

Your Place To Belong



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

DCLS.ORG

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Newsletter

May 2026

Talking

Stepping Stones to Milestones

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.

Talk, Talk, Talk

Gab, chatter, speak
Share your thoughts
Each day each week

Talk, talk, talk
Say, chant, express
Let's hear you spout
The words you possess.



Try these songs or rhymes at home!

Babies: Hokey Pokey Penny a Lump

Hokey pokey, penny a lump
Up & down, up & down, bumpity-bump
(Bounce baby gently up and down on your lap)
If you jump, you're sure to fall
(Lower baby between your legs)
Hokey pokey, that is all!

Toddlers: I Love Mommy

Sung to: "Are You Sleeping?"

I love Mommy, I love Mommy.
Yes I do; yes I do.
And my mommy loves me,
Yes, my mommy loves me,
Loves me too; loves me too.



Preschool: Sing a Song of Lemonade

Sung to: "Sing a Song of Sixpence"

Sing a song of lemonade.
We'll pour it in a cup.
We'll stir it with a straw
And then we'll sip it up.
It will be so refreshing
We'll have to have some more,
And we'll be drinking lemonade forever,
ever more!





May Booklist

0-3 years

- Baby Can** by Thalita Dol
- Finding Things** by Kevin Henkes
- I See You Wonder** by Deborah Farmer Kris
- Jump** by David McPhail
- Frogs** by Ruth A. Musgrave
- In My Heart** by MacKenzie Porter

3-5 years

- Hot Pot Night!** By Vincent Chen
- Just Like a Mama** by Alice Faye Duncan
- Mommy Time** by Monique James-Duncan
- Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate** by Kim Kennedy
- My Crayons Talk** by Patricia Hubbard
- Cat Chat: How Cats Tell Us How They Feel** by Jess French
- A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams



On Mother's Day

Sung to: "Oh, Christmas tree"

On Mother's Day
 On Mother's Day
 Oh, how I love you Mommy!
 On Mother's Day
 On Mother's Day
 Oh, how I love you Mommy!
 You give me joy and happiness
 I give you love,
 a hug and Kiss!
 On Mother's Day
 On Mother's Day
 Oh, how I love
 you Mommy!



Conversations Matter!

Children who experience more conversations with adults develop essential literacy skills including language development, social skills, and executive functioning. Conversations help build brain matter.

When conversing with young children include conversational turns. A conversational turn is a back and forth vocal exchange between the adult and young child.

These interactions all count as conversational turns:

- Coos and babbles from babies
- Mispronounced words from toddlers
- Responsive noises from preverbal children
- Partial or full sentences from preschoolers

Talking is one of the most important things we can do to get children ready to learn and to read. Young children regularly hear talk that tells them about what needs to get done ("It's time to go," "Put the toys in the bin.") but children also need to engage in conversations where they hear richer language that is more responsive.

Summer 2026 Stepping Stones to Milestones Schedule The first summer session is May 31 to July 3

| 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 | | | |

Single Serving Lemonade recipe

- 3 Tablespoons of fresh lemon juice
- 2 Tablespoons of sugar dissolved in ¼ cup of hot water
- ¾ cup cold water
- Ice



1. Warm ¼ cup of water in the microwave.
2. Have children measure 2 tablespoons of sugar and mix into the warm water.
3. Children then add 3 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice to sugar water mixture.
4. Add ¾ cup cold water and ice and stir.

Your lemonade is ready to drink.

May 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 It's Mother Goose Day! Recite your favorite Mother Goose rhymes. | 2 May begins with M. Practice writing letter M. |
| 3 It's National Lemonade Day! Mix up a refreshing drink. See the recipe in the newsletter.  | 4 Happy Birthday Don Wood. Read a book illustrated by him. | 5 Ask your child to tell you what they would do if they could fly like a bird.  | 6 How many words can you name that rhyme with May? | 7 Find a song by Jim Gill online and dance along with the instructions in the song. | 8 Use string to measure the sizes of objects. Cut the string to show the objects' length. Compare strings. Which is longest? | 9 Use sidewalk chalk to write letters on the pavement or sidewalk. |
| 10 Happy Mother's Day! Read a book about mothers. | 11 Children can practice their scissor skills by cutting out basic flowers from paper. | 12 Show pictures of objects and ask your child to tell you the beginning sounds of those items. | 13 Draw small pictures on sticky notes.  | 14 Play a sorting game as you clean up from playtime. | 15 Listen to a song played on a violin or fiddle.  | 16 Happy Birthday Margaret Rey. Read a Curious George book. |
| 17 It's World Baking Day! Have your child help you read a basic recipe as you mix up a batter to bake. | 18 Have your child act out a story without using any words. | 19 Sing the Alphabet song.  | 20 Invite children to place stickers on a line drawn on paper going from left to right. | 21 It's Eat More Vegetables Day! Taste a vegetable you haven't eaten before and discuss whether you like it. | 22 Have a playday at the park. Count how many steps are on the slide or how many swings in the park. | 23 Visit the library!  |
| 24 Print out some pictures of insects and go outside with children to hunt for them.  | 25 Read a wordless picture book making up your own story to match the pictures. | 26 Place several items in a bag such as a sock, a block, and so on. Have your child pull items from the bag and name words that rhyme with them. | 27 Ask your child to tell you about something they hope to do during the summer. | 28 Sit quietly and listen to all the sounds you hear inside then go outside and sit quietly and listen. What sounds do you only hear outside? | 29 Read a "hoppy" book that includes a frog character.  | 30 Sing a favorite song as you get ready for bed.  |
| 31 Recite a rhyme from the newsletter. | | | | | | |