

SEPTEMBER 2026

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

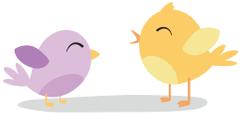
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 WRITING Create a weather chart with your child using pictures and words for Sunny, Cloudy, and Rainy. Each morning this week, check off the day's weather together.	2 PLAYING Blow bubbles today. This strengthens muscles needed for speech. 	3 TALKING Discuss opposites. Show examples of big and small, night and day, light and dark.	4 SINGING Clap your hands to the beat of a favorite song. 	5 COUNTING Lace Cheerios-type cereal onto a piece of yarn. Count them as you go. 
6 READING Read a book about insects that are active in late summer, like crickets or cicadas. Talk about how you can hear them at night.	7 WRITING Write your to-do list together. Have your child check off each task as it is completed. 	8 PLAYING Set up a tinkering station with materials like craft supplies, cardboard, and tape. Children can use their imaginations to create their own inventions.	9 TALKING Ask your child "What is your favorite game to play?" Talk about why and play it if you can.	10 SINGING Sing a favorite song in parts. You sing, then your child, then you, and so on.	11 COUNTING Count aloud as your child puts pebbles in a container one at a time, up to ten.	12 READING Read a story using different distinct voices for each character. 
13 WRITING Pop bubble wrap or play with squirt toys to develop muscles needed for writing.	14 PLAYING Tape a sheet of contact paper to the wall, sticky side out. See which toys stick and which do not.	15 TALKING Pick 3 random objects. Make up a story using them.	16 SINGING Play talent show. Each person sings a song or plays an instrument. (Instruments can be any noise-making items around the house.)	17 COUNTING Gather common items like a key, comb, toothbrush, and pen. With your child, arrange them from smallest to largest; then, reverse the order from largest to smallest.	18 READING Pick a favorite book. Ask your child to tell you what happens before you start reading.	19 WRITING Use your fingers to draw shapes in the air. Take turns guessing what each person drew.
20 PLAYING Go on a scavenger hunt. Look for things that begin with the "p" sound, like a plate, a pan, a pen.	21 TALKING Take turns telling each other simple stories. 	22 SINGING Sing or say "If You're Happy and You know It." <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i>	23 COUNTING Use toy blocks to measure how long something is. How many blocks long is your arm, your foot, etc.?	24 READING Hang up a piece of paper with the words to "Are You Sleeping?" and sing it every morning and night. <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i>	25 WRITING Write your child's first name. Talk about the first letter of their name. Make the sound and say words that begin with the letter.	26 PLAYING Play "Hot and Cold." <i>(Instructions are on the back. ➡)</i>
27 TALKING Use family photos to tell different stories. Encourage your child to tell a story.	28 SINGING Have a family sing-along. Each person gets to pick a favorite song.	29 COUNTING Count the number of people in your family. How many kids? How many grownups? How many pets?	30 READING Ask your child questions as you read to them today. <i>What do you think will happen next? Where did the little dog go?</i>			

Playing to Learn New Words

Play and have fun with words:

- Read a book with lots of made-up words like “How Do You Wokka-Wokka?” by Elizabeth Bluemle. Try making up more words to go with the story.
- Silly poems are fun and can teach new vocabulary.
- Kids love riddles and jokes, which often use a “play on words.” Laugh along as you talk about the answer to the riddle or joke.
- Having fun with words helps your child become more conscious of words and happy to keep learning.

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

(clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

(clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it and you really want to show it, if you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

(clap, clap)

OTHER VERSES: STOMP YOUR FEET! TURN AROUND! SHOUT HOORAY! DO ALL FOUR!

ARE YOU SLEEPING?

Are you sleeping, are you sleeping?

Brother John, Brother John?

Morning bells are ringing, morning bells are ringing,

Ding ding dong, ding ding dong.



HOT AND COLD

1. Select a household item for hiding.
2. The finder closes their eyes while the hider hides the item somewhere in the room.
3. The finder searches for the item while the hider provide clues.
4. When the finder is close to the item, the hider responds “you're hot!”
5. When The finder is far from the item, the hider responds “you're cold!”
6. Take turns being the hider and the finder.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

To Register:

- In person: Ask a staff member
- Online: Download the **Beanstack** app or visit indypl.beanstack.org

How it Works:

- Read with your child and track your progress.
- Earn prizes when you reach 200, 400, 600, 800, and 1000 books.



Reading Ready Time

Join us for Reading Ready Time - a virtual library experience for children 3-6 years old.

The
INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC
Library
FOUNDATION

Video links plus additional resources to support learning can be found here.
indypl.org/early-learning

