and-learn-science
“Play and Learn Science” app by PBS Kids – free app for preschoolers and parents to explore science on- and offscreen.