



Pre-Literacy Activities

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

November 2019

Santa Clara County Library District
www.sccl.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 National Authors Day! Talk about what authors do. Who is your favorite author? Tell a story!	2 Write a capital "N" (for November!) with dry spaghetti noodles, Q-tips, or craft sticks.
3 Pretend to be different animals! Move, eat, and sound like them.	4 Make a tightrope on the floor with tape. Walk across it. Try it with a bean bag on your head!	5 Put objects into groups of 5 (toys, rocks, balls, crayons, etc.).	6 Make a music shaker. Staple two paper plates together with beans inside. Then boogie to a song!	7 Look around for things that are your favorite color.	8 Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." What other kinds of spiders can you sing about? Big? Hairy? Silly?	9 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Come to Family Storytime at 10:30!
10 Tea Time! Host a tea party for your stuffed animals and family.	11 Look around for things that start with "N" (for November)!	12 Pour sugar in a tray or cookie sheet and let your child write in the sugar with their finger.	13 Play "Simon Says."	14 Make a bracelet or necklace with noodles or cereal strung on pipe cleaner or yarn.	15 Use a clothespin to pick up small objects and drop them in a cup. Count them!	16 Plan an indoor "parade." Decorate boxes for floats and march to music!
17 Play a board game together as a family, at home or at the library!	18 Puzzle fun! Cut a picture from a magazine into a few pieces and then put them back together.	19 Look in the mirror together and make different faces. Are you happy? Sad? Silly? Surprised?	20 Write the numbers 1,2,3,4,5. Circle your child's age.	21 National Gingerbread Cookie Day! Share the story of the Gingerbread Man.	22 Make a card and give it to someone special.	23 VISIT THE LIBRARY! Check out a non-fiction book about turkeys or Thanksgiving.
24 Trace your hand and turn it into a turkey by adding the beak, eyes, wattle, snood, and feet.	25 Draw a large letter on paper and use dried beans or pennies to "trace" the letter.	26 Make a list of your family members and talk about how they are related.	27 Bake something (real or pretend)! Discuss each step and talk about the recipe ingredients.	28 Talk about things you are thankful for.	29 Make up a song about your favorite food. You can sing it to a familiar tune.	30 Act out a story with puppets or stuffed animals.



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

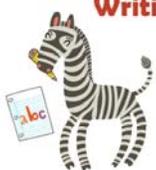
Even newborns benefit from lots of talking! Tell stories, talk about the books you read, use new words, start conversations. Ask open-ended questions, giving children time to think and answer. Talking back and forth uses four parts of the brain; it takes young children extra time to form responses.

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.

