


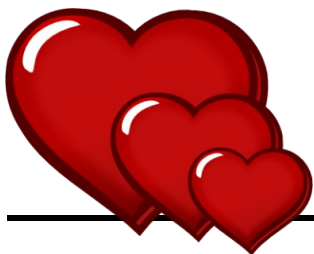
Early Learning Activities for...

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!

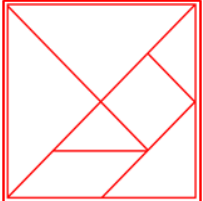

1 Go to a storytime at your library.	2 Spread out pudding or shaving cream and have fun doodling and writing.	3 Make your own rhythm stick with a paint stick and strips of cloth or ribbon. Twirl to the music!	4 Act out nursery songs with puppets made from craft sticks, tape, and drawings.	5 Talk about textured objects like smooth, cool rocks. Make texture containers!	6 Create a special book nook or basket for your child to keep his books handy.	7 Go for a nature walk and talk about the trees, squirrels, wind, etc. that you see.
8 Make animal sounds together as you read a farm book.	9 Make a necklace with yarn and cut colored straws, beads, pasta, or fruit loops.	10 Play "I Spy" the letter using magazines, signs, and books.	11 Let your child see you reading and tell him about it. Receipts and magazines count!	12 Paint with a variety of tools, such as q-tips, cotton balls, and string.	13 Look at photo albums and tell your child stories about the pictures.	14 Borrow a children's music cd from the library. Don't forget to sing along!
15 Get out old boxes and cardboard rolls for your child to stack and build.	16 Have your child "read" a favorite story to you as you turn the pages together.	17 Act out a story using sock puppets.	18 Run your finger left to right under some words as you read.	19 Separate plastic color eggs and then play a game matching them up.	20 Make a shaker with a child-safe bottle and rice. Shake to the syllables in songs!	21 Spell out words with alphabet magnets when you're in the kitchen.
22 Pause so your child can chime in when you read a book with repeated phrases.	23 Write your child's name in glue and have her put pom poms over the glue.	24 Let your child pick the books she'd like to read. Read them again if she asks.	25 Blow bubbles for fun (and strengthening small facial muscles).	26 Make letters and shapes with play dough.	27 Line the bottom of a muffin tin with colors and then sort pom poms by color.	28 Write down your child's story about his drawing. Display them together!
29 Check out a book starring your child's favorite TV character, such as Dora.	30 Involve your child in reading. "Where do I start?" "Let's turn the page."	31 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>1 Talk about rhyming words. How many rhyming words can you & your child come up with?</p>	<p>2 Play with containers in the bath tub. Explore these concepts: full, empty, volume. How much can a big one hold? Small?</p>	<p>3 Draw letters on a sealed sandwich bag full of shaving cream. For more fun, add food coloring to the shaving cream.</p>	<p>4 Use role-playing toys (dolls, action figures, stuffed animals). Build a house or town & play!</p>	<p>5 Share one of your childhood favorites during storytime with your child.</p>	<p>6 Practice counting from 1-20. Count toes & fingers, snack foods or trees on a walk - anything!</p>	<p>7 Sing a favorite song together as you drive, walk, or ride your way around town.</p>
<p>8 Use blocks or empty boxes to build with your child. Explore what happens as buildings get taller, or wider?</p>	<p>9 Sing the alphabet song with your child at bedtime. Can you sing it backwards?</p>	<p>10 Create a make-believe restaurant. Use pots & pans, plastic dishes & empty food containers.</p>	<p>11 Read a new book your child picked out at the library.</p>	<p>12 Together with your child, tell the story of your day, in order from morning until bedtime.</p>	<p>13 Cut out & bake cookies in the shape of letters. Ask what words can you spell with the cookies?</p>	<p>14 Strong hands & fingers help kids learning how to write. Draw, color, cut out, & write Valentines.</p>
<p>15 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>16 Play dress up! Pull out costumes or even raid your closet. Playing pretend helps build vocabularies & problem solve.</p>	<p>17 Sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider," add the actions as you sing - fingers crawling up & down the spout, rain,</p>	<p>18 Put on your favorite sing-a-long music for an instant dance party at home!</p>	<p>19 Together with your child, sort objects (like Legos or multi-colored crackers) into groups by color, size, or shape.</p>	<p>20 Read a book with your child that's been turned into a movie.</p>	<p>21 Watch the movie version of the book you read yesterday. Talk about the differences & similarities.</p>
<p>22 All day, find shapes and colors around you. Talk about the color & shape names & how you can tell them apart.</p>	<p>23 Attend a library storytime or other children's program.</p>	<p>24 With your child, talk about the steps of a simple recipe as you prepare it.</p>	<p>25 Dry erase markers work on mirrors. Let your child write & draw on the bathroom mirror, then wipe clean & repeat!</p>	<p>26 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>27 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>28 Fold a piece of paper into fourths. Have your child draw pictures & help her write the story the pictures tell. Read the new book together.</p>
<p>29 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>1 Give your child paper, stamps, & ink pads. Show them how stamping works; let them do it. Talk about it.</p>	<p>2 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>3 Help your child put dried beans, rice, etc., or water in a bowl. Give them measuring spoons or cups. Play with & talk about it.</p>	<p>4 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>5 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>6 Pretend you have your favorite food & are eating it. Talk about how good it is. Make up stories about what others' favorite foods</p>	<p>7 Give your child scrap paper or newspaper ads. Show them how to tear it; let them do it. Talk about it.</p>
<p>8 Mix white glue with borax powder. With varying amounts, you could get something drippy or more like putty. Experiment. Talk about it.</p>	<p>9 Go for a walk with your child; bring a bag. Look for treasure (a rock, feathers, sticks). Bring it home & talk about each piece. Make a story about it.</p>	<p>10 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>11 Get a music CD that everyone likes and dance to your favorite songs with your child. Talk about it.</p>	<p>12 Use a file folder, glue felt to the insides, leave the fold clear. Use felt to cut shapes. Make things using the pieces & practice naming the shapes.</p>	<p>13 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>14 Cut an apple in 1/2 across the center. Show the star. Remove the core, fill the space with peanut butter & raisins. Eat it. Talk about it.</p>
<p>15 Get alphabet soup. Have your child identify different letters while they eat. Use alphabet macaroni to glue their name on paper.</p>	<p>16 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>17 Give your child paper. Show them how to fold it in various ways, let them do it. Talk about it.</p>	<p>18 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>19 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>20 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>21 Get Jan Thomas' book <i>Is Everyone Ready for Fun?</i> Follow the directions & have fun jumping, sitting, etc., in all the right places.</p>
<p>22 Explain how rhymes work (similar sounds). Take a word & ask your child what rhymes with it. Start with their name.</p>	<p>23 Put 1 cup water, 3 c flour, 1-1/2 c salt, 1/4 c oil & food coloring in a bowl. Mix well; knead until smooth. Store in a Ziploc bag. Play.</p>	<p>24 Put some milk in a plate. Add drops of food coloring to the edges. Put some dish soap on a Q-tip & touch the swab to the milk. What happens?</p>	<p>25 Blow bubbles; teach your child how, chase them, take pictures. Talk about it.</p>	<p>26 Get a favorite book. Have your child act out the pages with your help. Use makeup and costumes. Talk about it.</p>	<p>27 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>28 Make a sock puppet. Make a face using a marker or glue & other materials for eyes & a mouth, hair; get creative. Have a puppet show.</p>
<p>29 Cut celery with your child into 2-3 inch bits. Stuff it with peanut butter & put ants (raisins, nuts, etc.) on the log (celery). Eat it. Talk about it.</p>	<p>30 Find out from a library book or web site about making paper airplanes. Follow the instructions. Fly the plane. Talk about it.</p>	<p>31 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.


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

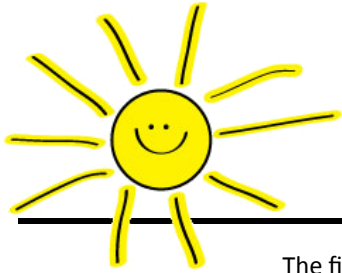


Go outside for a walk each week and talk about what you notice. Introduce new vocabulary along the way.

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

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

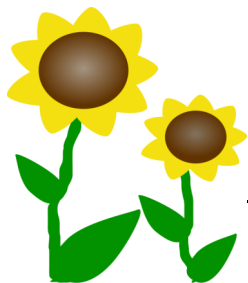
July



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.


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

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


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


1 Create a secret handshake with your child that has a message only for you. The weirder, the better.	2 Let your child help rake leaves, lay mulch or water plants. "Big body play" helps learn self-control. bodies.	3 Help with creativity & problem-solving by giving your child time for free play & daydreaming.	4 Read <i>Leaf Man</i> by Lois Ehlert. Go on a walk to collect leaves & things to make your own leaf man.	5 Give your child everyday objects to act out a story you have read.	6 Read a story, ask some "what now" questions, like "What did the bears do after Goldilocks ran away?"	7 Have kids help sort silverware or socks, they like to help & they learn patterning & matching.
8 Have a color of the day that you look for together wherever you go, the kitchen, playground, store...	9 At meal time ask your child to talk about one event that occurred today.	10 Take a walk to collect leaves. Sort by shape, size, or color. Talk about texture, shades of color, etc.	11 Make "stained glass" by ironing crayon shavings & leaves between 2 pieces of wax paper.	12 When your child asks, "what is that?" ask, "what do you think?" Have them think it through.	13 Each time you go to the grocery store, have a letter you look for together. How many you can find?	14 Shake flour or salt on a baking tray. Have your child practice tracing letters using these textures.
15 Have your child draw a picture of a jack o' lantern. This will help with their writing skills.	16 Choose a letter of the day. Point out the letter whenever you see it on a sign or a truck, in a book, etc.	17 Sing a song or tell a story in your native language. Play with words, make up your own language.	18 Do a leaf rubbing with the side of a crayon.	19 When carving pumpkins, talk about all you can do with the seeds.	20 When your child asks a question, use a book to find the answer.	21 Experiment with bubbles, and even try to make your own together. What else can you add?
22 Read a book with a cover that features someone of an ethnicity different than yours.	23 Collect more leaves and use a book to look up what kinds of trees each comes from.	24 Read a book like <i>Pumpkin, Pumpkin</i> by Titherington. Talk about how pumpkins grow. Use new words.	25 Have a pattern of the day like dots or stripes. Have your child point them out.	26 Do the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. Your child will tell a story & build fine motor skills.	27 Talk about the sequence of events while getting dressed or washing dishes, etc.	28 Let your child create costumes from things around the house: tin foil, pillowcases, paper...
29 Choose a book in a different language, and just talk about the pictures to guess the story.	30 Make up stories about everyday objects like, "how do you think that tree got all those bumps?"	31 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>1 Find out about storytimes at your library and local bookstore. Make a date to go together.</p>	<p>2 Look for circles today. High five for every circle spotted. What was the biggest circle? The smallest?</p>	<p>3 Make a temporary secret reading cave with a blanket over chairs. Read about bears.</p>	<p>4 Sing songs! Clap, tap, stomp, or jump to the beat for fun. Rhythm breaks words into separate sounds.</p>	<p>5 Tape 2 crayons together for your child to make marks on paper. Tape 3 or more.</p>	<p>6 At bedtime, remember the day backwards. What did you do this afternoon? This morning?</p>	<p>7 Read <i>Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods that Make My Day</i> by Curtis. Help your child label feelings.</p>
<p>8 Take an autumn treasure walk. Collect twigs, leaves, pinecones, etc. Talk about how they look / feel.</p>	<p>9 Pour table salt into a baking pan. Let your child make marks and “write” in the salt.</p>	<p>10 Re-read a favorite picture book. Pause at dramatic moments and let your child tell what happens next.</p>	<p>11 Find red objects in the house. Find blue ones. Line them up. Which line is longer?</p>	<p>12 Change “The Itsy Bitsy Spider.” Sing loud for The GREAT BIG Spider. Make big movements. Go tiny.</p>	<p>13 Hooray for the favorite letter! Look for things that begin with the same letter as your child’s name.</p>	<p>14 Find six ABC books at the library. Look at the page with your child’s letter in each book.</p>
<p>15 Read or tell a story you liked when you were little.</p>	<p>16 Throw a party for your child’s bear or toy. Talk about who (real or imagined) to invite.</p>	<p>17 Play with shapes. Point out things that are square & round. This helps children get ready for letters.</p>	<p>18 At the library, let your child pick out an extra book for each year. 3 years old?—3 books.</p>	<p>19 Take a “what if” walk. What if a monkey appeared? What if you could fly? Have a pretend adventure.</p>	<p>20 Learn a new rhyme or song. Repeat it several times today. Repetition builds memory & learning.</p>	<p>21 Pour two small amounts of paint into an empty plastic bottle. Put on the cap. Shake!</p>
<p>22 Read <i>Sheep in a Jeep</i> by Shaw. Re-read, stop sometimes and let your child say the rhyming word.</p>	<p>23 Sing the Hokey Pokey. Your child decides which body part will go in and out next. Laugh!</p>	<p>24 Float fresh cranberries in a bowl of water. Let your child sink and scoop them with a spoon.</p>	<p>25 Each family member name three things they are grateful for. Write a list and read it at dinner tomorrow.</p>	<p>26 Share a family story. Something you did when you were little, or a fun story about your child.</p>	<p>27 Practice taking turns by playing games. Take turns choosing which game to play next.</p>	<p>28 Let your child build fine motor skills by picking kernels off a cob of dried corn. Try it with tweezers.</p>
<p>29 Pop bubble wrap. Count. One ... two ... three ... POP!</p>	<p>30 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!

<p>1 Open the spice cabinet & explore your senses. Ask your child to describe what they smell. Make a list of the ones they like.</p>	<p>2 Write with your child. It can be anything: a list, a note to Nana, words. Write for them if too hard.</p>	<p>3 Paint or draw while listening to music —all kinds. Jot down what they say while they are doing it.</p>	<p>4 Recite nursery rhymes together. Learn a few new ones to share.</p>	<p>5 Words in books are usually richer than our daily speech. Read every day to introduce new words.</p>	<p>6 As young ones handle toys & objects describe how the items feel, look, & sound.</p>	<p>7 Find logos on signs & food products. Sound out the words, spell them aloud.</p>
<p>8 Draw the characters from a favorite book, color & cut out. Retell the story using the figures.</p>	<p>9 Sing through an action as you do it; "This is the way we tie our shoes, tie our shoes" etc. & repeat.</p>	<p>10 Rhymes follow patterns. Knowing patterns in language builds predicting skills & successful readers.</p>	<p>11 Find stories that cover useful topics; going on a trip, trying new foods, bedtime issues. Read, discuss.</p>	<p>12 Create enthusiasm for a story by engaging your child to turn pages, predict, act out a motion, show emotions the characters feel.</p>	<p>13 Bubble day! Predict where they will go, how long until they pop, use new words: sphere, wobble, reflect, tension.</p>	<p>14 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.</p>
<p>15 Read a story, have child draw the main theme, a favorite character, new cover art.</p>	<p>16 Make a color wheel with all the colors you have. Name them all, even if it's "red, dark red, cherry." Be creative.</p>	<p>17 You are a great role model. Show children that you read & write & that it has a purpose.</p>	<p>18 Make an obstacle course, include skipping, jumping; use pillows, chairs, boxes, etc. Change a bit & do again.</p>	<p>19 Talk about holidays & traditions. Create a new family tradition. Plan together & then draw a picture of it.</p>	<p>20 Play a word or letter game. Make letter shapes out of blocks, pieces of yarn, or playdoh.</p>	<p>21 The 1st day of Winter! Take a walk & notice any changes, what's the temp, are the squirrels busy, do you need a coat?</p>
<p>22 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.</p>	<p>23 Bake some cookies. Read the ingredients aloud, let your child measure & compare the amounts of the ingredients.</p>	<p>24 Books about how things work help us understand the world around us. Get some nonfiction books to read & share ideas.</p>	<p>25 Today is a good day to sing, read & play together. Describe a toy: fuzzy, green, quiet, etc...</p>	<p>26 Family time: play, talk, read, write and sing. Enjoy precious time with your little person!</p>	<p>27 Try a book of jokes. Knock knock jokes are popular. Make up your own. The more ridiculous the better!</p>	<p>28 Look at old photos, remember what happened in each, use new words to describe feelings & activities in each.</p>
<p>29 Visit a new place. Talk about your plan, what you may see, ask questions. Slow down, be on "kid time."</p>	<p>30 Picture books are for readers at EVERY stage of development. Read a family chapter book. It's a super activity.</p>	<p>31 Write Thank You notes for gifts received over the holidays. They will be much appreciated!</p>	<p><i>Created by the Children's Services Division of the Oregon Library Association.</i></p> 