

Open for Discovery



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)

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

DCLS.ORG

Your Ninth Library

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
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24/7 RENEWALS
Toll Free 1.877.709.2690

MARCO

Your Exploration Station
Out and about in your community



Newsletter

July 2026

Writing



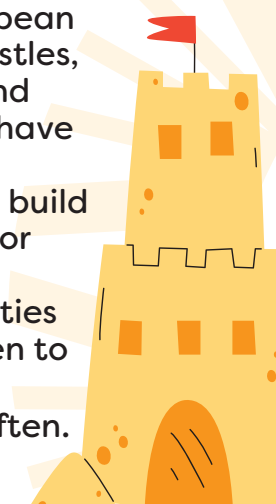
Developed by our team of educators and librarians, Stepping Stones to Milestones is a cohesive storytime experience. We aim to help children get ready to start school and to position parents and caregivers as their child's first teacher. During storytime early literacy development is supported and modeled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

Writing

What do playing with bean bags, building sand castles, assembling puzzles, and beading necklaces all have in common? All these activities help children build the fine and gross motor skills needed to write. Include play opportunities that encourage children to build hand, finger, and upper body strength often.



Try these songs and rhymes at home!

Babies: Bouncing Rhyme

I bounce you here, I bounce you there.
I bounce you, bounce you everywhere!
I hug you here, I hug you there.
I hug you, hug you everywhere!
I tickle you here, I tickle you there,
I tickle you, tickle you everywhere!

Toddlers: "Dinosaur, Dinosaur"

Dinosaur, dinosaur, turn around!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, stomp the ground!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, make some claws!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, roar!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, big and tall!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, scary and small!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, shake the ground!
Dinosaur, dinosaur, sit back down!



Preschoolers: On Independence Day Sung to: "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Fireworks go snap, snap, snap!
Crack, crack, crack! Zap, zap, zap!
Fireworks make me clap, clap, clap
On Independence Day!



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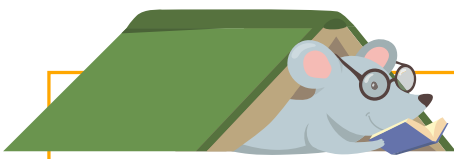
dcls.org/FBkids

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instagram.com/dcls_library

dcls.org/youtube

tiktok.com/@dcls_library



July Booklist

0-3 years

Baby Dinosaur Under the Sea: Follow Baby Stegosaurus on Her first Swimming Adventure! by Laura Buller
I See by Joe Cepeda
I'm Hungry: !Tengo Hambre! by Angela Dominguez
Splash! by Leslie Patricelli
Brownie & Pearl Take a Dip by Cynthia Rylant
Roarsome Dinosaurs by Sarah Wade

3-5 years

The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle
Dinosaur Snores! by Peter Curtis
Penny & Pip by Candace Fleming
Groovy Joe Ice Cream and Dinosaurs by Eric Litwin
My Fourth of July by Jerry Spinelli
The Whale in my Swimming Pool by Joyce Wan



“You’re A Grand Old Flag”



You’re a grand old flag
 You’re a high-flying flag
 And forever in peace
 may you wave
 You’re the emblem of
 The land I love
 The home of the free
 and the brave
 Every heart beats true
 For the red white and blue
 Where there’s never a boast or brag
 Should old acquaintance be forgot
 Keep your eye on the grand old flag
 You’re a grand old flag
 You’re a high-flying flag
 And forever in peace may you wave
 You’re the emblem of the land I love,
 The home of the free and the brave
 Every heart beats true
 For the red white and blue
 Where there’s never a boast or brag



Try one of these fun writing activities at home!

- 1. Beads and Playdough:**
 Push beads into playdough to form letters. Have children push the playdough into a plastic lid to form a flat surface. Children then press beads into the playdough in the shape of a letter. If you don’t have beads, you can use macaroni pasta or some other small items.
- 2. Sandpaper letters.**
 Use sandpaper to cut out different letters. Children can trace the letters with their fingers or even make a rubbing of the letter using paper and crayons.
- 3. Paint brushes:**
 Use paint and paintbrushes to create a picture. Painting with the paintbrush will help develop the fine motor control used when writing.
- 4. Writing names:**
 Help children write their names. Children are empowered by writing their names and it helps them begin to identify themselves as writers.

Summer 2026 Stepping Stones to Milestones Schedule The second summer session is July 12 to August 15

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			










This summer, join us for our **Kindergarten Welcome Fairs** where we’ll have activities, resources, and community partners present to answer your questions about how you can support your burgeoning scholar!

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
 at 5:00pm
 The Salvation Army
 506 S. 29th Street
 Harrisburg

Saturday, August 22, 2026
 at 11:00 am
 Ned Smith Center
 176 Water Company Rd.
 Millersburg

July 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
			<p>1 It's National Postal Worker's Day. Draw a picture or write a note and mail it to a family member.</p> 	<p>2 Write a message to your child and place it in his shoe. Read it together when he finds it.</p>	<p>3 Sing a patriotic song. The lyrics to "You're a Grand Old Flag" are in the newsletter.</p>	<p>4 It's Independence Day! Make a fan using a paper plate decorated red, white, and blue. Attach a craft stick.</p>
<p>5 Share a lap bounce song or rhyme with your child.</p>	<p>6 Place cornmeal or flour on a tray and practice writing letters using your finger.</p>	<p>7 Count how many windows are in your house or in one wall of your house.</p>	<p>8 Help your child invent a new game. Use rules that your child is familiar with from other games. Play it together.</p>	<p>9 Happy Birthday Todd Parr. Draw a brightly colored picture of yourself in the style of Todd Parr's illustrations</p>	<p>10 Find the song, "We are the Dinosaurs" by Laurie Berkner online and follow the movements in the song.</p>	<p>11 Read a book about a dinosaur or other prehistoric animal.</p> 
<p>12 Think of a number 1-10 and see if your child can guess it. Tell if it is higher or lower until your child guesses correctly.</p>	<p>13 Visit the library.</p> 	<p>14 Happy Birthday Laura Numeroff! Read <i>If You Give a Mouse a Cookie</i>.</p>	<p>15 Tape paper towel or toilet paper tubes to a wall. Children can drop craft sticks, pompoms, or small toys through the tube to land in a pail or box.</p>	<p>16 Look for things that begin with the same letter as your child's first name.</p>	<p>17 Draw or make a picture of a dinosaur.</p> 	<p>18 Take turns with your child adding details to a story that begins with "I'm going on a trip..."</p> 
<p>19 A T-Rex footprint is typically 3 to 3.5 feet long. Measure a 3-foot line and see how many of your child's footprints fit along the line.</p>	<p>20 Print is everywhere. Point out words wherever you go today.</p>	<p>21 Play "Hot potato" passing a toy back and forth while the music plays. Will you be the one holding it when the music stops?</p>	<p>22 Play "Echo Me." Clap, stomp, or sing and have children repeat what they hear.</p>	<p>23 Ask your child to pick her favorite book to read and ask her why it's her favorite.</p>	<p>24 Get noisy. Make sounds like animals, vehicles, or household items</p>	<p>25 Visit the library.</p> 
<p>26 Visit a local playground then draw a picture of your favorite part of the visit.</p>	<p>27 Have a splash day outside. Fill a bin with water and provide water toys and cups for some wet fun.</p>	<p>28 Use a ruler or tape measure to find the height of your child's favorite toys.</p> 	<p>29 Ask your child to make up a story about visiting the moon. There will be a full moon this evening.</p>	<p>30 It's International Friendship Day! Plan a play date with a friend.</p>	<p>31 Read a book about an insect.</p> 