



Pre-Literacy Activities

December 2022

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

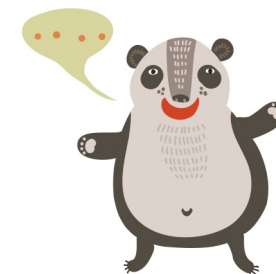
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Look around for things that start with "D" (for December)!	2 Snow is white! What are your favorite things that are white? Eat some white foods today!	3 Clap or count the syllables in these winter words: Snow Winter December
4 National Sock Day! Match pairs & talk about shapes, colors, textures. What rhymes with sock?	5 Bathtub Party Day! Bring measuring cups or spoons into the bath & practice measuring.	6 Talk or read about taste buds! Taste something sweet, salty, sour, & bitter.	7 Pick 5 toys & tell a simple, silly story using the toys as inspiration.	8 Take a walk outside & listen to the sounds. Try to name what you hear.	9 VISIT SCCLD ONLINE Request a book or eBook about winter or snow. Ask us how!	10 Make a cozy reading corner out of pillows, blankets, & flashlight.
11 Pour flour in a tray or cookie sheet & write letters or numbers in it with a finger.	12 How old are you? Read that many books!	13 National Cocoa Day! Make a mug of hot cocoa together. Discuss the steps & ingredients.	14 Play "Freeze Dance" to your favorite song. Freeze each time someone stops the music!	15 Sing the ABCs in different voices. Try loud, quiet, deep, high, robot, cowboy, etc.	16 Talk about temperature. What things are hot? Cold? Warm? Freezing?	17 VISIT "STORYTIME ONLINE" for stories, songs, fingerplays & more at: https://scclld.org/storytime-online/
18 Make a holiday or winter wishes card for a family member or friend.	19 Use a flashlight to explore a dark room. Make shadow puppets on the wall.	20 Put different colored papers on the floor. Find items in each color to put on the matching paper.	21 First Day of Winter! Make paper snowflakes together with paper & scissors.	22 Do the "Winter Pokey"! Put your mittens, snow hat, boots, jacket, etc., in & out!	23 Wrap a pretend present for a stuffed animal or loved one.	24 Build a sleigh out of boxes, cushions, or blankets. Visit the "snow"!
25 Tune: I'm a Little Teapot I'm a little snowman (<i>point to self</i>) Short & fat (<i>arms in front of belly</i>) Here are my buttons (<i>point to belly</i>) <i>Here is my hat (point to head)</i> When the sun comes out (<i>make sun with arms above head</i>) I can't play (<i>shake head</i>) I just slowly melt away! (<i>"melt" down to floor!</i>)	26 Look for patterns or put items you have into a pattern.	27 Draw faces on your fingers to turn them into puppets & tell a story.	28 National Card Playing Day! Play a card game together, or count & talk about the cards.	29 Have a small "snowball" fight with crumpled paper or cotton balls.	30 Talk about New Year's Eve & practice counting backwards from ten.	31 Happy New Year's Eve! March around to music banging pots & pans. (No need to wait until 12am!)
		 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.

