

Open for Discovery

 Free WIFI

**William H. & Marion C. Alexander
Family Library (AFL)**
200 West 2nd Street
Hummelstown, PA 17036
717.566.0949

East Shore Area Library (ESA)
4501 Ethel Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717.652.9380

Elizabethville Area Library (EV)
80 North Market Street
Elizabethville, PA 17023
717.362.9825

Johnson Memorial Library (JOH)
799 East Center Street
Millersburg, PA 17061
717.692.2658

**George & Hettie Love
Memorial Library (LOV)
(formerly Kline Library)**
530 South 29th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
717.234.3934

**Madeline L. Olewine
Memorial Library (MOM)**
2410 North 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717.232.7286


McCormick Riverfront Library (MRL)
101 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717.234.4976

Northern Dauphin Library (ND)
683 Main Street
Lykens, PA 17048
717.523.0340

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Stepping Stones to Milestones

Newsletter

December 2025

Talking

Hello!



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.

Create a pretend play area that encourages children to act out everyday scenarios like doctor visits or shopping for groceries. This type of play provides children with the opportunity to talk to other children or adults.



Try these songs or rhymes at home!

Babies: Jingle! Jingle!

Jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle
(bounce baby on your knee)
Sleigh bells ringing- here we go!
Jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle
Pony's fast.... Pony's slow
(bounce quickly then slowly)



Jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle
(bounce baby on your knee)
Can you feel the cold wind blow? (Blow on baby)
Jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle
Slipping, sliding on the snow!
(Swerve and dip baby)
Whoa!

Toddlers: Frost

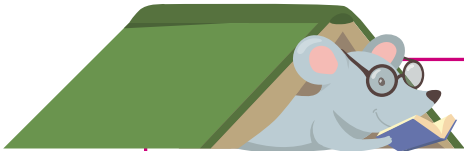
(Sung to "The farmer in the Dell")

The frost is on the roof (point hands over head)
The frost is on the ground (point to the floor)
The frost is on the window
(make a window with your hands)
The frost is all around
(make large circles with hands)



Preschool: Preschool: Warm Mittens

I wiggle my left mitten (wave hand)
I wiggle my right (wave hand)
Inside of my mittens (make "mitten" hands)
So warm and so tight
I wiggle my pinkie (wiggle pinkie)
I wiggle my thumbs (wiggle thumbs)
So when I make snowballs (cup hands together)
My hands don't get numb (shake out hands)



December Booklist

0-3 years

- Baby Pterosaur* by Julie Abery
- All of Me! : A Book of Thanks* by Molly Bang
- Ollie's Hug* by Olivier Dunrea
- All the Little Snowflakes* by Cindy Jin
- There's Snow One Like You* by Rose Rossner
- Go, Sled! Go!* by James Yang

3-5 years

- The Ginger Bread Boy: A Folk Tale Classic* by Paul Galdone
- Ten on the Sled* by Kim Norman
- A Violin for Elva* by Mary Lyn Ray
- How to Send a Hug* by Hayley Rocco
- Before We Sleep* by Giorgio Volpe & Paolo Proietti
- Parker's Place* by Russ Willms



Hibernation Song

Sung to: "Are you sleeping"
Bear is sleeping, bear is sleeping
In the cave, In the cave.
I wonder when he'll come out.
I wonder when he'll come out.
In the spring, In the spring.



Mystery Sound Box

Place an item that makes a sound inside a box. Have children guess what the item is by listening to what they hear. Encourage children to describe what they hear.

Repeat with other items.

Talk

Early childhood is a critical time in a children's brain development with over 85% of physical brain growth occurring during the first three years. It is also a critical time for language acquisition. All children, beginning at birth, need adults who intentionally guide and support language development. Some ways to do that are:

- Talk to your child often. Your child loves to hear your voice and it helps them learn. Talk about what you are doing and about the things all around you.
- Ask your child open-ended questions that require thinking like "Where do wild animals go at night?"
- Take turns talking and give your child time to respond. Expand on what your child says.
- Use interesting words to describe things.
- Make eye contact.
- Discuss pictures in books.

December 2025 Stepping Stones to Milestone Schedule of programs
Session 1 - 2026 is January 4 to February 7
Registration for Session 1 - 2026 begins December 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM

| 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 | Born to Read 10:15 AM AFL | Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM AFL | Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM ND | |
| | Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM AFL | Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM EV | Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM EV | Born to Read 10:15 AM LOV | |
| | Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM LOV | Toddler Storytime 11:00 AM ESA | Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM ND | Born to Read 10:30 AM ESA | |
| | Preschool Storytime 11:00 AM ESA | | | | |

Dreidel Song













I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel, I shall play

Oh, dreidel,
dreidel, dreidel.
I made you out
of clay
And when you're
dry and ready
Oh Dreidel we
shall play



December 2025 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 December begins with D. Name 5 other words that begin with D. | 2 Sing silly songs in the bathtub.  | 3 It's Let's Hug Day. Make a handprint hug craft to send to another.  | 4 It's Wildlife Conservation Day. Read a book about a wild animal. | 5 Use jingle bells or other rhythm instruments along with a favorite song. | 6 It's National Play Outside Day. Dress warmly and go to a park to play. |
| 7 Mix up some slime and explore how it feels. | 8 Talk about the pictures in a picture book and introduce the names of unfamiliar terms. | 9 Happy Birthday Nick Bruel. Read a Bad Kitty picture book. | 10 It's Dewey Decimal System Day. Visit a library and borrow a nonfiction book. Look for the Dewey Decimal code on the book. | 11 Sing "The Hibernation Song". The lyrics are in the newsletter. | 12 Make a gingerbread house or draw a picture of one.  | 13 It's National Violin Day. Listen to a song that has violin music.  |
| 14 Read a book about a monkey!  | 15 In honor of Hanukkah, sing the Dreidel song. See the newsletter for the lyrics. | 16 Make cards to send to family or friends. | 17 Place several socks in a basket and have your child count and match the socks to make pairs | 18 Cut out paper circles to make snowmen. Have your children sort circles according to size. | 19 Explore the scents of spices used to make cookies.  | 20 Talk about your favorite winter activities.  |
| 21 Visit the Library!  | 22 Go for ride to look at the holiday lights in your community. Have children describe what they see. | 23 Cut holes in a box and have children push toys through the holes to fill the box. You can have different sized holes for children to explore. | 24 Bake cookies and have your child help measure the ingredients. | 25 Sing a Christmas Carol.  | 26 Draw candy canes. Do these remind you of any letters?  | 27 Make a list of words that rhyme with snow.  |
| 28 Recite the Pledge of Allegiance together.  | 29 Happy Birthday Molly Bang. Read a book written by her. | 30 Make a birdseed ornament and hang on a tree outside. Talk about why some birds migrate. | 31 It's the last day of the year. Talk about the meaning of first and last. Have your child tell you the last thing that happens in a book. | | | |