



Learning begins at birth! There are many easy, fun things to do with your kids that help get them ready to read. Use this Take and Make kit to get started!

## WRITE

### TRACING MAT & WASHABLE MARKER

#### BABIES

- With baby's hand, trace the lines and letters on the mat.
- Sing the ABC song while pointing to each letter.

#### TODDLERS

- On the robot side of the mat, use the washable marker to trace the lines. Do a few at a time until your child gets wiggly.
- Let your child try tracing the letters on the mat. Celebrate his effort. It doesn't have to be perfect – scribbling is writing!

#### PRESCHOOLERS

- Trace letters and robot lines with the washable marker.
- Trace the letters in your child's name. Maybe she can copy them onto blank paper!
- If you have magnetic or foam letters, have your child match them to letters on the mat. Try it with just lower case letters.

## READ

### FARM YARD COLORING SHEET & CRAYONS

#### BABIES

- Sing Old MacDonald with your baby. Bounce him gently in your lap and clap to the rhythm!

#### TODDLERS

- Read the sentence while running your finger under the words. Let your child "read" the pictures.
- Underline (or have your child circle) the color word with the matching crayon color.

#### PRESCHOOLERS

- Pretend to be the animals. How do they move? What sounds do they make?
- Make up a story together about what's happening in the picture.

## TALK

### NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT BAG WITH LIST INSIDE

Add colors to your list of items to find (just scribble little spots of the colors to search). What else do you want to add? You may not find them all – that's ok! Feel free to add more items to your list.

#### BABIES

- Show and talk about the objects you find. If possible, let baby feel them.

#### TODDLERS

- Let your child spot the items and pick them up.
- As you find different objects, talk about how they look and feel, their size, etc.

#### PRESCHOOLERS

- Take a picture of things that won't fit into the brown bag. Or, sketch them with pencil and paper.
- If you add items to the list, compare and contrast sizes and textures. Classify them by sizes and colors.





## PLAY TENNIS BALL

### BABIES

- During tummy time, roll the ball back and forth in front of baby.
- Roll ball to baby while seated. Let her hold and touch the ball. Is it soft? What color is it?

### TODDLERS

- While sitting down, roll the ball back and forth.
- See if your child can play catch – keep a short distance between you.
- Have your child hold the ball up in the air in his right hand, then touch his left toes – repeat several times, switch sides and repeat. Crossing the midline is important for brain development.

### PRESCHOOLERS

- Play catch or have the child bounce the ball and see if she can catch it!
- Playing with balls increases eye-hand coordination and motor skills. How high how can your child throw it, how far can she toss it?

## SING BANDANNA

### BABIES

- Play Peekaboo! Repeat it many times. Sing *Peekaboo, peekaboo. Peekaboo, I see you!*

### TODDLERS

- Use the bandanna as a cape. Which superhero are you?
- Create a Jack-in-the-Box. Scrunch the bandanna in your hands and sing:

*Jack-in-the-box,  
Sit so still,  
Will he come out?  
Yes, he will! (pull bandanna out of hand,  
or throw up into the air)*

### PRESCHOOLERS

- Enjoy the Popcorn Song (sung to the tune of “Frere Jacques” – repeat each line twice).

*Popcorn Kernels (wave bandanna overhead)  
In the pot (make the bandanna “disappear”  
by bunching it up in your fist)  
Shake them  
Shake them (shake bandanna)  
’Til they POP (toss bandanna up into the air)*

Check out this website for other songs  
<https://jbrary.com/scarf-songs-rhymes-storytime/>.

## TAKE A STORY WALK IN OLD TOWN ARVADA

JCPL is partnering with several local businesses to create a StoryWalk® experience for the whole family. Look in the shop and restaurant windows to read the next page of a picture book in English and Spanish. Begin at Fuzzy’s Taco Shop, 5760 Olde Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO.

