

Your Place To Belong

 **Free WIFI**

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**Madeline L. Olewine
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Harrisburg, PA 17109
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McCormick Riverfront Library (MRL)
101 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
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Elizabethville Area Library (EV)
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Elizabethville, PA 17023
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Northern Dauphin Library (ND)
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Lykens, PA 17048
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Johnson Memorial Library (JOH)
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**George & Hettie Love
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Stepping Stones to Milestones

Hello!



October 2026

Talking



PA FORWARD 

Developed by our team of educators and librarians, Stepping Stones to Milestones is a cohesive storytime experience. We aim to help children get ready to start school and to position parents and caregivers as their child's first teacher. During storytime early literacy development is supported and modeled through these five practices.

1. Singing
2. Talking
3. Reading
4. Writing
5. Playing

These practices that build a rich literacy environment are easy to do and can be done anywhere.

Talking

Talking to and with children is a critical component in building early literacy skills and can begin as early as birth. Children pick up language from conversations and gain general knowledge about the world around them that will help them understand the meaning of what they later read.



Try these songs or rhymes at home!

Five Little Riders (lap bounce)

Five little riders on a nice fall day,
Jumped on their ponies and rode far away.
They galloped in the meadow.
(Gently bounce baby on lap)
They galloped up the hill.
They galloped so fast that they took a spill!
(Gently let baby dip or slide sideways between your knees).

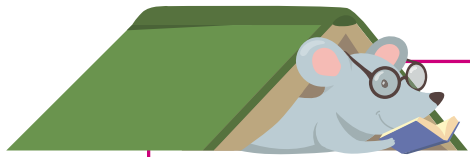
Toddlers: I'm a Little Pumpkin (tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little pumpkin
Orange and round,
Here is my stem.
I grew in the ground.
When I get all cut up,
Don't you shout!
Just open me up and scoop me out!



Preschoolers: Scarecrow, Scarecrow (Perform actions)

Scarecrow, scarecrow turn around
Scarecrow, scarecrow touch the ground.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, reach up high.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch the sky.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, bend down low.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch your toes.



October Booklist

0-3 years

- Baby Talk = Hablando con bebé* by Stella Blackstone
- I Can Say Goodnight! Book* by Stephanie Cohen
- I'll Love You Till the Bats Say Boo* by Kathryn Cristaldi
- A Fall Frolic in the City* by Cathy Goldberg Fishman
- It's Pumpkin Time!* by Zoe Hall
- Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep* by April Pulley Sayre

3-5 years

- The Bingity-Bangity School Bus* by Fleur Conkling
- Puppy talk: How Dogs Tell Us How They Feel* by Jess French
- All About Bats* by Caryn Jenner
- Anansi and the Talking Melon* by Eric A. Kimmel
- Baby Bat Bedtime* by Paige Towler
- Scooper and Dumper: The Pumpkin Parade* by Lindsay Ward



TALK Strategy

Tune in: Play close attention to what your child is looking at or doing. Comment on what you see, giving them time to respond.

Ask Questions: Ask questions based on what you observe. Use open ended questions that encourages children to give thoughtful answers.

Lift Language: Model language you want your children to use. Expand on what your child says using complete sentences and using interesting words.

Keep it Going: Keep the conversation going by focusing on what your child is interested in and by asking more questions.

Visit <https://coxcampus.org/talk-early-and-often-with-children/> for more details about this strategy.

October 2026 Stepping Stones to Milestones Schedule Session 6 runs September 20, 2026 - October 24 ,2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Ages Storytime 9:30 AM ESA	Born to Read 9:30 AM ESA	Toddler Storytime 9:30 AM ESA	Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM LOV	Preschool Storytime 9:15 AM ESA	
Toddler Storytime 10:15 EV	Born to Read 10:15 AM EV	All Ages Storytime 10:15 AM MOM	Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM AFL	Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM ND	
	Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM AFL	Born to Read 10:15 AM AFL	Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM EV	Born to Read 10:15 AM LOV	
	Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM LOV	Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM EV	Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM ND	Born to Read 10:30 AM ESA	
	Preschool Storytime 11:00 AM ESA	Toddler Storytime 11:00 AM ESA			

Children generally build scissor skills in the these developmental stages.

Stage 1 (snipping): Children make random snips on thick paper strips. This typically starts at age three.

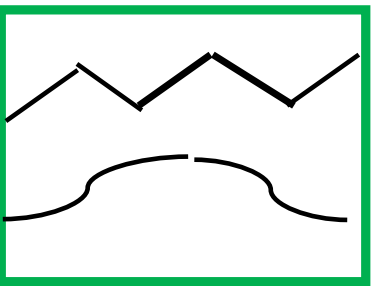
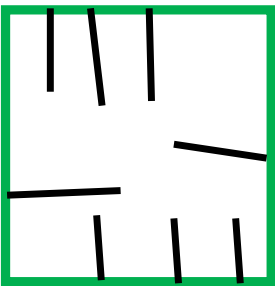
Stage 2 (Forward cutting): Children cut across short, thick straight lines.

Stage 3 (Curves and shapes): Children follow simple curved paths, zigzags, and basic circles.



Create a cutting tray or scissor station for your child to practice using scissors.

Use a tray or other container to hold paper cardstock, and children's scissors. Draw lines, designs, and zigzags on the paper using a marker. Demonstrate how to cut along the lines.



October 2026 Early Literacy Activity Calendar

Activities in bold print are for all ages. Activities in plain text are good to share with preschoolers.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Go for walk and identify the different colors you see in the leaves.	2 Make up a silly song about something you do during the day.	3 October begins with O. Name three other words that begin with O.
4 Practice writing the letter O. 	5 Go on a color scavenger hunt. Find items from around the house for each of five colors.	6 It's Celebrate the Bilingual Child Month. Learn a few words in a second language.	7 Sing or recite a rhyme from the newsletter.	8 Happy Birthday Karma Wilson. Read a book by this author.	9 Stack blocks to build a tower. See who can build the tallest tower.	10 It's National Metric Day. Measure a few items using centimeters. 
11 Make sock puppets. Then use them to talk to each other.	12 Visit the library! 	13 Count how many chairs you have in your house. Is it more than 10?	14 Sing "I'm a Little Pumpkin" using the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot".	15 Read your child a favorite book from when you were his age.	16 Hold a sleepover in your living room for your child's stuffed animals. Discuss all the fun things they will do while you are asleep.	17 Rake leaves to create a pile to jump into. 
18 Use small candies to demonstrate simple addition and subtraction.  +  = 2	19 Happy Birthday Ed Emberly. Read a book written or illustrated by him.	20 Design your own monster. Is your monster anything like the Big Green Monster in Ed Emberley's book?	21 Find a free bat coloring sheet online to color. 	22 Have your child tell you a story about a sad pumpkin. What caused the pumpkin to be sad?	23 Use old clothes to play dress up. Talk about the costumes you had as a child.	24 Visit the library! 
25 Make a pumpkin recipe and have children help measure the ingredients.	26 Make a pumpkin from whatever craft supplies you have. 	27 How many words can you name that rhyme with BOO?	28 If you carve a pumpkin to make a jack-o-lantern, place the pumpkin guts into a plastic bag for children to explore mess free.	29 Bats are nocturnal. After dark, turn off the light and read a book using a flashlight. 	30 Trick-or-Treat at each door inside your house. Sort your candies by type or color. 	31 Happy Halloween! Dress up as a book character.