

Early Literacy At Home

All About Birds!

January 2021

Dear Families,

We hope you have had a wonderful holiday season, and we are so excited to usher in the New Year! With the new year comes some new programs. We've included a flyer in this month's kit that tells you about weekly daytime programs, like Stories and Songs, a virtual story time where children ages 18 months - 4 years read, dance, and sing.

We also have a new weekly event, Mindful Movements, where children ages 4-8 can move their bodies while practicing literacy and social emotional learning! We hope that providing more time slots for our programs outside of daycare hours will make it easier for all families to attend library events. Check out our afternoon Silly Time Adventures, a craft and story time, followed by our next installment of Bedtime Stories!

In this month's kit you will find we are all about Birds! January 5th is National Bird Day, so we thought we would celebrate with a bird feeder recipe you can try at home. Also included in this kit are the Early Literacy Calendars for the months of January and February, with helpful daily activities to expand your child's literacy skills. Also included is a bird I-Spy activity, and a tracing activity to help develop your child's motor skills.

Remember, reading and learning together is an important part of your child's growth and development. We hope you enjoy the activities in this kit just as much as we enjoy creating them!

Sincerely,
April & Nicole
Children's Department



www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org

EAST HAMPTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Early Literacy Programs



Stories and Songs

Ages 18 months - 4 years

Wednesdays at 10:00am



Mindful Movements

Ages 3 - 8 years

Thursdays at 10:00am



Silly Time Adventures

Registration required

Ages 3 - 8 years

Select Wednesdays at 4:00pm

January 20, 27

February 3, 10



Bedtime Stories

Registration required

Ages 3 - 8 years

Mondays in March at 6:30pm

Read,

write,

sing,

talk,

and play,

together!

Programs are hosted virtually on Zoom.
In-person programs will resume at a
later date. Check our website for the
most up-to-date information.
www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org



EAST HAMPTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

JANUARY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 WRITING

Draw the numbers 2021 and color them with your child. Talk about the new year.

2 PLAYING

Play 'Riddle Me.'

I'm white and cold and fun to play in. What am I? Yes! Snow!

Take turns offering riddles.

3 TALKING

Have a conversation about winter. Ask your child, "What is your favorite thing about winter?" Tell what your favorite thing is about winter.

4 SINGING

Sing "The Rhyming Word" song. *(Words are on the back. ↷)*



5 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here _____. Save the calendar and measure again in June.

6 READING

Visit the library (or the library's website if the building is not open) and check out a book.

7 WRITING

With your child write (and talk about) important dates on a 2021 calendar.



8 PLAYING

Create a small obstacle course and give your child directions.

Go around the chair, go over the book, pick up the spoon, turn around, and come back.

9 TALKING

Talk about colors. Ask your child what their favorite color is and share what your favorite color is. Talk about things that are those colors.

10 SINGING

Pick a song your child is familiar with and act it out while it is playing.

11 COUNTING

Measure your child's height and write it here _____. Save the calendar and measure again in June.

12 READING

Use your finger to follow along with the words as you read aloud to your child today.



13 WRITING

With your child write "Birthday" on each day in 2021 that is the birthday of a family member. Talk about what you are doing.

14 PLAYING

Play 'Follow the Leader.' Do things and ask your child to do the same.

Touch your head, Turn around, Sit down.

15 TALKING

Talk about food.

Which food do you each think is the most delicious? What do you want to have for dinner?

16 SINGING

Make up silly songs about everyday activities.

This is the way we make the bed, make the bed, make the bed. This is the way we brush our teeth, etc.

17 COUNTING

Count snacks.

How many crackers are there?



18 READING

Be a reading role model. Let your child catch you reading a book, a newspaper, or a magazine.

19 WRITING

Write a list of things to do today. Have your child check off each as it is completed.

20 PLAYING

Go on a scavenger hunt.

Look for things that begin with S. Shoe, sock, soap.



21 TALKING

Take out a few ice cubes. Put them in separate small bowls. Help your child place them around your home, including outside. Talk about which melts first.

22 SINGING

Sing a favorite song in a loud voice and then a quiet voice.

23 COUNTING

Measure your feet day! Line up all the family's shoes and boots. Whose are biggest? The smallest?

24 READING

Read a book about winter.

25 WRITING

Draw the outline of your child's hand on a piece of paper. Write the date and have your child "sign" the drawing. Save it.

26 PLAYING

Let's dance! Play favorite songs that will inspire your child to do different things like jump and spin around.

27 TALKING

Say the nursery rhyme "Hey Diddle Diddle." *(Words are on the back. ↷)*

Talk about how funny it is. The cow jumps over the moon? The little dog laughs? The dish runs away with the spoon?

28 SINGING

Take turns singing parts of the ABC song. Sing it fast and sing it slow

29 COUNTING

Say the "Five Little Snowmen" rhyme. *(Words are on the back. ↷)*

30 READING

Ask your child questions while you read to them today. What do you think will happen next? Where did the little dog go?

31 WRITING

Make an alphabet poster with large and colorful letters.

You have been your child's teacher from the day he or she was born.

You know more about your child than anyone else, and you are in the best position to help your child get ready to read. Whether your child is four days old or four years old, it is not too early or too late to help him or her develop pre-reading skills. You can help your child learn language and other early literacy skills with simple and fun activities like those in this calendar.

THE RHYMING WORD SONG

Do you know two rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words?
Do you know two rhyming words? They sound a lot alike.

Cat and **bat** are rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words
Cat and **bat** are rhyming words. They sound a lot alike.

CHANGE UP THE RHYMING WORDS TO CREATE NEW VERSES. FOR EXAMPLE:

Play and **day** are rhyming words, rhyming words, rhyming words . . .



HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

Hey Diddle Diddle
The Cat and the Fiddle
The Cow Jumped Over the Moon
The Little Dog Laughed
To See Such Sport
And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon

FIVE LITTLE SNOWMEN

Five little snowmen standing in a row,
(Hold up five fingers)
Each had a hat and a big red bow.
(Put hands on head and then neck)
Out came the sun and stayed all day,
(Circle arms overhead)
And one little snowman melted away.
(Slump down)

REPEAT WITH 4, 3, 2, 1, UNTIL NO SNOWMEN ARE LEFT.



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Besos for Baby

by Jen Arena
(Text is in English and Spanish)

"More, More, More," Said the Baby

by Vera B. Williams

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Arctic Animals

by Jill McDonald

A Big Bed for Little Snow

by Grace Lin



FEBRUARY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



1 WRITING

Use a red crayon to keep a list of all the red things you see today. Red car. Red truck. Red door. Write it down with the red crayon!

MONDAY

2 PLAYING

Play the yes-no game.
"Is the sky blue?" "Is it morning?"
"Is our dog's name Spot?"

WEDNESDAY

3 TALKING

Ask your child questions that have more than a yes or no answer. What is something fun we did today? What is something fun we can do tomorrow?

THURSDAY

4 SINGING

Clap along to a favorite song. Emphasize the slow parts and the fast parts.



FRIDAY

5 COUNTING

Look at a calendar together. Count the number of days until Valentine's Day. Draw a heart around February 14

SATURDAY

6 READING

Pick a book to read together. Stop reading before the end and ask your child, "What do you think will happen?"

7 WRITING

Let your child scribble and draw, encourage them to "sign" their name on their drawing.

8 PLAYING

Go on a scavenger hunt.
Look for things that start with the "f" sound, like fruit, feet, face, fork.

9 TALKING

After reading together, talk about interesting words in the book.



10 SINGING

Recite "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (*Words are on the back.* ↷)

11 COUNTING

Count your steps today. From the bedroom to the kitchen. From the front door to the corner. All the way back home.

12 READING

Set up a reading routine: read after naps and before bedtime.



13 WRITING

Letters are everywhere. Today look for the letter that your child's first name begins with and show them when you find it. Ask your child to also look.

14 PLAYING

Happy Valentine's Day! Sing "The More We Get Together." (*Words are on the back.* ↷)



15 TALKING

Talk about your family's plans for the day. What is your child excited to do or see?

16 SINGING

Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together. (*Words are on the back.* ↷)

17 COUNTING

Recite the rhyme "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe." (*Words are on the back.* ↷)

18 READING

Look at the covers of books before reading them. Talk about what the books might be about.

19 WRITING

Trace shapes and letters in a shallow pan of flour, salt, or baking soda.



20 PLAYING

Play store. Set up a little store with items in your house and take turns being the shopper and the check-out clerk.

21 TALKING

Introduce a new word to describe how you feel. Say "I feel joyful" rather than "I'm happy."

22 SINGING

Sing a favorite song together. Change the words to make it silly or to incorporate your child's name.

23 COUNTING

Pick a number of the day. Call it out wherever you see it!



24 READING

Point out signs everywhere today. Explain what they say and how they help.

25 WRITING

Make a chart of family preferences. List family member names and their favorite colors, favorite flavor ice cream, favorite fruit, etc.

26 PLAYING

Use masking tape to make lines or shapes on the floor. Walk along the tape like a pretend balance beam.

27 TALKING

Talk about concepts like "on" and "off" when you put on and take off hats and jackets.

28 SINGING

Make music with things you have in the house—pots, pans, spoons, and sing and dance around to the music you make.



How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them.

No matter what your child's age, reading together with your child—or shared reading—is the single most important activity that you can do to help your child get ready to read. Engage your child in back and forth conversation about the books you read. Children learn more words when they have the opportunity to respond to questions. If English is not your first language, speak to your child in the language you know best. This allows you to explain things to your child more fluently.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER

The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.

(Move fingers up toward sky)

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.

(Bring fingers down and back)

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

(Move arms up over head)

And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.

(Move fingers up toward sky)

REPEAT WITH "GREAT BIG SPIDER" USING A GRUFF, DEEP VOICE.

THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER

The more we get together
Together, together
The more we get together
The happier we'll be
'Cause your friends are my friends
And my friends are your friends
The more we get together
The happier we'll be

ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE

One, two; buckle my shoe.
Three, four; shut the door.
Five, six; pick up sticks.
Seven, eight; don't be late
Nine, ten; do it over again!



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Whose Toes Are Those?

by Jabari Asim

Moo Ba La La La

by Sandra Boynton

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Mixed—A Colorful Story

by Arree Chung

Pinky Got Out!

By Michael Portis



Early Literacy At Home

January: Birds

Activity:



Pinecone Bird Feeder

You might need adult hands for this fun activity!

What you'll Need:

- Pine Cones
- Paper Plate or Tray
- Peanut Butter
- Bird Seed
- Small Bowls
- Twine or String
- Popsicle Stick
- Scissors

Instructions

- Scoop some peanut butter from the jar into a small bowl.
- Pour some bird seed onto a paper plate
- Use popsicle stick to spread peanut butter on pinecone.
- Roll pinecone in bird seed so the bird seed sticks to the peanut butter.
- Tie a string around the pinecone, tie in a loop.
- Hang pinecone from a tree near the window, and watch the birds eat!



Little Ducks Song

(to the tune of London Bridge)

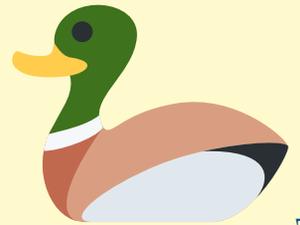
Little ducks go quack, quack, quack

Quack, quack, quack,

Quack, quack, quack.

Little ducks go quack quack quack,

In the springtime.



Did You Know?

Nature lovers, bird lovers, and bird watchers across the country annually recognize National Bird Day on January 5th!



Literacy Tip:

If your child is having difficulty writing numbers, try using tally marks! OR, write the number in highlighter and have your child trace!

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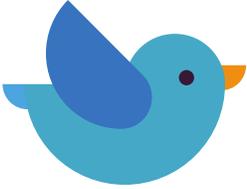
How Many?



Purple Birds



Green Birds



Blue Birds



Orange Birds



Flamingoes



Owls



Penguins



Toucans

Help the Birds Find their Houses!

