



# Pre-Literacy Activities

# January 2024

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



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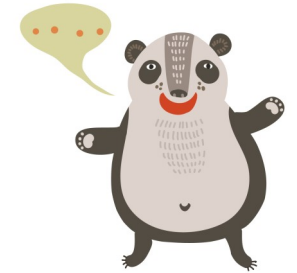


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Happy New Year!</b> Draw or share something you look forward to doing this year.	2 Take a walk & look for things that start with "J" (for January)!	3 Pretend the floor or bed is an ocean or lake. What animals live there? What activities can you do?	4 <b>National Spaghetti Day!</b> Make spaghetti art, or make spaghetti to eat!	5 Play Veterinary Hospital with your stuffed animals.	6 <b>National Cuddle Up Day!</b> Snuggle under a blanket with a loved one & read stories.
7 Finger paint with yogurt! A baking sheet works well as a "canvas."	8 <b>National Bubble Bath Day!</b> Make bubble beards, hair, earrings, etc., in the tub!	9 Create upcycled art with glue & items from around the house.	10 Make a bed out of a box for a stuffy or doll. Pretend it is bedtime.	11 Do the "Penguin Pokey"! Put your beak, flippers, feet, whole self...in & out, and waddle all around!	12 Go on a "shape walk." Look for shapes in the world around you.	13 Look at family photos. Talk about relationships, where they live, what they are doing, etc.
14 Write or draw a list of 3 things you will do today. Cross off each activity after you complete it.	15 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day!</b> Talk about him & do/say something kind or helpful.	16 Read a book with word/ thought bubbles & point them out. Try Elephant & Piggie books by Willems.	17 Make a road with blocks or tape. Drive a toy car on the road. Add a bridge or tunnel!	18 Think of words that rhyme with "cold". Act them out!	19 <b>National Popcorn Day!</b> Make popcorn. Do simple counting & math with the pieces.	20 Make snow people out of cotton balls, paper & glue.
21 Pick a book with a <b>blue</b> cover. Read it together & talk about what you thought of the blue book!	22 Play animal freeze dance. Stop the music & call out an animal to imitate! Then dance again & repeat with another animal.	23 <b>VISIT SCCLD ONLINE</b> Stream children's shows & animated picture books! Search for " <b>Kanopy Kids</b> " on our <a href="http://scclld.org">scclld.org</a> website.	24 <b>Global Belly Laugh Day!</b> Tell a joke or read a funny book, & laugh together. It's good for you!	25 <b>Opposite Day!</b> Act out: in/out, up/down, happy/sad, etc. Say "Good Morning" at bedtime!	26 Draw a face. Then change the mouth, eyes, &/or eyebrows to show how it changes the feeling expressed.	27 <b>VISIT "STORYTIME ONLINE"</b> for stories, songs, fingerplays & more at: <a href="https://scclld.org/storytime-online/">https://scclld.org/storytime-online/</a>
28 Make a collage or "All About Me" art with pictures from old magazines.	29 What animals live in the forest? Talk about their sounds & what they eat.	30 Look for the letters in your name on food boxes or bags from your kitchen.	31 Play the game "Red Light, Green Light."			



# 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.



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