

(drop down to floor!)

Pre-Literacy Activities

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Look around for things that start with "D" (for December)!	2 Clap or count the syllables in these words: 1) Snow 2) Winter 3) December	3 Snow is white! What are your favorite white things? Eat some white foods today!	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.	Pick 5 toys & tell a simple, silly story using the toys as inspiration.	7 Take a walk outside & listen to the sounds. Try to name what you hear.
8 Make a cozy reading corner with pillows, blankets, & a flashlight.	9 VISIT SCCLD ONLINE Request a book or eBook about winter or snow. Ask us how!	Pour flour in a tray or cookie sheet & write letters or numbers in it with a finger.	11 How old are you? Read that many books together today.	Play "Freeze Dance" to your favorite song. Freeze each time someone stops the music!	National Cocoa Day! Make a mug of cocoa together. Discuss the steps & ingredients.	Sing the ABCs in different ways. Try loud, quiet, deep, high, robot, fast, slow, etc.
Talk about temperature. What things are: Hot? Cold? Warm? Freezing?	Have fun with metaphors! Say "I'm cold like" (a penguin, ice, snow, lemonade, etc.)	17 Make a holiday or winter wishes card for a friend, neighbor or family member.	18 Make shadow puppets on the wall with a flashlight. Tell a story about the shadows!	Put different colored papers on the floor. Find items in each color to put on the matching paper.	20 Look for patterns or make a pattern with items you have.	First Day of Winter! Make paper snowflakes together with paper & scissors.
Do the "Winter Pokey"! Put your mittens, snow hat, boots, jacket, etc., in & out!	Build a sleigh out of boxes, cushions, or blankets. Visit the "snow"!	Draw faces on your fingers to turn them into puppets & tell a story.	Wrap a pretend present for a stuffed animal or loved one.	26 Have a small "snowball" fight with crumpled paper or cotton balls.	27 Talk or read about taste buds! Taste something sweet, salty, sour, & bitter.	National Card Playing Day! Play a card game together, or count the cards & talk about them.
Tune: I'm a Little Teapot I'm a little snowman (point to self) Short & fat (arms in front of belly) Here are my buttons (touch belly) Here is my hat (point to head)	Talk about how tomorrow is New Year's Eve. Practice counting backwards from 5 or 10!	Happy New Year's Eve! March around to music while banging pots & pans to celebrate!				VISIT "STORYTIME ONLINE" for stories, songs, fingerplays & more at: https://sccld.org/storytime-online/
When the sun comes out (make sun with arms above head) I can't play (shake head) I just slowly melt away!		Playing	Reading	Writing	Singing	santa clara library

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.





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.



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.



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.



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.

