

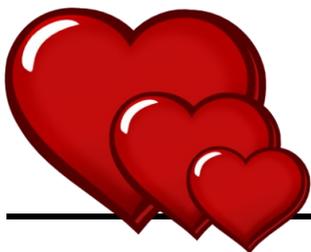
Early Learning Activities for...

# January



Touch your nose, touch your chin, That's the way this game begins.  
Touch your head, touch your knees, Now pretend you're going to sneeze: Ahh-Choo!

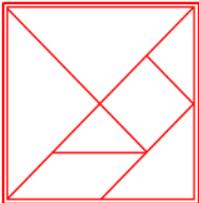
<b>1</b> Go to a storytime at your library.	<b>2</b> Spread out pudding or shaving cream and have fun doodling and writing.	<b>3</b> Make your own rhythm stick with a paint stick and strips of cloth or ribbon. Twirl to the music!	<b>4</b> Act out nursery songs with puppets made from craft sticks, tape, and drawings.	<b>5</b> Talk about textured objects like smooth, cool rocks. Make texture containers!	<b>6</b> Create a special book nook or basket for your child to keep his books handy.	<b>7</b> Go for a nature walk and talk about the trees, squirrels, wind, etc. that you see.
<b>8</b> Make animal sounds together as you read a farm book.	<b>9</b> Make a necklace with yarn and cut colored straws, beads, pasta, or fruit loops.	<b>10</b> Play "I Spy" the letter using magazines, signs, and books.	<b>11</b> Let your child see you reading and tell him about it. Receipts and magazines count!	<b>12</b> Paint with a variety of tools, such as q-tips, cotton balls, and string.	<b>13</b> Look at photo albums and tell your child stories about the pictures.	<b>14</b> Borrow a children's music cd from the library. Don't forget to sing along!
<b>15</b> Get out old boxes and cardboard rolls for your child to stack and build.	<b>16</b> Have your child "read" a favorite story to you as you turn the pages together.	<b>17</b> Act out a story using sock puppets.	<b>18</b> Run your finger left to right under some words as you read.	<b>19</b> Separate plastic color eggs and then play a game matching them up.	<b>20</b> Make a shaker with a child-safe bottle and rice. Shake to the syllables in songs!	<b>21</b> Spell out words with alphabet magnets when you're in the kitchen.
<b>22</b> Pause so your child can chime in when you read a book with repeated phrases.	<b>23</b> Write your child's name in glue and have her put pom poms over the glue.	<b>24</b> Let your child pick the books she'd like to read. Read them again if she asks.	<b>25</b> Blow bubbles for fun (and strengthening small facial muscles).	<b>26</b> Make letters and shapes with play dough.	<b>27</b> Line the bottom of a muffin tin with colors and then sort pom poms by color.	<b>28</b> Write down your child's story about his drawing. Display them together!
<b>29</b> Check out a book starring your child's favorite TV character, such as Dora.	<b>30</b> Involve your child in reading. "Where do I start?" "Let's turn the page."	<b>31</b> Have fun opening and closing twist-top jars or bottles. Use them for sorting, too!	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			



Early Learning Activities for...

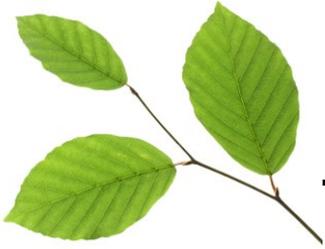
# February

Writing is all about fine motor skills - learning how to use fingers for small movements and building finger muscles. Kids can practice by scribbling, coloring, and cutting, and doing fingerplays (any rhymes involving finger movements).

<p><b>1</b> Talk about rhyming words. How many rhyming words can you &amp; your child come up with?</p>	<p><b>2</b> Play with containers in the bath tub. Explore these concepts: full, empty, volume. How much can a big one hold? Small?</p>	<p><b>3</b> Draw letters on a sealed sandwich bag full of shaving cream. For more fun, add food coloring to the shaving cream.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Use role-playing toys (dolls, action figures, stuffed animals). Build a house or town &amp; play!</p>	<p><b>5</b> Share one of your childhood favorites during storytime with your child.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Practice counting from 1-20. Count toes &amp; fingers, snack foods or trees on a walk - anything!</p>	<p><b>7</b> Sing a favorite song together as you drive, walk, or ride your way around town.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Use blocks or empty boxes to build with your child. Explore what happens as buildings get taller, or wider?</p>	<p><b>9</b> Sing the alphabet song with your child at bedtime. Can you sing it backwards?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Create a make-believe restaurant. Use pots &amp; pans, plastic dishes &amp; empty food containers.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Read a new book your child picked out at the library.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Together with your child, tell the story of your day, in order from morning until bedtime.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Cut out &amp; bake cookies in the shape of letters. Ask what words can you spell with the cookies?</p>	<p><b>14</b> Strong hands &amp; fingers help kids learning how to write. Draw, color, cut out, &amp; write Valentines.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Try to read together as a family for 15 minutes daily this week. Kids can't sit still? Break the 15 minutes up throughout the day!</p>	<p><b>16</b> Play dress up! Pull out costumes or even raid your closet. Playing pretend helps build vocabularies &amp; problem solve.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider," add the actions as you sing - fingers crawling up &amp; down the spout, rain,</p>	<p><b>18</b> Put on your favorite sing-a-long music for an instant dance party at home!</p>	<p><b>19</b> Together with your child, sort objects (like Legos or multi-colored crackers) into groups by color, size, or shape.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Read a book with your child that's been turned into a movie.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Watch the movie version of the book you read yesterday. Talk about the differences &amp; similarities.</p>
<p><b>22</b> All day, find shapes and colors around you. Talk about the color &amp; shape names &amp; how you can tell them apart.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Attend a library storytime or other children's program.</p>	<p><b>24</b> With your child, talk about the steps of a simple recipe as you prepare it.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Dry erase markers work on mirrors. Let your child write &amp; draw on the bathroom mirror, then wipe clean &amp; repeat!</p>	<p><b>26</b> Try a Name Game Song for everyone in the family. Follow this pattern: Pam, Pam, Bo-Pam, Banana-Fana Fo-Pam, Fee-Fi, Mo-Mam, Pam!</p>	<p><b>27</b> Hang a blanket or towel across a doorway to create a puppet stage at home. Use stuffed animals for a family puppet show.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Fold a piece of paper into fourths. Have your child draw pictures &amp; help her write the story the pictures tell. Read the new book together.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Cut tangram shapes in felt following the diagram to the right. Explore the shapes on a feltboard and let your child do it themselves.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 				

## Early Learning Activities for...

# March



Children need more time to respond to questions than adults.

Give your child extra time to think and to answer when you are talking together.

<p><b>1</b> Give your child paper, stamps, &amp; ink pads. Show them how stamping works; let them do it. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Mix a little water with cornstarch until it's the consistency of glue. Add water or cornstarch to make it thinner or thicker. Play in it. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Help your child put dried beans, rice, etc., or water in a bowl. Give them measuring spoons or cups. Play with &amp; talk about it.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Read Eric Carle's <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>. Use foods from the book, try each. Ask questions. Jot down answers. Bind it in a book to read.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Help your child put peanut butter on a banana with a knife. Roll the coated banana in cereal or nuts. Slice into pieces. Eat. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Pretend you have your favorite food &amp; are eating it. Talk about how good it is. Make up stories about what others' favorite foods</p>	<p><b>7</b> Give your child scrap paper or newspaper ads. Show them how to tear it; let them do it. Talk about it.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Mix white glue with borax powder. With varying amounts, you could get something drippy or more like putty. Experiment. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Go for a walk with your child; bring a bag. Look for treasure (a rock, feathers, sticks). Bring it home &amp; talk about each piece. Make a story about it.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Have your child ink their hand on a pad, press it onto paper. See how many things they can make with their hands; a horse, an octopus, etc...</p>	<p><b>11</b> Get a music CD that everyone likes and dance to your favorite songs with your child. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Use a file folder, glue felt to the insides, leave the fold clear. Use felt to cut shapes. Make things using the pieces &amp; practice naming the shapes.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Put baking soda in a mug, pour in vinegar. Watch what happens. Talk about it. Use what's leftover to clean your house.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Cut an apple in 1/2 across the center. Show the star. Remove the core, fill the space with peanut butter &amp; raisins. Eat it. Talk about it.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Get alphabet soup. Have your child identify different letters while they eat. Use alphabet macaroni to glue their name on paper.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Get Van Halen's "Jump" song. Do lots of jumping. Find other songs you all will enjoy. Sing and dance to the music.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Give your child paper. Show them how to fold it in various ways, let them do it. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Cut a lemon in half. Shake salt on a surface like a penny or a copper bottom pan, scrub with lemon until it's shiny and clean. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Use an old candy or Altoids tin. Put dried beans or rice inside, tape it shut. Decorate it. Shake it to rhythms of your favorite songs or rhymes.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Get some paper, cut stamps from firm fruit or veggies, and ink pads or paint. Remind them how stamping works; let them do it. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Get Jan Thomas' book <i>Is Everyone Ready for Fun?</i> Follow the directions &amp; have fun jumping, sitting, etc., in all the right places.</p>
<p><b>22</b> Explain how rhymes work (similar sounds). Take a word &amp; ask your child what rhymes with it. Start with their name.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Put 1 cup water, 3 c flour, 1-1/2 c salt, 1/4 c oil &amp; food coloring in a bowl. Mix well; knead until smooth. Store in a Ziploc bag. Play.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Put some milk in a plate. Add drops of food coloring to the edges. Put some dish soap on a Q-tip &amp; touch the swab to the milk. What happens?</p>	<p><b>25</b> Blow bubbles; teach your child how, chase them, take pictures. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Get a favorite book. Have your child act out the pages with your help. Use makeup and costumes. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Use an empty container. Tape the lid on. Tape decorated paper around it. Tap rhythms to your favorite songs as you sing them.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Make a sock puppet. Make a face using a marker or glue &amp; other materials for eyes &amp; a mouth, hair; get creative. Have a puppet show.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Cut celery with your child into 2-3 inch bits. Stuff it with peanut butter &amp; put ants (raisins, nuts, etc.) on the log (celery). Eat it. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Find out from a library book or web site about making paper airplanes. Follow the instructions. Fly the plane. Talk about it.</p>	<p><b>31</b> At bedtime, sing your child a lullaby.</p>	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			

## Early Learning Activities for...

# April



Object permanence (the realization that things exist even if they are out of sight) sets the stage for understanding that letters can be arranged in patterns — syllables, words, sentences, paragraphs, books! — that convey meaning.

<b>1</b> Have your child practice their scissor skills while singing the ABC song. They can cut junk mail or recycling.	<b>2</b> Make shakers by filling plastic eggs w/rice or beans. (Tape them closed. To be safe!) Shake to each syllable in a word.	<b>3</b> Read <i>A Perfect Day for Digging</i> by Cari Best; plant vegetable seeds or flowers in garden or container.	<b>4</b> Help your child tell a story about a special event. Ask questions and add details to what your child says.	<b>5</b> Play <i>I Spy</i> ; focus on objects with different shapes (I spy something round...).	<b>6</b> Read a book about animals and model the sounds they make; ask your child to mimic the sound.	<b>7</b> Point out the first letter of your child's name on signs, product packages, etc.
<b>8</b> As you clean or cook, talk to your child about each step, have them help & tell you what part of the job they are doing.	<b>9</b> Have your child make 5 "ducks" with dabs of yellow paint; sing <i>5 Little Ducks Went Out to Play</i> .	<b>10</b> Make up a silly song about everyday activities, such as how you are preparing dinner or sweeping.	<b>11</b> Read <i>Spring Blossoms</i> by Carole Gerber; take a nature walk and identify blossoms and leaves.	<b>12</b> Have your child tell you about the picture they draw; write down the words as they tell you.	<b>13</b> Write your child's name and let your child decorate it; help your child identify and say the letters.	<b>14</b> When shopping, find items of a certain color, or that start with the same letter as your child's name.
<b>15</b> Look at pictures in a book without reading the words; let your child predict what will happen.	<b>16</b> Read <i>Let's Count</i> by Tana Hoban; count along w/book, then have your child count items in the house.	<b>17</b> With your child, make a rabbit paper bag puppet; make up a story and act it out with the puppet.	<b>18</b> When driving, pick a letter and see how many objects your child can find that start with it.	<b>19</b> Read <i>Growing Vegetable Soup</i> by Lois Ehlert; make soup together, talk about the process & the ingredients.	<b>20</b> Write your child's name; have them place cereal or raisins on the shape of the letters.	<b>21</b> Make sounds through a cardboard tube and ask your child to imitate the sounds you make.
<b>22</b> Write your child's name and have them trace the shape of the letters with their finger.	<b>23</b> Read <i>And Then It's Spring</i> by Julie Fogliano; go for a walk & talk about the changes you see.	<b>24</b> Ask your child to group objects from around the house according to color, size or shape.	<b>25</b> Allow your child to play with print. (pretend to write a letter, make a card, make a list).	<b>26</b> Put some shaving cream on a hard surface and let your child experiment writing letters in it.	<b>27</b> At bedtime, take turns telling about your day; try going forwards and backwards.	<b>28</b> Read three books by the same author; see if your child can find similarities in the pictures and stories.
<b>29</b> Read <i>Stuck in the Mud</i> by Jane Clarke; make some mud! Talk and play with dirt and water.	<b>30</b> Make play-doh with your child; have them make letter shapes.	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p>				

## Early Learning Activities for...

# May

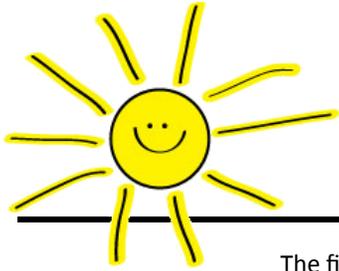


Go outside for a walk each week and talk about what you notice. Introduce new vocabulary along the way.

<b>1</b> Make up a silly song to any familiar tune. Repeat several times . Add motions.	<b>2</b> Play hopscotch with letters instead of numbers. Or use shapes. Or different colors.	<b>3</b> Talk about something you did today that you liked & something you would do differently.	<b>4</b> Use scissors to cut scraps of paper, cardboard, thread & items from the recycle pile. Be creative.	<b>5</b> Draw faces on each hand or each finger with washable markers. Tell a story using the characters.	<b>6</b> Randomly rhyme words throughout the day. "I like your shoes, blues, fuse, cruise, etc. ..."	<b>7</b> Using old boxes or magazines let your child trace over the print with their finger, crayons & pens.
<b>8</b> Play "Statues". Move until the leader says "Freeze". Then everyone takes a pose & describes it.	<b>9</b> Pick a letter. Use it all day in many ways. Make the shape with playdoh, string, point it out on labels.	<b>10</b> Put paper shapes on the floor, then walk, stomp, tiptoe, etc.... back & forth, to the side, move like a cat, dancer, a bug ...	<b>11</b> Create or "draw" a simple scene using everyday items; rocks, paper clips, dimes, whatever and describe	<b>12</b> Read a book, reread changing one word per page or sentence. Ask your child what is different.	<b>13</b> Describe today's weather with as many terms as you can. Draw a picture or make a collage of it.	<b>14</b> Make faces together in the mirror. Talk about the feelings or moods you might be showing.
<b>15</b> Sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" but replace the spider with different animals, like a bat a lion or a dog.	<b>16</b> Talk about names, how were you named, do the names have meaning? What is Nana's name?	<b>17</b> Narrate what you do as you go about your day; make breakfast, as you tie your shoes, use new	<b>18</b> Pick a letter. Say it together. Create a list of things that start with it. Draw a few of the items on the list.	<b>19</b> To the tune of Farmer in the Dell sing what you do; "We're going to the store, we're going to the store..." etc.	<b>20</b> Count steps as you go to the mailbox, down the hall, etc. How many turns did you take? Compare the trips.	<b>21</b> Make a daily sign in sheet. Dot the letters in the child's name so they can trace it. Compare after 1 week, 1 month
<b>22</b> Read a story, discuss the characters. Did you like him? Are you like her? What else?	<b>23</b> Time each other doing a simple task; getting dressed, brushing teeth, walking the dog. Guess how long it will take.	<b>24</b> Wonder together. What's it like to be a big kid? How much milk can one cow make? What does Etc.	<b>25</b> Write a letter to mail let your child do what they can. Or have them dictate it to you.	<b>26</b> Hum together. Take turns, copy each other. Hum familiar tunes and/or make up new ones!	<b>27</b> At dinner or bedtime remember the day backwards. Try to get as many details as possible.	<b>28</b> Play Tic-tac-toe using different letters, numbers or symbols each time. Play again & again.
<b>29</b> Play this silly game: speak slowly, or very quickly, use a high or low pitch to your voice.	<b>30</b> Tell a story together. Begin a sentence but let your child fill in a word or phrase.	<b>31</b> What fun things are you going to do this summer? Tell your child or have your child tell you.	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			

## Early Learning Activities for...

# June



The five best ways to help children learn pre-reading skills and get ready to read: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing.

<b>1</b> Sign-up for the library's Summer Reading Program. Explore the children's area. Check out a book about colors.	<b>2</b> Create a time of day when you and your children read together.	<b>3</b> At the library, check out a wordless book. Make up your own stories using the book.	<b>4</b> Discover and explore bedtime math at <a href="http://bedtimemath.org">bedtimemath.org</a>	<b>5</b> Make up a new version of "The Hokey Pokey." Ideas include: Dino Pokey and Dragon Pokey.	<b>6</b> Nursery Rhyme Time: Wake your children up with a nursery rhyme.	<b>7</b> Take a family fieldtrip to a blueberry farm or a strawberry field.	
<b>8</b> Help your child recognize print in the environment, like names on cereal boxes and other packaging	<b>9</b> Pretend you are a superhero. What are your super powers? Use descriptive words.	<b>10</b> At the library go to storytime or an event. Checkout a counting book.	<b>11</b> Get some sidewalk chalk and be creative. Children can practice letters and numbers using the chalk.	<b>12</b> Sing "Old MacDonald." Instead of Old MacDonald having a farm he could have a zoo or an aquarium.	<b>13</b> Take a family fieldtrip to the local farmer's market. Read the names of unusual foods. Draw using crayons.	<b>14</b> Today is Flag Day. Count the stripes on the flag. Talk about the colors of the flag.	
<b>15</b> Celebrate Father's Day by having a family game night.	<b>16</b> Take a fresh look at your home library. You can find tips at <a href="http://readingrockets.org">readingrockets.org</a> .	<b>17</b> Visit the library. Check out an animal book. Kids love nonfiction books that have real pictures and factual information.	<b>18</b> Make bubbles. Use 1 cup water, 1 Tbsp dish liquid. Pipe cleaners can be for the bubble wands.	<b>19</b> Make sock puppets and put on a play. Use lots of new vocabulary.	<b>20</b> Celebrate the first day of summer by going for a walk and talking about what you see.	<b>21</b> Take a family fieldtrip to a zoo, aquarium or farm. Look for unusual things to notice.	
<b>22</b> Make a bird feeder using string and cheerios. Talk about each step as you make it.	<b>23</b> Help your child write an email, Facebook post or a letter to friend or family member.	<b>24</b> At the library, get an alphabet book, like <i>Z is for Moose</i> . It has fun lessons about friendship, sharing, and compromise.	<b>25</b> Spray shaving cream on the table and have your child practice writing letters and words in it with their finger.	<b>26</b> Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."	<b>27</b> Magnetic letters are a great way to introduce a child to sounds, letters and words.	<b>28</b> Take a family fieldtrip to the local farmer's market.	
<b>29</b> Say "Hello" in another language (Spanish=hola, French=bonjour, German=hallo).	<b>30</b> Visit the library. Get a cookbook (children's if possible). Your child can help make a list, shop and help you cook.	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p>					

## Early Learning Activities for...

# July



Libraries provide a rich, family-friendly environment.

When visiting the library, ask about storytimes and family programs, summer reading, and where to find the children's books.

<b>1</b> Talk about what you will do this month. Make up rhymes for "July," like how the fireworks will "fly"	<b>2</b> Read <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i> . Find or make cut out upper & lower case letters, have them act out stories.	<b>3</b> Read <i>Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb</i> . Play drums on a table or chair & chant, "Dum ditty, Dum ditty, DumDum. Dum!"	<b>4</b> Write the first letter of your name with a sparkler! Read <i>Red White and Boom</i> by Lee Wadlaw!	<b>5</b> Name the colors of your clothes. Find the crayon colors that match them. Read <i>Pete the Cat I Love My White Shoes</i> .	<b>6</b> Take turns thinking of words that rhyme with colors, like white kite, or red bed or green bean. How many can you do?	<b>7</b> Go for a walk in the park. Write down, in your child's words, the story of your walk, then read it aloud.
<b>8</b> Go for a walk. Point out and read the signs and license plates you see. Make license plate rubbings to color.	<b>9</b> Look at the pictures and words on cans at the grocery store. Start a scrapbook of canned food labels.	<b>10</b> Teach your child the rhyme "To market to market to buy a fat pig.." Then read <i>To Market To Market</i> by Anne Miranda.	<b>11</b> Go for a walk. Gather leaves from the trees. Make pictures & letters out of leaves. Read <i>Tap the Magic Tree</i> .	<b>12</b> Read <i>Froggy Learns to Swim</i> . Sing "Bubble bubble, Toot toot, Chicken Airplane Soldier." Blow bubbles together.	<b>13</b> Float or sink objects in the bathtub or wading pool. Talk together about what happens.	<b>14</b> Sing "Rub-a-dub-dub, Three men in a tub!" Then sing the song while blowing bubbles.
<b>15</b> Write big letters with your hand or finger in a wading pool or bath water.	<b>16</b> Read <i>Brownie &amp; Pearl Take a Dip</i> by Cynthia Rylant. Arrange a hose into letters: S for sun, C for cool. Keep going.	<b>17</b> Blow up balloons. Write words on your balloons with markers. Take your word balloons outside to fly!	<b>18</b> Write your child's name on a piece of paper, let them color it. Then fold it into an airplane and send it flying!	<b>19</b> Lie in the grass with your little one. Look up at the sky. Describe to each other the pictures you see in the clouds.	<b>20</b> Visit the library. Browse the picture & board book shelves. Find a comfortable place to sit and read aloud together.	<b>21</b> Go to storytime at the library. Hear stories, sing, make a craft & make new friends. Go often to discover new worlds.
<b>22</b> Read <i>Peek-a-Zoo</i> . Try to guess the animals. Zoo starts with "Z", what other zippy, zany, zantastic words can you make up ?	<b>23</b> Read <i>My Heart is Like a Zoo</i> and then cut out paper shapes for your little one to make into animals.	<b>24</b> Sing "Old MacDonald Had a Zoo" ask your child for an animal for each verse. Make sounds & hand	<b>25</b> Make a zoo. Use string for cages on the floor. Put an animal toy or drawing in each. Make signs for each	<b>26</b> Read <i>Toot Toot Beep Beep</i> . Make cars with toilet paper rolls, straws, & bottle caps. Decorate & race!	<b>27</b> Help your child make a big cardboard box car to "drive." Have your child decorate the car & write his/her name on it.	<b>28</b> Sing "The Wheels on the Bus" and "This Is the Way We Drive Our Car So Early in the Morning."
<b>29</b> Make rhymes about your favorite "things that go." For example, "My boat can float!"	<b>30</b> Snuggle together to count piggy toes. Read <i>Pajama Time!</i> by Sandra Boynton and <i>Time for Bed</i> by Mem Fox.	<b>31</b> Go outside together before bedtime to see the moon & look at the stars. Sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			



## Early Learning Activities for...

# August

Make sure your child gets their vision checked before the first day of kindergarten. Seeing clearly makes it easier to succeed in school!

<b>1</b> Read <i>Baby Loves Summer!</i> by Karen Katz. Summer fun for baby. Lift-the-flap book, 1-4 years.	<b>2</b> Read <i>Two Dogs Swimming</i> by Lynn Reiser. Picture book, 3-7 years.	<b>3</b> Read <i>One Hot Summer Day</i> by Nina Crews. Toddler fun in the city. Photo collage illustrations, 2-5 years.	<b>4</b> Sing <i>The Alphabet Song</i> to your baby or toddler, and with your preschooler.	<b>5</b> Read <i>Smelly Bill</i> by Daniel Postgate. A dog's gotta roll in the stink! Rhyming picture book, 3-7 years.	<b>6</b> Tell your child a story about how you spent a hot summer day when you were a kid.	<b>7</b> Reading with your baby shows her how books "work" — how pages turn, print goes left to right, etc.
<b>8</b> Traditional songs and nursery rhymes include words we don't often hear, increasing vocabulary.	<b>9</b> <i>My Mother Goose: A Collection of Favorite Rhymes, Songs, and Concepts</i> by David McPhail, 2-5 years.	<b>10</b> Children identify letters by shape. Point out shapes during play — round balls, square blocks, etc.	<b>11</b> <i>Baby Animal Farm</i> by Karen Blair. Human babies visit farm babies. Board book, birth to 3 years.	<b>12</b> Babies hear sounds of all languages. Talking to them focuses on the sounds of their own language(s).	<b>13</b> Sing "There was a farmer had a dog, And Bingo was his name-o" (Search for "Bingo" on youtube.com)	<b>14</b> The most important thing you can do to support your child's literacy is to let your child see you read!
<b>15</b> Scribbling is good practice. Ask "What did you write?" so children realize those marks have meaning.	<b>16</b> Singing slows speech down, so children can identify individual sounds.	<b>17</b> Read <i>It's Summer!</i> by Linda Glaser. Sunflowers, fireflies, and sandy beaches. Cut-paper illustration, 4-8 years.	<b>18</b> Wordless picture books develop narrative skills. Ask your child, "What's going on in this picture?"	<b>19</b> Read <i>Peek-a-Moo!</i> by Marie Torres Cimarusti. Peek-a-boo fun at the farm. Lift-the-flap book, 2-5 years.	<b>20</b> Playing peek-a-boo shows children that people and things still exist, even if we can't see them.	<b>21</b> Singing helps children hear the small sounds in words, which helps later as they are learning to read.
<b>22</b> When you read with your child, your child learns that print conveys meaning.	<b>23</b> Read <i>The Farmer and the Clown</i> by Marla Frazee. Wordless picture book, 4-8 years.	<b>24</b> Sing <i>Rock-a-Bye Baby</i> by Margaret T. Walty. Traditional lullabies, picture book.	<b>25</b> Read <i>Summer Days and Nights</i> by Wong Herbert Yee. Picnics, fireflies, summer breezes. Rhyme, 2-6 years.	<b>26</b> Read <i>Pete the Cat: Pete at the Beach</i> by James Dean. Will Pete learn to surf? Early reader, 4-8 years.	<b>27</b> When you read with your child, ask open-ended questions: "What do you think happens next?"	<b>28</b> Read <i>A Ball for Daisy</i> by Chris Raschka. Wordless picture book, 3-7 years.
<b>29</b> Rhyme helps children develop awareness of sound and learn how sounds make words: B-IG, P-IG, D-IG.	<b>30</b> Read <i>Don't Lick the Dog: Making Friends with Dogs</i> by Wendy Wahman. Nonfiction, 4-7 years.	<b>31</b> Draw a hopscotch board as long as you can make it on the sidewalk with chalk. Then play!	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			



Early Learning Activities for...

# September

There is a different book listed to read each week — find the books at your library! Let your child choose another book to check out and read.

<p><b>1</b> Count! Each day count to the day of the month. Today is easy – 1! Soon you’ll count to 30!</p>	<p><b>2</b> Sing “Skip to my Lou” and practice skipping.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Practice making faces—happy, sad, angry, &amp; more. Ask your child what makes them feel each emotion.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Have your child draw a picture of your family and tell you about it.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Read <i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear</i> by Bill Martin. Talk about the animals; how they move, what do they say?</p>	<p><b>6</b> Sing the “ABCs” song. Sing it in different ways: loud, quiet, silly voices, like a bear, etc.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Find a recipe for play dough. Make it together &amp; play. Make letters &amp; numbers with your child &amp; name them.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Read <i>The Cat In the Hat</i> by Dr. Seuss. Point out all the rhyming words.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Practice dribbling, catching &amp; throwing a ball. Make up a song or game as you go.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Sing “I’m a Little Teapot”. Act out the motions. What other things can you be?</p>	<p><b>11</b> Share an apple. Describe it’s color &amp; shape. Cut it into slices, count the slices, then eat them up!</p>	<p><b>12</b> Have your child say words in parts, like “Oc-to-pus.” Clap each syllable.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Draw simple shapes on pieces of paper. Then help your child find the shapes around the house.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Bake cookies together. Allow your child to measure and stir.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Play a word rhyming game. Say two words and have your child tell you if they rhyme or not.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Look for numbers in your house, at the grocery store, everywhere. Have your child name them 0-9.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Play a simple game of Simon Says. Practice hopping on each foot, jumping, skipping, marching, etc.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Create a dress-up box with old clothes. Play dress-up. Let your child direct the play using their imagination.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Read <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i> by Bill Martin. Find the letters in your child’s name.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Have your child write his or her first name with different writing utensils—a pencil, a crayon, a marker.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Turn on some music &amp; dance. Name &amp; wiggle different parts of your body.</p>
<p><b>22</b> Create a basic pattern using ordinary thing; blocks, spoons, etc. Have your child continue the pattern.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Read <i>Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes</i>. Talk about colors, then draw a picture of something you love.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Create movements to do while singing. Change the lyrics—ride a bike, drive a car, what else?</p>	<p><b>25</b> Draw a hop scotch game outside and practice hopping.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Kitchen Count! Count things in the kitchen: cups, spoons, pans. Group objects into 5s.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Hide an object in the house. Have your child find it then describe where it is. “on, under, behind, etc.”</p>	<p><b>28</b> Make a “baggie book.” Cut out or draw pictures, put into Ziploc bags. Staple together on the zip side. Read it to each other.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Gather leaves, then group, count &amp; describe their color, shape &amp; texture. Smooth, rough, red, pointy...</p>	<p><b>30</b> Play “I Spy” to practice basic colors, then add some new ones; turquoise, lavender, etc.</p>	<p><i>Created by the Children’s Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 				

## Early Learning Activities for...

# October



Talking with a child about everything you do together helps to build their vocabulary.

<b>1</b> Create a secret handshake with your child that has a message only for you. The weirder, the better.	<b>2</b> Let your child help rake leaves, lay mulch or water plants. "Big body play" helps learn self-control. bodies.	<b>3</b> Help with creativity & problem-solving by giving your child time for free play & daydreaming.	<b>4</b> Read <i>Leaf Man</i> by Lois Ehlert. Go on a walk to collect leaves & things to make your own leaf man.	<b>5</b> Give your child everyday objects to act out a story you have read.	<b>6</b> Read a story, ask some "what now" questions, like "What did the bears do after Goldilocks ran away?"	<b>7</b> Have kids help sort silverware or socks, they like to help & they learn patterning & matching.
<b>8</b> Have a color of the day that you look for together wherever you go, the kitchen, playground, store...	<b>9</b> At meal time ask your child to talk about one event that occurred today.	<b>10</b> Take a walk to collect leaves. Sort by shape, size, or color. Talk about texture, shades of color, etc.	<b>11</b> Make "stained glass" by ironing crayon shavings & leaves between 2 pieces of wax paper.	<b>12</b> When your child asks, "what is that?" ask, "what do you think?" Have them think it through.	<b>13</b> Each time you go to the grocery store, have a letter you look for together. How many you can find?	<b>14</b> Shake flour or salt on a baking tray. Have your child practice tracing letters using these textures.
<b>15</b> Have your child draw a picture of a jack o' lantern. This will help with their writing skills.	<b>16</b> Choose a letter of the day. Point out the letter whenever you see it on a sign or a truck, in a book, etc.	<b>17</b> Sing a song or tell a story in your native language. Play with words, make up your own language.	<b>18</b> Do a leaf rubbing with the side of a crayon.	<b>19</b> When carving pumpkins, talk about all you can do with the seeds.	<b>20</b> When your child asks a question, use a book to find the answer.	<b>21</b> Experiment with bubbles, and even try to make your own together. What else can you add?
<b>22</b> Read a book with a cover that features someone of an ethnicity different than yours.	<b>23</b> Collect more leaves and use a book to look up what kinds of trees each comes from.	<b>24</b> Read a book like <i>Pumpkin, Pumpkin</i> by Titherington. Talk about how pumpkins grow. Use new words.	<b>25</b> Have a pattern of the day like dots or stripes. Have your child point them out.	<b>26</b> Do the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. Your child will tell a story & build fine motor skills.	<b>27</b> Talk about the sequence of events while getting dressed or washing dishes, etc.	<b>28</b> Let your child create costumes from things around the house: tin foil, pillowcases, paper...
<b>29</b> Choose a book in a different language, and just talk about the pictures to guess the story.	<b>30</b> Make up stories about everyday objects like, "how do you think that tree got all those bumps?"	<b>31</b> Make up a story for your child about an interesting character/ costume you see today.	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			



# Early Learning Activities for...

# November

November is Family Stories Month. Share favorite stories! Read favorite stories! Make memories!

<p><b>1</b> Find out about storytimes at your library and local bookstore. Make a date to go together.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Look for circles today. High five for every circle spotted. What was the biggest circle? The smallest?</p>	<p><b>3</b> Make a temporary secret reading cave with a blanket over chairs. Read about bears.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Sing songs! Clap, tap, stomp, or jump to the beat for fun. Rhythm breaks words into separate sounds.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Tape 2 crayons together for your child to make marks on paper. Tape 3 or more.</p>	<p><b>6</b> At bedtime, remember the day backwards. What did you do this afternoon? This morning?</p>	<p><b>7</b> Read <i>Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods that Make My Day</i> by Curtis. Help your child label feelings.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Take an autumn treasure walk. Collect twigs, leaves, pinecones, etc. Talk about how they look / feel.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Pour table salt into a baking pan. Let your child make marks and “write” in the salt.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Re-read a favorite picture book. Pause at dramatic moments and let your child tell what happens next.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Find red objects in the house. Find blue ones. Line them up. Which line is longer?</p>	<p><b>12</b> Change “The Itsy Bitsy Spider.” Sing loud for The GREAT BIG Spider. Make big movements. Go tiny.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Hooray for the favorite letter! Look for things that begin with the same letter as your child’s name.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Find six ABC books at the library. Look at the page with your child’s letter in each book.</p>
<p><b>15</b> Read or tell a story you liked when you were little.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Throw a party for your child’s bear or toy. Talk about who (real or imagined) to invite.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Play with shapes. Point out things that are square &amp; round. This helps children get ready for letters.</p>	<p><b>18</b> At the library, let your child pick out an extra book for each year. 3 years old?—3 books.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Take a “what if” walk. What if a monkey appeared? What if you could fly? Have a pretend adventure.</p>	<p><b>20</b> Learn a new rhyme or song. Repeat it several times today. Repetition builds memory &amp; learning.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pour two small amounts of paint into an empty plastic bottle. Put on the cap. Shake!</p>
<p><b>22</b> Read <i>Sheep in a Jeep</i> by Shaw. Re-read, stop sometimes and let your child say the rhyming word.</p>	<p><b>23</b> Sing the Hokey Pokey. Your child decides which body part will go in and out next. Laugh!</p>	<p><b>24</b> Float fresh cranberries in a bowl of water. Let your child sink and scoop them with a spoon.</p>	<p><b>25</b> Each family member name three things they are grateful for. Write a list and read it at dinner tomorrow.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Share a family story. Something you did when you were little, or a fun story about your child.</p>	<p><b>27</b> Practice taking turns by playing games. Take turns choosing which game to play next.</p>	<p><b>28</b> Let your child build fine motor skills by picking kernels off a cob of dried corn. Try it with tweezers.</p>
<p><b>29</b> Pop bubble wrap. Count. One ... two ... three ... POP!</p>	<p><b>30</b> Smell several items from the spice/herb rack. Which ones does your child like? Talk about it.</p>	<p><i>Created by the Children’s Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p>				



Early Learning Activities for...

# December

Play, write, sing, talk and read with your child each day. It will grow a reader!

<b>1</b> Open the spice cabinet & explore your senses. Ask your child to describe what they smell. Make a list of the ones they like.	<b>2</b> Write with your child. It can be anything: a list, a note to Nana, words. Write for them if too hard.	<b>3</b> Paint or draw while listening to music —all kinds. Jot down what they say while they are doing it.	<b>4</b> Recite nursery rhymes together. Learn a few new ones to share.	<b>5</b> Words in books are usually richer than our daily speech. Read every day to introduce new words.	<b>6</b> As young ones handle toys & objects describe how the items feel, look, & sound.	<b>7</b> Find logos on signs & food products. Sound out the words, spell them aloud.
<b>8</b> Draw the characters from a favorite book, color & cut out. Retell the story using the figures.	<b>9</b> Sing through an action as you do it; "This is the way we tie our shoes, tie our shoes" etc. & repeat.	<b>10</b> Rhymes follow patterns. Knowing patterns in language builds predicting skills & successful readers.	<b>11</b> Find stories that cover useful topics; going on a trip, trying new foods, bedtime issues. Read, discuss.	<b>12</b> Create enthusiasm for a story by engaging your child to turn pages, predict, act out a motion, show emotions the characters feel.	<b>13</b> Bubble day! Predict where they will go, how long until they pop, use new words: sphere, wobble, reflect, tension.	<b>14</b> Set a goal, "Let's put all the toys away in 10 minutes! Ready, set, go." Make it a game & praise a job well done.
<b>15</b> Read a story, have child draw the main theme, a favorite character, new cover art.	<b>16</b> Make a color wheel with all the colors you have. Name them all, even if it's "red, dark red, cherry." Be creative.	<b>17</b> You are a great role model. Show children that you read & write & that it has a purpose.	<b>18</b> Make an obstacle course, include skipping, jumping; use pillows, chairs, boxes, etc. Change a bit & do again.	<b>19</b> Talk about holidays & traditions. Create a new family tradition. Plan together & then draw a picture of it.	<b>20</b> Play a word or letter game. Make letter shapes out of blocks, pieces of yarn, or playdoh.	<b>21</b> The 1st day of Winter! Take a walk & notice any changes, what's the temp, are the squirrels busy, do you need a coat?
<b>22</b> Use the letters in your child's name to make lists i.e.; T-e-d: <u>t</u> ruck, <u>e</u> at, <u>d</u> uck, or <u>t</u> all, <u>e</u> gg, <u>d</u> og. Take turns finding words.	<b>23</b> Bake some cookies. Read the ingredients aloud, let your child measure & compare the amounts of the ingredients.	<b>24</b> Books about how things work help us understand the world around us. Get some nonfiction books to read & share ideas.	<b>25</b> Today is a good day to sing, read & play together. Describe a toy: fuzzy, green, quiet, etc...	<b>26</b> Family time: play, talk, read, write and sing. Enjoy precious time with your little person!	<b>27</b> Try a book of jokes. Knock knock jokes are popular. Make up your own. The more ridiculous the better!	<b>28</b> Look at old photos, remember what happened in each, use new words to describe feelings & activities in each.
<b>29</b> Visit a new place. Talk about your plan, what you may see, ask questions. Slow down, be on "kid time."	<b>30</b> Picture books are for readers at EVERY stage of development. Read a family chapter book. It's a super activity.	<b>31</b> Write Thank You notes for gifts received over the holidays. They will be much appreciated!	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 			