



Pre-Literacy Activities

April 2021

Help your child get ready to read and write
with one fun and simple activity a day!

Santa Clara County
Library District
www.sccld.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 April Fools Day! Read a "trickster tale," like an Anansi the spider story, or Jack & the Beanstalk.	2 Look for things that start with "A" (for April).	3 Find a Rainbow Day! Color a coffee filter with markers. Spray with water. Watch the rainbow of colors spread & mix!
4 Count jelly beans!	5 VISIT SCCLD ONLINE Attend our Facebook Live Storytime @ 11:00am! www.facebook.com/SCCLD/	6 Think of words that rhyme with the word "flower." They can be silly, nonsensical words, too!	7 National Walking Day Go for a walk & count all the dogs or cats you see!	8 Find nature items. Place each in a bag. Let your child reach in, feel, & guess what is in it.	9 Pick a color that shows how you are feeling. Color/draw with it.	10 National Poetry Month! VISIT SCCLD ONLINE! Request a poetry book at: https://sccld.org/
11 Find a book that has a symbol. Explain what it means. Music note, quotation mark, word/ thought bubbles, X's & O's, etc.	12 Clap the syllables in the word: "Po-e-try." Then try jumping or stomping them.	13 Draw a rainbow. A child's art is about process, not product. There is no "right" way to do art!	14 National Gardening Day! Plant a seed, work in a garden, or find a garden & talk about what you see.	15 Find things around the house. Talk about what is heavier & lighter.	16 Pick a nursery rhyme & say it together. Try <i>Hey Diddle Diddle</i> , <i>Humpty Dumpty</i> , or <i>Jack & Jill</i> !	17 VISIT SCCLD ONLINE! Check out an eBook or Downloadable Audiobook, or request a Vox book.
18 Make ramps with wood, paper towel tubes, or anything else you find around the house.	19 Shape play doh into flower shapes.	20 Sing <i>The Alphabet Song</i> while you wash your hands today.	21 Talk about what your different body parts are for.	22 Earth Day Go for a walk & pick up litter.	23 National Picnic Day Organize a real or pretend picnic!	24 Play a favorite dice, cards or board game. Or make up a game!
25 <i>Act out actions:</i> Dig a little hole (<i>dig</i>) Plant a little seed (<i>touch floor</i>) Pour a little water (<i>pour</i>) Pull a little weed (<i>bend, pull</i>) Chase a little bug (<i>run</i>) Heigh ho, there it goes! (<i>hand over eyes</i>) Give a little sunshine (<i>arms up</i>) Grow a little rose! (<i>hold, smell</i>)	26 Look at a wordless picture book. Ask your child to tell you the story.	27 Play rhyming "I Spy." "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with mat. Yes, the cat!"	28 National Superhero Day! Pretend to be a superhero, or a read a book about one.	29 Sing " <i>The Wheels on the Bus</i> ," & do the movements. Make up other things on the bus.	30 Tell your favorite toy about something that happened to you today.	
			 Playing	 Reading	 Writing	 Talking
					 Singing	

Pre-Literacy Practices

Five ways to help your child get ready to read:

Singing



Sing every chance you get! Singing slows down language and helps children hear the smaller sounds in words. Songs expose children to words they don't hear in everyday language. This vocabulary boost helps them when they learn to read.



Reading

Curl up with a book at bedtime, or any time. Keep books everywhere: in the car, stroller, and bath tub. Role model the love of reading together. Most kids who have been read 1,000 books by the time they start Kindergarten are ready to learn to read.



Talking

Even newborns benefit from lots of talking! Tell stories, talk about the books you read, use new words, start conversations. Ask open-ended questions, giving children time to think and answer. Talking back and forth uses four parts of the brain; it takes young children extra time to form responses.

Playing



Play is the “work” of children. Pretend play builds vocabulary, stretches the imagination, and nurtures pre-reading skills. Symbolic play (This box is a car! A boat! A train!) is the same type of thinking that allows them to understand that a picture or the written word represents a real thing.

Writing



Play with a variety of writing tools. Color, draw, scribble, and write with crayons, chalk, or sticks in dirt or sand. Writing activities help children understand that writing and print has meaning. Developing fine motor skills prepares children for writing.

