

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

August 2025

Reading



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.

Research consistently demonstrates that the more engaged a parent is in their child's literacy before kindergarten, the more likely their child is to have success in school. Reading together is one important factor. Reading together develops vocabulary and comprehension, nurtures a love for reading, and motivates children to want to learn to read. Make time to read together often and to discuss the stories and illustrations.



Try these songs or rhymes at home!

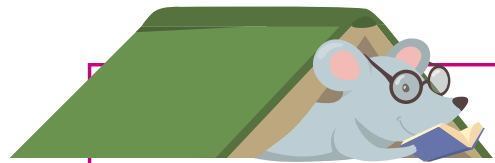
Babies: Twinkle, Twinkle Firefly
(tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Twinkle, twinkle firefly, *(Bounce baby on lap)*
How I watch you in the night.
I see you sparkle,
I see you shine,
I hold you in these hands of mine. *(Lift baby up)*
Twinkle, twinkle firefly,
A world of wonder flashing by

Toddlers: Big Round Sun
Big round sun in the summer sky *(arms rounded up high)*
Waved to a cloud that was passing by *(wave)*
The little cloud laughed as it started to rain *(fingers wave down)*
Then out came the big round sun again. *(arms rounded high)*

Preschool: Watermelon, Watermelon
Sung to: "Are you Sleeping?"

Watermelon, *(Make a circle with your arms.)*
Watermelon,
On the vine, *(Curve hands and arms beside body.)*
On the vine,
Sweet and red and juicy, *(Rub your tummy.)*
Sweet and red and juicy,
Please be mine! *(Palms together as though pleading.)*
Please be mine!



March Booklist

0-3 years

Octopus Moves by Bob Barner

Are You Wiggly? by Tim Button

Hello, My World: A High-Contrast Book with art by Jannie Ho

Peek-a-Baby by Karen Katz

Big Boy Joy by Connie Schofield-Morrison

Who Meows?: A Book of Animal Sounds by Robin Page

Library Babies by Puck

3-5 years

How Do I Wonder? by Gianna Davy

Just One More Story by Perry Emerson

So many books! by Sue Fliess and

Ann Marie Stephens

A Cat Like That by Lester L. Laminack

Inside Outside Dinosaurs by Roxie Munro

Summer by Cao Wenxuan

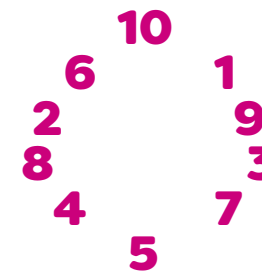


What is dialogic reading?

Dialogic reading is a method of reading to children where the adult helps the child become the teller of the story by offering prompts to gain a response from the child. Adults evaluate the child's response then expand on their answer by adding more information before repeating the prompt.

Visit <https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/dialogic-reading-effective-way-read-aloud-young-children> for more information about dialogic reading.

Use sidewalk chalk to write letters or numbers in a circle on the ground. Put on music and walk around the circle until the music stops. Have children name the letter or number nearest the spot where they stop and repeat.



Six Early Literacy Skills

These foundational skills support future success in reading. Children begin developing them in the first five years of life. Parents and caregivers can support the development of these skills through the five practices of reading, writing, singing, talking and playing.



- 1. Print Motivation:** Being interested in and enjoying books
- 2. Print Awareness:** Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and knowing how to follow the written word on the page
- 3. Letter Knowledge:** Knowing that letters are different from each other, knowing letter names and sounds, and recognizing letters
- 4. Vocabulary:** knowing the names of things. Vocabulary is one of the most important skills for a child to have when learning to read.
- 5. Phonological Awareness:** Hearing and playing with the smaller sounds of words
- 6. Narrative Skills:** Describing things and events, telling stories, knowing the order of events, and making predictions





July 2025 Stepping Stones to Milestone Schedule of programs

Second summer session is July 13 to August 16 | Registration opened on June 30, 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	All Ages Storytime 10:15 AM LOV	Preschool Storytime 9:15 AM ESA	
Toddler Storytime 10:15 EV	Born to Read 10:15 AM EV	Toddler Storytime 10:15 AM EV	Preschool Storytime 10:15 AM AFL	All Ages 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 11:00 AM ESA		Born to Read 10:30 AM ESA	
	Preschool Storytime 11:00 AM ESA				

August 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 August begins with A. Practice writing letter A.	2 Make a handprint or footprint painting of an animal.
3 It Watermelon Day. Sing "Watermelon, Watermelon." See the newsletter for the lyrics.	4 Use cotton swabs and paint to practice writing letters.	5 Sing along with song, "You are my Sunshine." 	6 Summer begins with letter S. Name other words that begin with S.	7 Visit the Library. 	8 It's International Cat Day. Read a book about a cat. 	9 Think marble tower but with water. Use plastic recyclables to create a path for water to flow through.
10 Make up a song about the beach or ocean. 	11 Rhymes with cat. Have your child name words that rhyme with cat.	12 Happy Birthday Audrey Wood. Read a book by this author.	13 Dramatic play. Set up a play camp site and pretend to fish, cook over a fire, and other camping fun.	14 Make a paper airplane with your child and watch it fly.	15 Play a game of slow-motion tag with your child.	16 Draw or scribble with colors that make you think of summer.
17 Instead of reading the text., look through a picture book and together come up with a story based on the pictures.	18 Take a bowl of water and some small toys that float outside for children to explore.	19 Warm or cold? Provide a variety of items are warm or cold and have children feel each item and sort by temperature.	20 Mix together using 2 tablespoons of cornstarch and 1 1/2 tablespoons of dish detergent to make silly putty.	21 Pretend a box or a pan is a drum. Tap your "drum" once for each syllable as you recite a familiar nursery rhyme.	22 Take a walk in your neighborhood or the park and help your child read the different signs along the way.	23 Shorter or Taller? Have your child find items from around the house. Are they shorter or taller than your child?
24 Read a nonfiction book.	25 Happy Birthday Ian Falconer. Make or draw a picture of Olivia the pig.	26 Make a ramp using cardboard and experiment with rolling toy vehicles and balls down the ramp.	27 Toss a beanbag or a rolled-up sock at a target with different shapes pictured. Name the shapes you hit.	28 Look at family photos and take turns telling stories about your family members.	29 Visit the Library! Pick up your Summer Reading Challenge prize if you have met your reading goal.	30 Ask your child to describe his favorite thing he has done this summer.
31 It's Eat Outside Day. Ask your child to help prepare by counting how many plates, forks, and cups for your family.						