



# Pre-Literacy Activities

# April 2020

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

Santa Clara County  
Library District  
[www.sccl.org](http://www.sccl.org)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Look around for things that start with "A" (for April)!	2 Draw faces on your thumbs & fingers. Talk with your finger "puppets."	3 Stack boxes on their sides & attach them together with tape. Pretend it is a dollhouse, fire station, store, or...?	4 <b>VISIT THE ONLINE LIBRARY!</b> Explore <i>Bookflix!</i> This site pairs themed fiction & non-fiction online books.
5 Cook something together. Talk about ingredient amounts, textures, colors tastes & shapes.	6 Play Animal Charades. Guess which animal family members are pretending to be!	7 Read a book & relate it to your child's experience: <i>Have you seen or been on a train? How was it?</i>	8 Wash dishes together. Use lots of words: scrub, rinse, cleanse, wipe, scour, suds, lather, adhered, utensils...	9 Go to the beach (indoors)! Put on suit, goggles, flip-flops, & pretend sunblock. Picnic on your towel!	10 Put tiny plastic toys in an ice cube tray & freeze them. Let them melt. Check on them.	11 <b>National Pet Day!</b> Have you always wanted a dog, cat or snake? Paint a pet rock & name it!
12 Record yourself singing or saying your favorite song or rhyme. Send it to someone special!	13 How many fingers are on your left hand? Read that many books today!	14 Talk about how you think characters in a picture book are feeling, & why. When have you felt way?	15 <b>National Laundry Day!</b> Sort the laundry by color, family member, body part, or match socks.	16 Sing a song & clap each syllable in the words.	17 Make a ramp with a box, book, etc. Send cars, balls, rocks, or cotton balls down. What do you notice?	18 Lay on your back with a stuffy on your stomach. Breathe in & out 5 times, watching stuffy rise & fall.
19 Write down what you do in the morning. Brush teeth, brush hair, get dressed, eat breakfast, etc.	20 Make sock puppets with any old socks or socks missing their mate. All you need is a pen!	21 Read a book under a blanket with a flashlight.	22 <b>Earth Day!</b> Talk & draw about how to help the earth: save water, drive/buy less, plant trees...	23 Sing <i>Old MacDonald Had a Bath</i> in the tub. Ask what he had in there. Make some silly sounds!	24 <b>Arbor Day!</b> Trace your hand. Add leaves, fruit, etc., to your fingers, & a trunk below.	25 <b>VISIT THE ONLINE LIBRARY!</b> Check out an eBook about rain!
26 <i>Rain on the green grass (flutter fingers)</i> <i>Rain on the tree (arms up as branches)</i>  <i>Rain on the rooftop (fingers touch over head)</i> <i>But not on ME! (shake head, point to self)</i>	27 Tell a friend or family member about your favorite book!	28 Draw or scribble together. Encourage your child to "sign" their work.	29 <b>International Dance Day!</b> Have a Virtual Dance Party with a friend (or record your dancing & send it to them).	30 Use positional words while playing with a toy: on top of, under/below, next to, inside of, etc.		



Playing



Reading



Writing



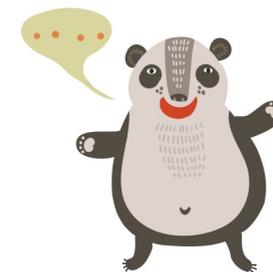
Talking



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.

