



Pre-Literacy Activities

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



February 2020



Santa Clara County Library District
www.sccl.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Check out a book about groundhogs for tomorrow.
2 Groundhog Day Pretend to be groundhogs hiding in a hole. Pop up to look for your shadow!	3 Look for things that start with "F" (for February).	4 Think of words that rhyme with the word "heart."	5 Eat red foods today!	6 Look at a calendar and count the days until Valentine's Day.	7 Have each family member say, write, or draw 3 things they love.	8 Go for a walk. Walk slow. Walk fast. Count some jumps.
9 We're going on a pink hunt! Look for pink things wherever you go today.	10 Time yourself. How long does it take to walk down the block? Or pick a shorter distance.	11 National Inventors' Day! What would you like to invent? Invent a new snack or dessert together.	12 Look for red things. Point out different shades: tomato red, burgundy, brick red, fire engine red...	13 Make up "Roses are red, Violets are blue," poems together. Like "I love to read & you love it too!"	14 Happy Valentine's Day! Make a Valentine Card for someone you love.	15 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Give clues first! The place starts with an "L," there are books to borrow, etc.
16 Play <i>Heart Freeze Dance</i> . Cut out a heart. When music stops, call out a body part to put the heart on. Repeat with more body parts!	17 Presidents Day Vote for your favorite snack!	18 See how many cotton balls fit in different containers. Small cup, pocket, snack container, etc.	19 Play with a novel kitchen tool in the bath tub. A baster, strainer, funnel or tongs could be fun!	20 National Love Your Pet Day! Take a walk & find a Pet Rock. You can paint it, or just pretend!	21 Play with magnets on a baking sheet.	22 It's Black History Month! Read an award-winning picture book like <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> or <i>The Undefeated</i> .
23 Two Little Lovebirds (1 finger up each hand) Sitting on a hill 1 named Jack, 1 named Jill Fly away Jack, Fly away Jill (move each behind back) Come back Jack, Come back Jill (bring each forward)	24 Count out a healthy snack.	25 Turn on music. Take turns copying each other's dance moves.	26 Sing the Alphabet Song together as you wash your hands.	27 Use a measuring tape or ruler to measure objects. Write the numbers down.	28 Be quiet & listen to the sounds in each room of your home.	29 Place blankets / pillows on the floor and jump from "island" to "island."
	 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.

