



Pre-Literacy Activities

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



January 2020



Santa Clara County Library District
www.sccl.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Talk about your New Year Resolution.	2 Look for things that start with "J" (for January).	3 Play Veterinary Hospital with your stuffed animals.	4 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Check out a poetry book and read some poems.
5 Draw a picture of something you look forward to doing this year.	6 What words rhyme with "cold"?	7 Play "Red Light, Green Light."	8 National Bubble Bath Day! Make bubble beards, hair, earrings, etc., in the tub.	9 Do the "Penguin Pokey"! Put your beak, flippers, feet, whole self...in & out, and waddle all around!	10 Make a list of things you will do today. Cross each off as you complete it.	11 Make a bed for a stuffy or doll out of a box. Pretend it is bedtime.
12 Make art with glue and items you find lying around the house.	13 Look for the letters in your name on food boxes or bags from your kitchen.	14 Read a book with word/ thought bubbles & point them out. (Try Elephant & Piggie books by Willems!)	15 Play "Freeze Dance" to your favorite song. Freeze each time someone stops the music.	16 Look at family photos. Talk about the relationships, where they are, what they are doing, etc.	17 Draw a face. Show how by changing the mouth, eyes, or eyebrows, the emotion changes.	18 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Check out a book about hibernation or an animal that sleeps in winter.
19 National Popcorn Day! Do the fun popcorn fingerplay below! Make some popcorn and do simple counting and math with the pieces.	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day! Do or say something kind or helpful.	21 Pick a book with a blue cover. Read it together and talk about what you thought of the book.	22 Go on a "shape walk." Look for shapes in the world around you.	23 Play animal freeze dance. Stop music and call out an animal to act like! Then dance again...and repeat with another animal.	24 Pretend the floor or a bed is the ocean or a lake. What animals are in there? What activities can you do?	25 Opposite Day! Talk about opposites: in/out, up/down, happy/sad. Be silly! Say the opposite of what you mean:
26 Make a collage with pictures ripped or cut from magazines.	27 Finger paint with yogurt.	28 What animals live in the forest? Talk about their sounds and what they eat.	29 Make a road with blocks. Drive a toy car on the road. Add a bridge or tun-	30 Read a book about snow.	31 Make snowmen or snowwomen out of cotton balls and glue.	"Good Morning!" at bedtime! "Goodbye!" when you mean "Hello!"

5 Little Kernels (5 fingers up)
Sizzling in the pot, (wiggle)
All of a sudden,
1 went POP! (CLAP)
(1 finger down, then...4,3,2,1)



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

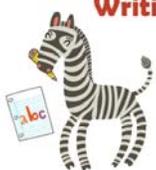
Even newborns benefit from lots of talking! Tell stories, talk about the books you read, use new words, start conversations. Ask open-ended questions, giving children time to think and answer. Talking back and forth uses four parts of the brain; it takes young children extra time to form responses.

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.

