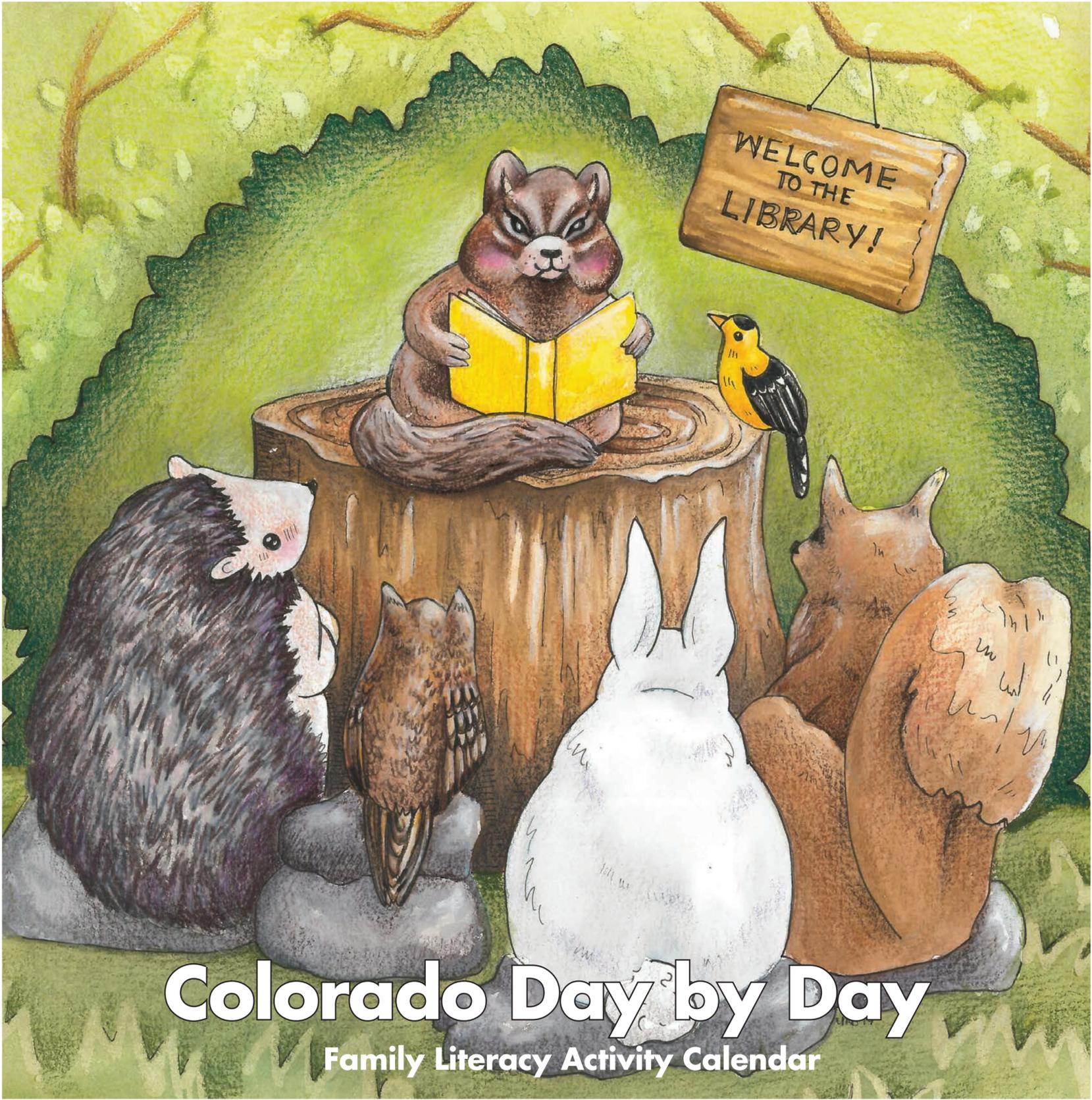


As the only organization of its kind in the country, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) works to deliver and support early literacy services statewide. Since forming in 2008, CLEL has grown into an organization with over 550 members nationwide. Its work includes supporting StoryBlocks.org, a free website with over 60 short videos in many languages that demonstrate rhymes and songs to use with birth – 5 year old children. CLEL also annually announces the *CLEL Bell Picture Book Award* winners, which recognize five high-quality books that provide excellent support of early literacy. Both CLEL Bell Award winners/ shortlisted titles and StoryBlock videos have been included in each month's suggested reading lists.



# Colorado Day by Day

Family Literacy Activity Calendar



We hope that you will find this beautiful calendar useful on your child's learning journey. Each day there is a unique suggestion to help facilitate an opportunity to read and explore. Getting kids ready for school happens with fun activities such as reading, singing, playing, writing, and

talking. You play an important role in helping children foster a love of reading and learning. We hope you enjoy this calendar!

Nicolle Davies, Assistant Commissioner, State Librarian  
Colorado Department of Education



Children love to learn, and you are always their favorite teacher. Right from birth, children are constantly discovering and developing new abilities. The time you spend talking, singing, reading, playing and writing with your child builds literacy skills that will last a lifetime. It's never too

early or too late to start these activities everyday - children learn at every age.

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education,  
Colorado Department of Education

### Growing Readers Together



Growing Readers Together is a project of the Colorado State Library and public libraries, funded by the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation. Its goal is to support the development of early literacy skills in young children whose child care is routinely provided by extended family members, friends or neighbors (FFN). Growing Readers Together libraries identify and establish relationships with FFN through outreach, partnerships, specially-crafted programs, and the provision of early literacy materials.

### Find & Visit Your Local Library!

Did you know there are over 250 public libraries all across Colorado; and that they are visited more than 31 million times annually? Last year, our public libraries offered over 78,000 children's programs! Get in on the fun- find your local public library by visiting <https://find.coloradolibraries.org/map>.



Illustrations by Colorado artist, Mary Bills.

Mary is a professional illustrator and portrait artist who discovered her love of art early in life through children's books. She currently shares her love of art and design by teaching drawing and painting classes.

You can view more of her work by visiting: [www.etsy.com/shop/MaryWeaverArt](http://www.etsy.com/shop/MaryWeaverArt) and [www.maryweaverart.com](http://www.maryweaverart.com).

## How to Grow Readers Every Day!

### About this Calendar

- Each day has an activity to do together. These are suggestions- feel free to change, or make up something new, to better suit your child/children.
- Every month includes a list of books, which is a starting point for you. Choose books together with your child/children that you will both enjoy.
- If a book or activity is not interesting to your child, stop and try something else. The goal is to make learning fun.
- Encourage experimentation and discovery rather than doing it "right" to increase learning through play.
- Some activities use salt dough or homemade play dough. Easy recipes for both are in the "Arts & Crafts" section at the back of this calendar.
- Every child learns at his/her own pace. If you are doing these activities with more than one child, focus on each child's effort without comparing them to each other.

### Tips for Reading Out Loud

- Reading out loud and talking about books is one of the most important ways to get your child ready to read and start school.
- Set the Mood: Make yourself and your child comfortable. Sit next to each other or with your child on your lap.
- Schedule: Develop a routine of when you might read together, like before bedtime. Also bring books with you on outings to the store, doctor's office, etc.
- Preparation: Look over the book before reading it together to make sure you are comfortable with it. Hold the book so the child can see it.
- Expression: Change your voice for different characters; make your voice soft and loud. Put life and energy into your reading!
- Patience: Take time to answer your child's questions. Their curiosity means they are engaged in the story. It's ok if your young child can't sit still through the story. A child who moves around or plays with a quiet toy may still be listening.
- Participation: Let them repeat phrases with you or leave out a word here and there; see if they can fill in the blank. Look at the pictures to help tell the story; ask your child what is happening or what happens next.
- Pace: Don't race while reading. Take your time.
- Read It Again: Children love to read the same books over and over. This gives them assurance and confidence. Read a book as many times as a child wants.

### Tips for Using the Library

- It's Free! The library is open for all and does not charge to attend programs, check out books, music, etc., and get a library card.
- Your Librarians: Your local librarians love to connect with your family, encourage your child, and support you in your interests and needs. Stop by and say hello.
- Visit Often: Your public library always has new books, music, and other resources for you and your child to enjoy.
- Attend Events: Your public library offers free programs for young children, such as story times, puppet shows and summer learning programs.
- Go Online: You can access the Internet for free and find out information on health and wellness, child safety and school readiness while at the library.

## All Children are Learners; All Parents are Teachers

The list below was drawn from Colorado's Early Learning & Development Guidelines and only includes a few of the developmental milestones related to literacy. For a complete set of the guidelines, visit <https://earlylearningco.org/>. Please note: each child develops at his/her own pace; these are common milestones to guide you.

### Babies (Birth to 18 months)

- Prefer the sound of the human voice over any other type of stimulation, so talk, read, and sing to your baby.
- Like to explore books (even by chewing on them) and show interest in looking at pictures with you; especially human faces.
- Can participate in back-and-forth communication and games by imitating simple sounds and motions.
- Begin to understand words, and can follow simple requests like going to the sink when their grandparent says that it's time to wash hands.

### Toddlers (18 months- 2 years)

- Demonstrate their understanding of words by responding with action, such as looking for a stuffed bear when their mother asks, "Where's your bear?"
- Combine words to form simple sentences.
- Engage in back-and-forth interactions by asking and/or answering simple questions like, "What's that?"
- Show an interest in printed words by making scribbles on paper and then "reading" what is written.

### Preschoolers (3-5 years)

- Demonstrate eagerness to participate in songs, rhymes, and stories.
- Recognize how books are read, such as front-to-back and one page at a time, and recognize basic characteristics, such as title, author, and illustrator.
- Recognize print in everyday life, such as numbers, letters, one's name, words, and familiar logos and signs.
- Understand and respond to increasingly complex vocabulary, such as "Which stick is the longest?" and "Why do you think the caterpillar is hungry?"



Featured: Yellow-bellied Marmot

**BOOKS TO READ!**

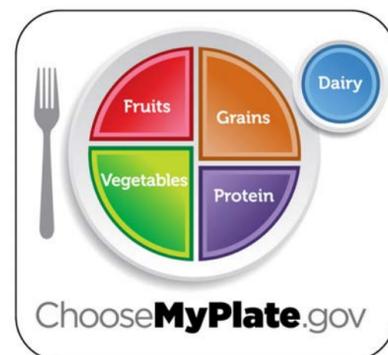
- The Things I Can Do* by Jeff Mack
- Clarabella's Teeth* by Ann Vrombaut
- I.Q gets fit* by Maty Ann Fraser
- How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* by Jane Yolen
- The Going to Bed Book* by Sandra Boynton
- My Trip to the Hospital* by Mercer Mayer
- Yum! Mmmm! Que rico! America's Sproutings* by Pat Mora



- No Dragons for Tea: Fire Safety for Kids (and Dragons)* by Jean E. Pendziwol
- Please, Baby, Please* by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee
- Scaredy Squirrel* by Mélanie Watt
- Little Yoga: A Toddler's First Book of Yoga* by Rebecca Whitford
- I Like Berries, Do You?* by Marjorie Pitzer

**Eating Healthy**

MyPlate illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image—a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl.



**JANUARY: Health & Safety**

**Everyday Fun With Babies**

Many of the daily activities included in this calendar can be adapted for you and your baby. Feel free to change them to better suit you and your little one.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Visit a state park!</b></p> <p>Every New Year's Day, Colorado State Parks host "First Day Hikes." Check out a parks pass at your local library and start the year off with a healthy new tradition.</p>	<p>Let your child cut out or draw various foods they like and that are healthy for them. Glue them on a paper plate and talk about them.</p>	<p>How about a healthy snack? Try Ants on a Log! Take a stalk of celery, fill the center with peanut butter and put raisins on top. The raisins look like the ants crawling along the log. Ask your child to make up a story about the ants.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b></p> <p>I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas. I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas. Now change the vowel sound to A. I like to ate, ate, ate ay-pples and ba-nay-nays I like to ate, ate, ate ay-pples and ba-nay-nays.</p>	<p><b>Practice Dog Safety!</b></p> <p>Always ask the pet owner if you can pet their dog before reaching out and touching them. Pretend a stuffed animal is a real dog and practice petting them.</p>	<p>Talk about when to wash your hands. Ask your child before and after what activities they think they should wash their hands.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b></p> <p>Choose books about good health and eating well.</p>
<p>What are some vegetables you have in your house? Make some soup! If you don't have enough ingredients, draw all the vegetables you would put in your soup.</p>	<p>Talk about the importance of limiting the number of sugary foods you eat. Have a "No Sugar" day today.</p>	<p>Exercise by giving the children a sequence of two things to do. "Jump up, then sit down." Increase to three things. "Touch your nose, turn around, then sit down." Also sing <i>Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes</i> to keep up the energy!</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b></p> <p>During bath time, talk about the importance of being clean. Make up your own bath song!</p>	<p>Make an evacuation plan in case of a fire.</p> <p>Teach your child to "Stop, Drop and Roll."</p>	<p>Exercise by playing tag or jump rope. If it is too cold outside, dance inside. If your child is a baby, practice bouncing the baby on your knees. You can use the repetition to sing the alphabet or count.</p>	<p>It's a New Year! Make a list with your child of their favorite memories of last year. Have them draw some of the memories to share with friends and family.</p>
<p>Find out your child's favorite vegetable, and cook a meal that includes it.</p>	<p>Draw safety signs like "Stop" and "Yield." Talk about what they mean when crossing the street. Talk about traffic lights and their colors. Have everyone play the game Red Light, Green Light.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b></p> <p>Talk about seeds, plants, and how different vegetables are grown. Identify the different parts of plants, such as the roots, leaves, stem etc.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b></p> <p>Wee Willy Winkie Runs through the town Upstairs, downstairs in his nightgown. Knocking at the windows, yelling through the locks "Are all the children in their beds? For it is nine o'clock!"</p>	<p>Concentrate on showing your child how to brush their teeth well. Learn the toothbrush rhyme: I have a little toothbrush, I hold it very tight. I brush my teeth each morning and then again at night.</p>	<p>Draw pictures of different fruits and vegetables and save them for tomorrow's activity.</p>	<p>Take the pictures from yesterday and put them on popsicle sticks or straws to make a puppet show about eating healthy. Invite everyone in the house to participate.</p>
<p>Help your child make a noisemaker out of pasta, cereal, or beans by placing some in a paper cup and taping another on top. Use it to read the rhymes on this page.</p>	<p><b>Make a Nutrition Train!</b></p> <p>The body works like a "Nutrition Train." Along the way, whatever children eat gets loaded onto the train. Bad foods slow the train down. Healthy foods speed the train up and help it work right. Make your own train. Draw the good things that are part of the train!</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b></p> <p>Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet, eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider, who sat down beside her and frightened Miss Muffet away. Today we call curds and whey cottage cheese!</p>	<p>Learn traffic signals! Using scarves (red, yellow, green) play the "traffic light" game (green=walk fast or run, yellow=go slow! Red= stop, don't move!)</p>	<p>Talk about being safe. Make sure everyone in the family knows their name, address, telephone number, and what to do in case of an emergency.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b></p> <p>Sing: <i>Are You Eating</i> to the tune of <i>Frère Jacques</i> Are you eating Are you eating Healthy foods? Healthy foods? For your body needs them For your body needs them Everyday.</p>	<p>Talk about the right way to cross a street: hold hands, look left, then right, then left. Can you remember safety signs from the activity earlier this month? Try to draw the signs you see every day.</p>
<p>Everyone dance together and you can make up your own tune. Then do the <i>Hockey Pokey!</i></p>	<p>Let your child make their own pretend first-aid kit for dramatic play with a box, cotton balls and swabs, popsicle sticks, and cut up gauze or use toilet paper.</p>	<p>Cows provide dairy and milk makes your body and bones strong. Can you drink two glasses of milk today and talk about all the different bones in your body?</p>	<p>Talk about how important vegetables are to being healthy. Try to eat three different vegetables today.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b></p> <p>Sing and march to <i>Do Your Ears Hang Low?</i> Do your ears hang low? Do they wobble to and fro? Can you tie them in a knot? Can you tie them in a bow? Can you throw them over your shoulder Like a Continental soldier? Do your ears hang low?</p>	<p><b>Eat the Rainbow!</b></p> <p>Help your child list or draw a fruit for each color in the rainbow.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b></p> <p>Old MacDonald had a farm e-i-e-i-o. And on that farm he had a cow e-i-e-i-o. With a moo moo here and a moo moo there. Here a moo, there a moo, everywhere a moo moo. Old MacDonald had a farm e-i-e-i-o.</p>



Featured: Striped Skunk

**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Alphonse, that is not ok to do!*

By Daisy Hirst

*The Crayon: A Colorful Tale about*

*Friendship*, by Simon Rickerty

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, by Eric Litwin

*Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.



*A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni

*I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont

*Elmer* by David McKee

*Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

*Spot Looks at Colors* by Eric Hill

*My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss

*A Pet Banana* by Othen Donald Dale Cummings

*The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt



# FEBRUARY: Colors

The name of our state, Colorado, has its origin in the Spanish language, as the words for "colored red". This was the name chosen for Colorado as a Territory in 1861 by Congress. Colorado is also called "Colorful Colorado" because of our magnificent scenery of mountains, rivers and plains. This phrase has decorated maps, car license plates, tourist information centers and souvenirs of all kinds!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p><b>Science Day!</b> Do you know the colors that make the rainbow? R- Red O- Orange Y- Yellow G- Green B- Blue I- Indigo V- Violet Also known as the Color Spectrum! Draw a rainbow using those colors.</p>	<p>Make a giant heart for your library or librarian. Take it to them the next time you visit and tell them why you love your library!</p>	<p><b>Today's color is red.</b> Take a walk and see how many different colors you can see. Look for brightly colored hats, scarves or mittens.</p>	<p><b>Today's color is yellow.</b> Think of all the flowers that might be yellow or have yellow in them. Did you know the state flower of South Carolina is a Yellow Jessamine? Have you ever seen one?</p>	<p><b>The color of the day is gray.</b> Castles are often gray and made of stone. Can you draw a castle and then make up a story about the family that lives in the castle?"</p>	<p><b>The color of the day is blue like the sea.</b> Sing <i>A Sailor Went to Sea</i> and use hand motions. A sailor went to sea sea sea To see what he could see see see. But all that he could see see see Was the bottom of the deep blue sea sea sea.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some books from this month's book list. If possible, get <i>I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!</i>, <i>Kitten's First Full Moon</i>, <i>Little Black Crow</i> and <i>Mr. Tiger Goes Wild</i>.</p>
<p>Make some paint from yogurt and food coloring! If you don't have yogurt, use shaving cream. If you have a copy, read <i>I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!</i></p>	<p><b>The color of the day is white.</b> Make little snowmen out of cotton balls and practice your counting. What are your favorite things that are white?</p>	<p>Make Valentine cards together. Give them to people in your family or to your friends.</p>	<p>Today you get to pick the color of the day! Point out things that are your color. Help your child write their name using their color. Cut it out and hang it up!</p>	<p><b>Today's color is plum.</b> Little Jack Horner Sat in a corner Eating his Christmas pie. He put in his thumb And pulled out a plum And said "what a good boy am I!"</p>	<p><b>Today's colors are black and white.</b> Some books are illustrated in only black and white. Look through your books to find one. If you have a copy, read <i>Kitten's First Full Moon</i>. Ask your child to tell you the story.</p>	<p><b>Color Storytime!</b> Pretend you're a librarian and have a story time for your family and stuffed animals.</p>
<p><b>Today's color is brown.</b> Make up a teddy bear action rhyme! For young ones, try bouncing them up and down and clapping hands.</p>	<p><b>Today's color is tan.</b> Try saying this tongue twister five times: She sells sea shells by the sea shore!</p>	<p><b>The color for the day is navy blue.</b> Spend some time looking through magazines or books and seeing all the things that are navy blue. What is your favorite? Talk about how this shade of blue is called navy blue.</p>	<p><b>The color of the day is lime green.</b> Talk about all the things that grow! How many are lime green?</p>	<p><b>Today's color is gold.</b> Let's make a baggy fish! Take a brown paper bag and fill it with newspaper. Tie the end of the bag with a twist tie or rubber band. Cut the end part into two fins. Decorate your fish using gold and your other favorite colors!</p>	<p><b>Make bubbles with dish soap and water.</b> What colors are your bubbles? Sing a song about bubbles while you pop them!</p>	<p><b>Today's color is pink.</b> Do <i>This Little Piggie</i> on your child's fingers or toes.</p>
<p><b>Today's color is black.</b> Go outside or look out your window and see what kinds of birds you can see. Do you see any birds that are black? If you have a copy, read <i>Little Black Crow</i>.</p>	<p><b>Today's colors are pastels.</b> Rose, peach and lavender are examples of pastels. If you want to make your own pastel eggs: Boil the eggs and once they are cool dip them in a cup with vinegar and a few drops of food coloring.</p>	<p><b>The colors for today are silver and gold.</b> Do you know the friendship song? Make new friends but keep the old. Some are silver, the other are gold. If you have several people, try singing the song in a round.</p>	<p><b>Today's color is orange.</b> Read <i>Mr. Tiger Goes Wild</i>. Talk about his feelings throughout the book. How did the book make you feel?</p>	<p><b>Multi-color day!</b> Can you think of an animal that has many colors? If one doesn't come to mind, create your own animal and make up a story about where it lives. Draw the animal and all the colors that make it beautiful.</p>	<p>Spend time cutting up a newspaper or magazine looking for the letters in your name. Try to find all different color letters. Glue them onto paper for your very own name plate.</p>	<p>Gather all the books and magazines around your house and pretend that it's a library. Sign up family and friends for library cards and let them check out books.</p>
<p><b>Today's colors are neon- which are very bright shades.</b> Can you think when you might see neon colors? Can you make up a rhyme about neon colors? For little ones, try bouncing them on your knees to the rhythm of all the neon colors you can think of!</p>	<p>Play "I Spy" games outside- how many different colored objects can you find?</p>	<p>Write out the names of different colors. Have your child trace the words in the matching color. For little ones, use specific colors when talking about objects today, like green tree, red ball, or blue shirt.</p>	<p>Can you make a butterfly out of shades of purple? Try making different shades and then paint some butterflies.</p>	<p><b>Primary colors</b> The three basic colors that make up every other color are: red, yellow, and blue. Mix the paint of two primary colors to create secondary colors!</p>	<p>Flip through the calendar and ask your child to point out their favorite color. Throughout the day look for those colors!</p>	<p><b>An Alphabet of Colors!</b> Starting with A, go through the alphabet and see if you and your child can name a color for every letter!</p>



Featured: Mountain Goat

### Get Ready for Kindergarten!

- Read daily with your child, and talk together about what you are reading.
- Encourage your child to tell stories with words and pictures.
- Listen to music and encourage your child to sing songs.
- Encourage make-believe play.
- Offer opportunities for sorting, matching, counting, and comparing.
- Play word games (spoken and written).
- Talk about and illustrate the differences between different living things, and encourage questions about the natural world.

### BOOKS TO READ!

*Puddle* by Hyewon Yum

*The World is Waiting for You*  
by Barbara Kerley

*Snowflakes* (StoryBlocks)

*Apples and Pumpkins* by Anne Rockwell

*Four Seasons Make a Year* by Anne Rockwell



*Sunshine Makes the Seasons* by Franklyn M. Branley

*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats

*What Will Grow* by Jennifer Ward

*The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

*In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming

# MARCH: Seasons

## StoryBlocks: Songs and Rhymes that Build Readers StoryBlocks

Go to <https://StoryBlocks.org> to learn fun rhymes and songs to share with children. Each 30-60 second video demonstrates the song or rhyme and includes a helpful early literacy tip to increase understanding of child development and pre-literacy needs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Science Day!</b> Teach your child about the four seasons. Help them learn the names of each one and what it looks like as the seasons change.</p>	<p>Talk about rainy weather and show your child how to use an umbrella. Practice saying and spelling the word umbrella.</p>	<p><b>Take a Walk Outside</b> See what you can find to count: sticks, petals of flowers that have fallen, leaves, or acorns. Can you see any signs of springs?</p>	<p><b>It's March into Literacy Month</b> Practice your marching to <i>The Ants Go Marching</i>.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Rain, rain, go away, Come again another day, Little Johnny wants to play. Rain, rain, go to Spain. Never show your face again.  You can also use your child's name and make up hand motions!</p>	<p>Make a picture of your family or friends and what you can do outside in the summer. Draw them, color them, or cut pictures from magazines.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Pick out some books about the four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. If possible, get <i>Kite Day</i>.</p>
<p>Talk about daylight saving times and why we "spring ahead" an hour. Have your child help you change the clocks.</p>	<p><b>Sing a Song of Spring!</b> Tune: <i>Twinkle, Twinkle Spring</i>, spring is coming soon, Grass is green and flowers bloom. Birds returning from the south, Bees are buzzing all about. Leaves are budding everywhere. Spring, spring is finally here!</p>	<p><b>It's Youth Art Month.</b> Create your own piece of art and display it in your home!</p>	<p>Pretend it's winter and drink your favorite warm drink. Talk about what fun things you did over winter. Make paper snowflakes with scissors and folded paper!</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> The itzy bitsy spider Climbed up the water spout. Down came the rain and washed the spider out! Out came the sun and dried up all the rain. and the itzy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again!</p>	<p>Pretend to be falling leaves! Talk about why leaves fall off the trees. Go outside and see if you can find any leaves &amp; make a collage with them.</p>	<p>Theodore Seuss Geisel "Dr. Seuss" was born March 2, 1904. Practice rhyming words of items you find around the house.</p>
<p>Help your child pick out something green to wear. Spend some time talking about shamrocks and things that are connected to St. Patrick's Day. If you can, go outside and look for a four-leaf clover!</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Talk about how some animals migrate south for the winter. Explain south by showing your child on a map or globe.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> It's raining, It's pouring, The old man is snoring, He went to bed with a cold in his head, And didn't get up 'til the morning.</p>	<p>Build a snowman or catch snowflakes on your tongue with your kids.</p>	<p>What animals do you hear during Spring? Go outside and close your eyes. Can you hear the birds chirp, frogs ribbit or bugs buzzing around?</p>	<p>Spend some time talking about healthy foods. What is your favorite seasonal food?</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b> Have some fun in the bath. You can talk about all the fun things to do in the water. Make up your own songs about being in the water.</p>
<p>Talk about the different clothes you wear each season. Do animals wear clothes? What is your favorite furry animal and why?</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jumped over the candlestick! Use a paper towel roll, or imagine a candle stick on the ground. Have your child jump over the "candlestick". If your child is too small, lift them over the "candlestick."</p>	<p>Talk about how the weather changes each season.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Soak a cotton ball with water and put a popcorn kernel in it. Place it in a paper cup and cover with plastic wrap. Secure with rubber band. Put it in a window where it will get sun. Check every day to see if the seed has sprouted. Talk about how plants grow.</p>	<p>Say a word and have your child tell you the opposite (big, small, happy, sad.)</p>	<p>Draw a picture of a tree as it goes through all four seasons.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of your favorite season. Share why it is your favorite. What is your favorite activity to do in that season?</p>
<p>Find things that are red, orange or yellow, like leaves in the fall.</p>	<p><b>Kite Day!</b> Make a mini kite with paper, popsicle sticks, and string. How do you think a kite works? If you have a copy, read <i>Kite Day</i>.</p>	<p>Trace the hands of those in the home to make the outline of mittens. Color them all different colors!</p>	<p>Practice jumping and hopping on one foot. Create a rhyme as you hop and jump.</p>	<p>Play Simon Says. Take turns with your child.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Higglety pigglety pop, The dog has eaten the mop! The pig's in a hurry, The cat's in a flurry, Higglety, pigglety, pop!</p>	<p><b>Music in Our Schools Month.</b> Make up a song about going to school!</p>



Featured: Great Horned Owls

**BOOKS TO READ!**

- The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read* by Curtis Manley
- Open This Little Book* by Jesse Klausmeier
- Surf's Up* by Kwame Alexander
- Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn
- Wolf!* by Becky Bloom
- Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- First Words* by Roger Priddy
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr.
- Miss Brooks Loves Books (And I Don't)* by Barbara Bottner
- Rocket Writes A Story* by Tad Hills
- LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker

**RECOMMENDED SPANISH-LANGUAGE CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

- Juegos tradicionales* by María Angelica Ovalle
- Los Reyes Magos del oriente* by Luis Farre & Merce Canals
- Cha-cha-cha en la Selva* by Debbie Harter
- De Cómo Dicen Que Fue Hecho el Mar* by Minali Álvarez Astacio
- Guacamole* by Jorge Argueta
- Jonron* by Alex Rodriguez
- Amigos del otro lado/ Friends from the other side* by Gloria Anzaldual
- Los Tamales de Ana/Growing up with Tamales* by Gwendolyn Zepeda (bi-lingual)
- Goodnight Captain Mama/Buenas noches capitán mama* by Graciela Tiscareno-Sato (bi-lingual)
- Rene tiene dos apellidos/ Rene has two last names* by Rene Colato Rainez (bi-lingual)
- Waiting for Papá / Esperando a Papá* by Rene Colato Rainez (bi-lingual)
- Buenas noches Luna* by Margaret Wise Brown
- Un Pez, Dos Peces, Pez Rojo, Pez Azul* by Dr. Seuss
- La oruga muy hambrienta* by Eric Carle

# APRIL: Reading



**CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards**

The logo throughout the calendar highlights the CLEL Bell award winners - best books to support early literacy. The books, in their content, theme, or design, support caregivers' interaction with their children that research shows support early literacy development in young children. The lists of books plus activities are available at <https://www.clel.org/bell-awards-winners>.

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<p>Point out the name of the author and illustrator of a book. Talk about what each person does.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Hey diddle diddle The cat and the fiddle, The cow jumped over the moon; The little dog laughed To see such sport, And the dish ran away with the spoon.</p>	<p>Can you work on writing your own story together? You can add to it every day this month.</p>	<p>Use a cookbook to make something new! Read the recipe and talk about the ingredients. Try to choose a healthy recipe.</p>	<p>What is April Fool's Day? Tell a story about someone who plays a trick or joke.</p>	<p>Practice singing the ABC's. Talk about letters and words.</p> 	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Celebrate National Library Week by checking out some books. If possible, get <i>LMNO Peas</i>, <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>, <i>Library Mouse</i>, <i>Rocket Writes a Story</i> and <i>Wild About Books</i>.</p>
<p>Talk about the different jobs people have. If you have a copy, read <i>LMNO Peas</i>. What are the different jobs the peas do? Look for the red ladybug on each page!</p>	<p>Read two books to your child before bed. Ask your child about their favorite part of each one.</p>	<p>Have your child draw a picture of their favorite character from a book.</p>	<p>Find a newspaper or any item with print. See how many words your child can pick out.</p> 	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> All around the mulberry bush The monkey chased the weasel The monkey stopped to pull up his socks Pop! Goes the weasel.</p>	<p>Help your child make and decorate a bookmark.</p>	<p>Spend time reading together outside. Sit under a tree and, if you have a copy, read <i>The Giving Tree</i>.</p>
<p>Visit StoryBlocks.org, a free website with over 60 short videos in many languages that demonstrate rhymes and songs to use with birth – 5 year old children.</p>	<p>Walk through your house or outside. See if you can find items with the first letter of your child's name.</p>	<p>Have your child draw a mouse and give it a name. If you have a copy, read <i>Library Mouse</i> together.</p> 	<p>Write out each letter of the alphabet. Cut them out in squares and take them around the house. Call out a letter for your child to find until they are all gone!</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Down by the station, early in the morning See the shiny train cars All in a row. Waitin' to get hitched up And go on their adventure Chug, chug Toot, toot Off they go!</p>	<p>Encourage your child to write or tell you a story. If they tell it to you, write it down so you can share it with their family and friends! If you have a copy, read <i>Rocket Writes a Story</i>.</p>	<p>Put on some music and dance! Try listening to different types of music and see how your dancing changes.</p>
<p>Sit down as a family and read a story.</p>	<p>Ask your child to tell you a story. When they finish, ask questions. This is how children learn how to tell complete stories and know you are interested in what they have to say.</p>	<p>Find a book with few words (try author Donald Crews.) You tell one version of a story and let your child tell another.</p>	<p>Draw a large outline of your child's name. Have them trace and color each letter.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses And all the king's men. Couldn't put Humpty together again.</p>	<p>Ask your child about their favorite books. If you have a copy, read <i>Wild About Books</i>. There are lots of books mentioned throughout, how many have you read?</p> 	<p>With your child, look at the pictures in a book and guess what happens. Then read the story together to see if you were right.</p>
<p>Go outside and look up at the clouds. Do they look like animals, shapes or something else? If you have a copy, read <i>It Looked Like Spilt Milk</i>.</p> 	<p>Read a story and then act it out using puppets, dolls, or stuffed animals.</p>	<p>Label items in your house. Practice saying the words together.</p>	<p><b>Celebrate Earth Day!</b> Wear something green. Talk about the things you will do to be more earth friendly today.</p>	<p>Find some pictures from a magazine or pamphlet. Lay them out in a row and tell a story about them.</p>	<p><b>Turn Off the TV Day!</b> Spend some time reading today.</p>	<p><b>Celebrate "Day of the Child/Day of the Book"</b> Visit your library if they are having a special program.</p>



Featured: Red Fox, Porcupine, Mountain Cottontail, and a Bighorn Sheep. The Bighorn Sheep is Colorado's State Mammal!

**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Sloth Slept On*

by Frann Preston-Gannon

*I Don't Want to Be a Frog!*

by Dev Petty

*Moo!* by David LaRochelle

*Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems



*The Mitten* by Jan Brett

*Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathman

*I Went to Visit a Farm One Day* (StoryBlocks)

*Tiny Tim* (StoryBlocks)

*Turtle Rhyme* (StoryBlocks)

*Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon

*Sheep in a Jeep* by Nancy E. Shaw

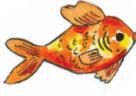
**Finger Play: I Have a Little Turtle**

I have a little turtle (cup hands together)  
 He lives inside a box,  
 He swims in his puddle, (move arms to swim)  
 And climbs up on his rocks. (move arms to climb)  
 He snapped at the minnow  
 (extend hands out and clap them shut)  
 He snapped at the flea  
 (extend hands out and clap them shut)

He snapped at the mosquito  
 (extend hands out and clap them shut)  
 And he snapped at me!  
 (extend hands out and clap them shut)  
 He caught the minnow (cup hands together)  
 He caught the flea (cup hands together)  
 He caught the mosquito (cup hands together)  
 But he didn't catch me!

# MAY: Animals

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<p><b>Make an animal collage</b></p> <p>Cut out pictures of animals or draw some pictures and paste them on a big piece of paper.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b></p> <p>Sing <i>Old MacDonald Had a Farm</i>. Sing as many animals as you can think of!</p>	<p>Listen for bird calls at the park. See if you can imitate them. Which ones are your favorite?</p> 	<p>Make up a story about an animal. Where do they live? What kinds of animal friends do they have? Do they wear clothes or walk on two feet? Draw pictures to go along with your story.</p>	<p>Play leap frog with your child. Talk about why it is called leap frog.</p>	<p>Our state amphibian is the Western Tiger Salamander. Draw a picture of what you think it looks like.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b></p> <p>Check out some books from this month's list. If possible, get <i>Sheep in a Jeep</i> and <i>The Lion &amp; the Mouse</i>.</p> 
<p>Can you think of words or sounds that rhyme with the word sheep? If you have a copy, read <i>Sheep in a Jeep</i>. Practice making the sounds in the book.</p>	<p>Help your child make a card for Mother's Day—you can include grandmothers, godmothers, or friends' mothers.</p>	<p>Count the number of different animals you can find on packaging, clothing, or other things around you.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of the little turtle from the finger play <i>I Have a Little Turtle</i>. Do the finger play when you're finished drawing the picture.</p>	<p>Some picture books have no words only pictures. See if you have any books that are wordless and make up your own words! If you have a copy, read <i>The Lion &amp; the Mouse</i>.</p>	<p>Practice singing your ABC's today! Can you think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet?</p>	<p><b>Make thumbprint animals!</b></p> <p>Cut strips of paper and make bookmarks for your friends and family.</p>
<p>Dance to songs with animals in the title like <i>Hound Dog</i> and <i>The Lion Sleeps Tonight</i>.</p>	<p>Take turns pretending to be different animals and guess which animal the other person is pretending to be.</p> 	<p><b>Salt Dough Animals!</b></p> <p>Get out your salt dough or play dough and make some animals!</p>	<p>Play <i>Which is bigger?</i> using animals.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b></p> <p>Hickory, dickory, dare,      The pig flew up in the air;      The man in brown,      Soon brought him down,      Hickory, dickory, dare.</p>	<p><b>Let's Play Pretend</b></p> <p>What animal would you be and why?</p>	<p><b>It's Children's Book Week!</b></p> <p>If you can't visit your library make your own book! Don't forget to draw pictures to go along with the story.</p>
<p>Talk about what kinds of animals live in Colorado. How many of them can you find in this calendar?</p>	<p>Talk about the names of baby animals: kitten, puppy, lamb, colt etc.</p>	<p>Make a poster about insects! Don't forget to include colorful ones like ladybugs and butterflies.</p>	<p>What animals live under water? Make your best fishy face!</p> 	<p>Talk about how eggs come from chickens. Decorate an egg with markers. Don't forget to use it before it spoils!</p>	<p>The author of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> was born this month. Draw a picture of the lion!</p>	<p>Look through a magazine or book for animals found in other words like coward, crabby, or catastrophe.</p>
<p>What are some cold weather animals? Talk about animals that live in the snow and draw your favorite!</p>	<p>Explain to your child what it means for an animal to be endangered. Ask your child what people can do to protect endangered animals.</p>	<p>What kind of animals live in the jungle? Can you make up a story about these animals?</p>	<p>Do you know the sounds the jungle animals in your story from yesterday make? Take turns making the animal's sounds!</p>	<p>Together, write a poem about your pet or what your favorite animal does all day.</p>	<p>Talk a walk and look for butterflies. Can you tell a story about what the butterflies are doing?</p> 	<p>Play Animal Simon Says. Can you hop like a kangaroo, pounce like a lion or slither like a snake?</p>



Featured: Red Fox

**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Box*, by Min Flyte

*Niño Wrestles the World*, by Yuyi Morales

*Inside This Book: (are three books)*, by Barney Saltzberg

*Tickle Monster*, by Édouard Manceau

*Andrew Drew and Drew*, by Barney Saltzberg

*The Squiggle*, by Carole Lexa Schaefer



*Elizabeti's Doll*, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

*Meeow and the Big Box*, by Sebastien Braun

*The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds

*I Took the Moon for a Walk*, by Carolyn Curtis

*Beautiful Oops*, by Barney Saltzberg

*Skippyjon Jones*, by Judy Schachner



# JUNE: Imagination

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Talk about what the word imagination means. Point out and say aloud each letter in the word "imagination."</p>	<p>Head outside to make a fort or castle using branches and play in it together.</p>	<p>Make up a recipe together and cook something fun. Try to use healthy ingredients.</p>	<p>Have your child pretend to be a bird and fly around the house.</p> 	<p>Make a hat out of things in your house. Decide where or for what event your child would wear their hat.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Have a real or imaginary tea party with your child and sing <i>I'm a Little Teapot</i>.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some books about imagination. If possible get <i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i>, <i>It Looked Like Spilt Milk</i> and <i>Pete's a Pizza</i> from this month's book list.</p>
<p>Go outside, lie on the ground, and look up at the clouds. What shapes do you see? If you have a copy, read <i>It Looked Like Spilt Milk</i>.</p>	<p>Have your child imagine what it might be like to live on the moon. Have them draw a picture of what they imagine.</p> 	<p>Ask your child what they would like to be when they grow up and have them draw a self-portrait of themselves as an adult.</p>	<p>Use a broom or stick as a pretend horse. Ride your horse around the house, driveway or yard.</p>	<p>Make up a song about the month of June and sing it together.</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b> Bring some objects with you into the bath. Use them to tell a story about their life in the water.</p>	<p>Pretend to make a pizza. If you have a copy, read <i>Pete's a Pizza</i> or any book about pizza. Act out the book after you read it together.</p>
<p>Read a book and ask your child to imagine what would have happened if the characters in the story made different choices.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Pretend that you are seeds planted in the ground and then grow into a flower. Talk about what seeds need to grow.</p>	<p>Imagine something amazing and then draw it with a purple crayon. If you have a copy, read <i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i>.</p>	<p>Paint on the sidewalk or driveway with water and watch it evaporate.</p>	<p>Make bubble solution (recipe in the back). Sit outside and blow bubbles. Look for shapes in the bubbles that float by.</p>	<p>Set up a pretend kitchen and cook something with your child.</p>	<p>Make a tiny boat out of leaves. Go to a pond or stream to sail it.</p> 
<p>Play dress up using old clothes. Put on a little show in costume.</p>	<p>Use your imagination to go on a Colorado trip. Where would you go and what would you see?</p> 	<p>Read a book together. Have your child imagine what happens after the book ends.</p>	<p>Use dolls, action figures, or stuffed animals to act out a story.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Hickory, Dickory, Dock! The mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one. The mouse ran down. Hickory, Dickory, Dock.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing and do the motions to <i>London Bridge</i>. London Bridge is falling down! falling down! falling down! London Bridge is falling down! My fair lady!</p>	<p>Set up a pretend grocery store and let your child go shopping. Talk about choosing healthy foods.</p>
<p>Cover the floor with paper and have everyone make one large picture together.</p>	<p>Imagine that a laundry basket or box is a car for your child. Make car noises and drive them around the house.</p>	<p>Read a fairytale together. If you don't have any fairytale books, make up your own story about a character from a fairytale.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Star light, star bright, the first star I see tonight; I wish I may, I wish I might, Have the wish I wish tonight.</p>	<p>Ask your child what kind of pet they would have if they could have any animal in the world.</p> 	<p><b>Dough Animals!</b> Make salt dough or play dough and have your child use it to mold an imaginary animal. Have them describe what their animal is and what it is called.</p>	<p><b>I Spy Outside</b> Take a walk outside and play I Spy.</p>



Featured: Bullfrogs and a Western Painted Turtle. The Western Painted Turtle is the Colorado State Reptile!

**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Rock-A-Bye Romp*, by Linda Ashman

*Jazz Baby*, by Lisa Wheeler

*Tanka Tanka Skunk!* by Steve Webb

*Baby Dance*, by Ann Taylor

*I Got the Rhythm*, by Connie Schofield Morrison

*Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes* by Annie Kubler



*Angelina Ballerina* by Katharine Holabird

*Flora and the Flamingo* by Molly Idle

*Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae

*Meet the Orchestra* by Ann Hayes

*Olivia Forms a Band* by Ian Falconer

*Tito Puente, Mambo King* by Monica Brown

**Music for All Ages**

Many local libraries have children's music that you can check out and bring home. Make sure to ask a librarian about what kind of music would be perfect for you and your child.

# JULY: Music

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<p>Go outside together and jump rope or do some jumping jacks. Sing songs as you jump.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn, The sheep's in the meadow, The cow's in the corn. Where is that boy who looks after the sheep? Under the haystack fast asleep.</p>	<p>Sing a patriotic song such as <i>This Land is Your Land</i> or the <i>Star Spangled Banner</i>.</p>	<p>Talk about musical theater. If you have a favorite musical, sing or play some of the music for your child.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Visit <a href="http://StoryBlocks.org">StoryBlocks.org</a> and learn a new song to sing together.</p>	<p>Music under the stars! Go outside and listen to the sounds at night. Are the crickets singing?</p> 	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some books about music and dance. If possible get <i>Flora and the Flamingo</i> and <i>Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin</i> from this month's book list.</p>
<p>Pretend to play instruments like the piano, violin, guitar or drum.</p> 	<p>Put on some music and find the rhythm. Practice clapping to the beat.</p>	<p>Play some quiet music and stretch along to it. Count quietly as you stretch together.</p>	<p>Create a dance to your favorite song. Talk about what makes that song your favorite.</p>	<p>Sing a lullaby together at bedtime such as <i>Rock-a-bye Baby</i>.</p>	<p>Play some classical music and dance to it. If you have a copy, read <i>Flora and the Flamingo</i> and try to copy the flamingo like Flora tries.</p>	<p>Talk about how to sing in "a round." Try singing in a round to <i>Row, Row, Row Your Boat</i>.</p>
<p>Play musical chairs. Change the rules to fit how many players you have.</p>	<p>Make music with your body by snapping, clapping and stomping.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing and do the motions to <i>The Wheels on the Bus</i>.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Have your child bang on different size pots and pans with a wooden spoon. Talk about the variety of sounds high and low that he makes.</p>	<p>Sing a song to your child in the morning to wake them up.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing and do the motions to <i>Five Little Speckled Frogs</i>.</p> 	<p>Read a book and stop halfway through. Have your child guess what will happen before you read the rest of the book.</p>
<p>Talk a walk outside and listen to nature's music. Try to identify who or what is making each sound.</p>	<p>Have your child make up their own song and help them write down the lyrics.</p> 	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing and do the finger actions for <i>The Itsy Bitsy Spider</i>.</p>	<p>Get out your favorite book and point out the parts of the book using this song: Front of the book, back of the book! Front of the book, back of the book! Title page! Title Page! Author and illustrator, author and illustrator! Spine of the book! Spine of the book!</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Sing, sing, what shall I sing? The cat's run away with the pudding string! Do, do, what shall I do? The cat's run away with the pudding too!</p>	<p>What in your house can become a musical instrument? Look around and make some music.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing and dance to <i>The Hokey Pokey</i>.</p>
<p>Put on some music while you bake something together.</p>	<p>Read a book together and point out any unusual words. Talk about what they mean.</p> 	<p>Make your own instrument using things you can find outside. Put on a show and dance to your music.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing <i>Take Me Out to the Ballgame</i> together.</p>	<p>Talk about what sounds different animals make. Draw a picture of animals that sing.</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b> Sing and do the motions to <i>Where is Thumbkin?</i> Have the finger family run away under the water.</p>	<p>Make rhythm sticks by filling paper towel rolls or toilet paper rolls with dry beans or uncooked pasta. Tape the ends closed and shake.</p>

BOOKS TO READ!

*Groovy Joe: Ice Cream & Dinosaurs*, by Eric Litwin



*Bunny Cakes*, by Rosemary Wells

*pudding on the Plate* (StoryBlocks)

*Mix the Batter* (StoryBlocks)

*5 Plump Peas* (StoryBlocks)

*Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

*The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss

*Mouse Mess* by Linnea Riley

*Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey

*Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin

*Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola

Featured: Great Horned Owl, American Goldfinch, Red Squirrel, Deer Mouse, Smallmouth Bass and Bullfrog



# AUGUST: Food



August is "Colorado Proud Month." Look for the Colorado Proud logo at grocery stores, farmers' markets, garden centers and restaurants. By buying locally grown, raised and processed food and agricultural products, you receive high quality fresh products and help Colorado's economy, local farmers, ranchers, greenhouses, manufacturers and processors.

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

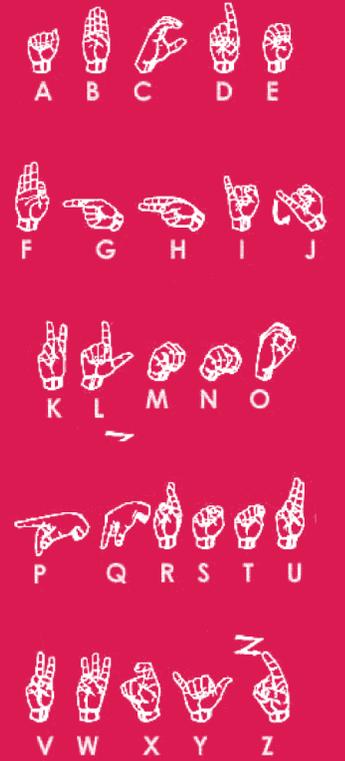
<p>Make popsicles by putting juice into ice cube trays and placing a toothpick in each cube. Freeze and eat!</p>	<p>Talk about the Food Plate from January. Does your child remember the different foods that we should eat every day?</p>	<p>Pick a letter and eat three foods with that letter. Talk about why they are good for you when you eat them.</p>	<p>Make a card for a father, friend's father, or grandfather today.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Add food coloring to cups of water and put in celery stalks. What do you think will happen? Check back tomorrow and see! Talk about how plants need water to grow.</p> 	<p>Find a package of dried beans. Use them to practice counting. You can use them again later in the month.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some of the great books about food listed above! If possible, get <i>If You Give a Mouse a Cookie</i>, <i>The Watermelon Seed</i>, <i>Jamberry</i> and <i>Little Pea</i>.</p>
<p>Make up a story about what you think would happen if you gave a mouse a cookie. If you have a copy, read <i>If You Give a Mouse a Cookie</i>.</p> 	<p>Use animal crackers to host an animal cracker circus!</p>	<p>What foods grow in Colorado? Plan a picnic, and have your kids prepare the foods you'll bring. Which ones come from Colorado?</p>	<p>Talk about yesterday's picnic. Describe some of the foods you ate. What different colors did you eat and what shapes?</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Change out muffin for other foods. Clap along. Oh, do you know the muffin man, The muffin man, the muffin man. Oh, do you know the muffin man, That lives on Drury Lane?</p>	<p>When you go to the store, spend time pointing out the color of the foods and their names.</p>	<p>After reading <i>Carrot Seed</i>, go outside and plant some seeds. How are they different? What are their shapes?</p>
<p>Visit a park. Talk about the different types of foods animals eat.</p>	<p>Name as many fruits and vegetables as you can and talk about what color they are.</p>	<p>Cows are wonderful! Enjoy a glass of milk and draw a picture of a cow family.</p>	<p>Go outside and make mud pies. Count them forwards and backwards but don't eat them!</p>	<p>Eat an apple or watermelon and count the seeds. If you have a copy, read <i>The Watermelon Seed</i>.</p> 	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Show your child how to tell the temperature outside by reading a thermometer. Talk about hot and cold and why some foods need to stay cold.</p>	<p>Visit a local farm or farmer's market today to see what foods are growing locally. Have you eaten any of them before?</p>
<p>Bake something together! If you can't bake, pretend! Practice measuring ingredients.</p>	<p>Make a food alphabet book. Fold over paper, and either draw or cut out pictures of food items.</p> 	<p>How many different types of berries can you think of? How many have you eaten before? If you have a copy, read <i>Jamberry</i>.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Talk about taste buds. Find items around your house that taste different, such as salty, sweet, and sour. What is your favorite?</p>	<p>Play with your peas! How many peas fit on a spoon? Put them on, count, then eat them! Yum! If you have a copy, read <i>Little Pea</i>.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> On top of spaghetti all covered with cheese. I lost my poor meatball When somebody sneezed. It rolled off the table, and onto the floor. And then my poor meatball, rolled out of the door.</p>	<p>Spend some time making a meal together. Talk about what kinds of food you are making and let your child help.</p>
<p>Eat a rainbow! Try to eat something red, orange, yellow, green, and blue today!</p>	<p>Go outside and march around to <i>The Farmer in the Dell</i>. Make up the rest of the lyrics. The farmer in the dell The farmer in the dell Hi-ho, the derry-o The farmer in the dell.</p>	<p>Find a can or box in the house and use it to find the letters of the alphabet.</p>	<p>Make a paper plate pizza. Use a paper plate as the pizza and you can draw or cut out shapes to "make" the toppings.</p>	<p>Make music with water! Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Take a fork or spoon and tap the glass. Listen to the different sounds each glass makes!</p>	<p>Play with your food! You can make apple smiles by cutting apple quarters into halves, or try making ants on a log.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Mr. East gave a feast; Mr. North laid the cloth; Mr. West did his best; Mr. South burned his mouth, Eating a cold potato.</p>



**BOOKS TO READ!**

- ABC: The Alphabet from the Sky* by Benedikt Gross and Joey Lee
- Lines, Squiggles, Letters, Words* by Ruth Rocha
- Backseat A-B-See* by Maria Van Lieshout
- Alphabet Monster* (StoryBlocks )
- Colors, Numbers, Letters* by Leo Lionni
- Alphabatics* by Suse MacDonald
- Alphabet City* by Stephen T. Johnson
- AlphaOops! The Day Z Went First* by Alethea Kontis
- Curious George Learns the Alphabet* by H. A. Rey
- Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet* by Muriel Feelings and Tom Feelings
- Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC* by June Sobel
- The Sleepy Little Alphabet* by Judy Sierra

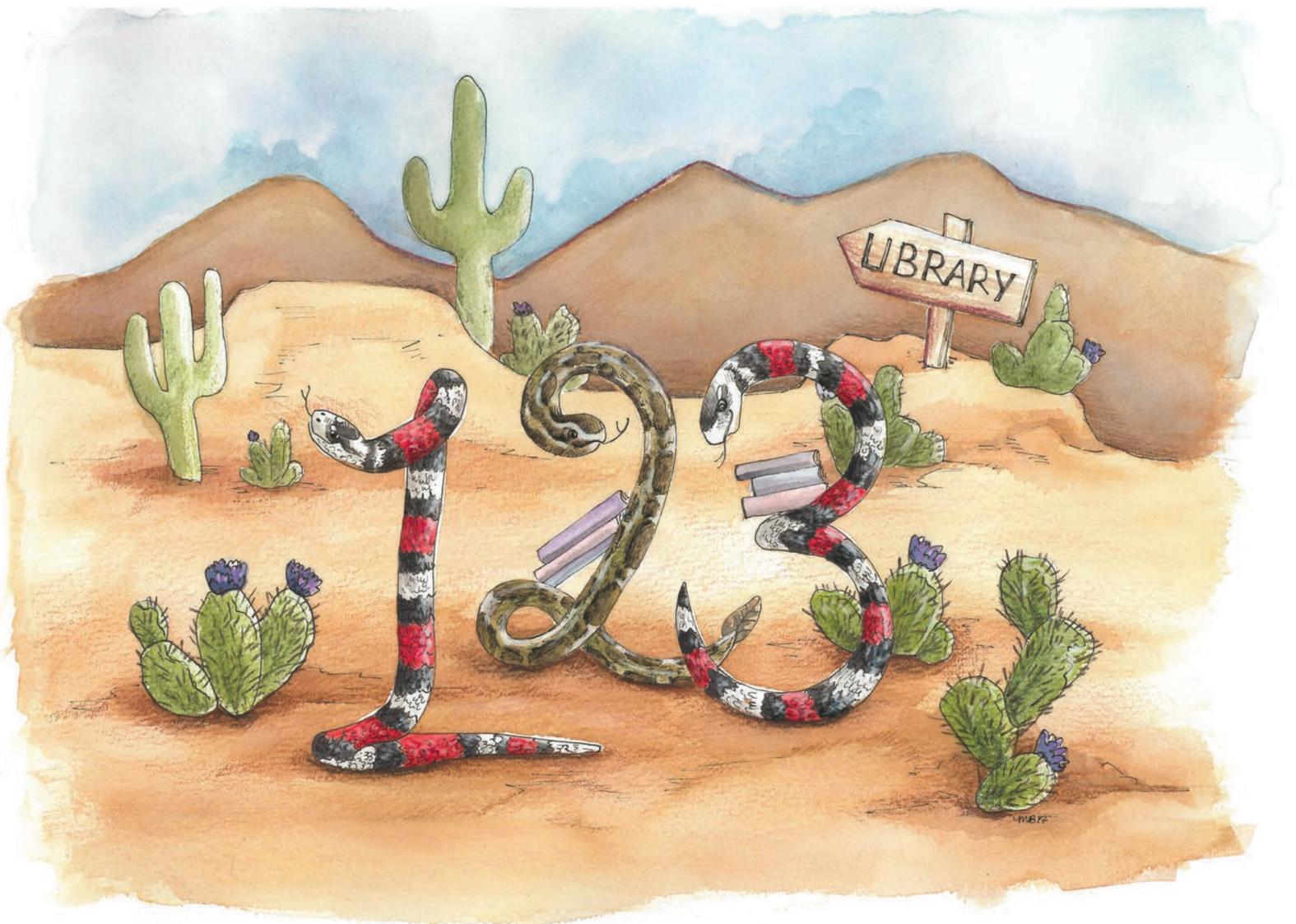
**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ALPHABET**



# September: Letters

Featured: Snowshoe Hare. A Snowshoe Hare has a coat that changes to white in the Winter!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Make an ABC Book</b></p> <p>Make a 26 page booklet from blank paper. Together, write each letter on the top of each page. Fill in your book with drawings or magazine pictures all month long.</p>	<p><b>A is for Apple</b></p> <p>Eat an apple and count the seeds.</p> 	<p><b>B is for Bumblebee</b></p> <p>With your hand in a fist say: Here is a beehive, but where are the bees? Hiding inside where nobody sees. Watch and you'll see them come out of their hive 1,2,3,4,5... BZZZ!</p>	<p><b>C is for Cup</b></p> <p>Make a tower using paper or plastic cups. How high can you go?</p>	<p><b>D is for Dig</b></p> <p>Fill a small container with dirt or rice and hide objects in it. Have your child dig for treasure!</p>	<p><b>E is for Exercise</b></p> <p>Touch your toes, do some jumping jacks and, if you know how, do a square dance!</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b></p> <p>Check out some alphabet books. If possible get <i>Eating the Alphabet</i> and <i>Shiver Me Letters</i> from this month's book list.</p> 
<p><b>Look for Letters</b></p> <p>Read one of your library books. Help your child find the letters of their name in the words of the book.</p> 	<p><b>F is for Fruit</b></p> <p>Talk about your favorite fruits and then make some fruit salad together.</p>	<p><b>G is for Grandparents</b></p> <p>Tell your child a story about their grandparent or have a grandparent tell a story themselves.</p>	<p><b>H is for Honey</b></p> <p>September is National Honey Month. Taste some honey and talk about where it comes from.</p>	<p><b>I is for Ice</b></p> <p>Melt ice cubes and talk about temperature. Have your child list things that are hot and things that are cold.</p>	<p><b>J is for Jack and Jill</b></p> <p>Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water; Jack fell down and broke his crown, and Jill came tumbling after.</p>	<p><b>Letters Ahoy!</b></p> <p>Talk like a pirate day! If you have a copy, read <i>Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC</i>.</p>
<p><b>Dough Spelling!</b></p> <p>Make salt dough or play dough and use it to spell out your name.</p>	<p><b>K is for King</b></p> <p>Old King Cole was a merry old soul And a merry old soul was he; He called for his pipe, And he called for his bowl And he called for his fiddlers three.</p> 	<p><b>L is for Leaves</b></p> <p>Take a walk outside and look for leaves. Try to find ten different kinds of leaves.</p>	<p><b>M is for Music</b></p> <p>Sing the <i>Alphabet Song</i> together. Try singing it while doing the American Sign Language letters (above.)</p>	<p><b>N is for Noodle</b></p> <p>Help your child spell their name or make the alphabet using spaghetti noodles.</p>	<p><b>O is for Origami</b></p> <p>Origami is the Japanese art of making objects by folding paper. Help your child fold a paper airplane.</p>	<p><b>Eat Your Letters!</b></p> <p>Have a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables. If you have a copy, read <i>Eating the Alphabet</i> for inspiration!</p>
<p><b>I Spy Letters</b></p> <p>Point out the letters you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</p>	<p><b>P is for Pat-a-cake</b></p> <p>Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man, Bake me a cake as fast as you can. Roll it, and prick it, and mark it with a "B" And put it in the oven for baby and me!</p>	<p><b>Q is for Quilt</b></p> <p>Draw a family quilt on paper and have each family member decorate one or more squares.</p>	<p><b>R is for Ring Around the Rosie</b></p> <p>Ring around the rosie. A pocketful of posies "Ashes, Ashes" we all fall down!</p>	<p><b>S is for Sign Language</b></p> <p>Explain the idea of sign language. Teach them to say I love you with their hands.</p>	<p><b>T is for Treasure Hunt</b></p> <p>Find objects around the house that start with each letter of the alphabet.</p> 	<p><b>Sign Your Name</b></p> <p>Using the guide above, practice spelling out your child's name in American Sign Language.</p>
<p><b>Take an Alphabet Walk</b></p> <p>Go for a walk with your children and see if they can find things in nature that look like letters- can they find a "T" made of sticks?</p>	<p><b>U is for Umbrella</b></p> <p>Slap your legs in tune to: Rain is falling down SPLASH! Rain is falling down SPLASH! Pitter patter, pitter patter, Rain is falling down SPLASH!</p>	<p><b>V is for Vegetables</b></p> <p>Name a vegetable that starts with each letter of the alphabet.</p>	<p><b>W is for Wash</b></p> <p>Make paint with shaving cream mixed with a few drops of food coloring. Paint with it in the tub during bath time.</p>	<p><b>X is for X-marks-the-spot</b></p> <p>Find your country, state and city on a map. Draw a map of your neighborhood.</p>	<p><b>Y is for Yellow</b></p> <p>Point out all the yellow objects you see throughout the day.</p> 	<p><b>Z is for Zoo</b></p> <p>Write a list of animals you may see at the zoo. Draw or paint a picture of your favorite zoo animal.</p>



Featured: Central Plains Milk Snake and the Western Rattlesnake, both commonly found in Colorado.

**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Press Here*, by Herve Tullet

*Touch, Think, Learn: Numbers*, by Xavier Deneux

*Counting Kisses: A Kiss and Read Book* by Karen Katz

*Here is the Beehive* (StoryBlocks)

*Chicka Chicka 1,2,3* by Bill Martin Jr

*Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow



*Fiesta!* By Ginger Foglesong Guy

*Ten Black Dots* by Donald Crews

*Ten, Nine, Eight* by Molly Bang

*How Much is a Million?* by David M. Schwartz

*Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood

*One Hundred Hungry Ants* by Elinor J. Pinczes



# OCTOBER: Numbers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Help your child write out the numbers 1 to 10. Use this sheet throughout the month to practice counting.</p>	<p>How tall are you? Measure each family member today and again at the end of the month.</p>	<p><b>It's Popcorn Poppin' Month!</b> Pop some popcorn and count how many pieces you eat.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> One potato, two potato, Three potato, four, Five potato, six potato, Seven potato, more!</p>	<p>Take a walk outside and look for pinecones. Count how many you find.</p> 	<p>Help your child count their fingers and toes. Count forwards and backwards.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some number books. If possible get <i>Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed</i> and <i>Ten Black Dots</i> from this month's book list.</p>
<p>Draw a picture with ten black dots. If you have a copy, read <i>Ten Black Dots</i>.</p>	<p>Count the pairs of socks your child has. Talk about other things that come in pairs.</p>	<p>Find patterns! If you have a copy, read <i>Press Here</i>, see if your kids can find patterns in the dots.</p> 	<p>Show your child a clock and count the hours. Explain the number of hours in a day.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Help your child sort coins into groups by size. Talk about size and which is smaller and which is bigger.</p>	<p><b>Number 5 Day!</b> Look for the number five today. If you have a copy, read <i>Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed</i>.</p>	<p>Have everyone in your family vote on their favorite book. Count up the votes and see which book is the winner.</p>
<p><b>It's Fire Prevention Month!</b> Show your child your household smoke detector, or install a new one. Many fire departments offer free smoke detectors so contact your local department to check. Talk about fire safety.</p>	<p>Explain what a dozen means. Count the number of eggs in a carton.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> 1, 2 buckle my shoe, 3, 4 open the door, 5, 6 pick up sticks, 7, 8 lay them straight, 9, 10 a big, fat hen!</p>	<p>Count to ten in Spanish: 1. uno 2. dos 3. tres 4. cuatro 5. cinco 6. seis 7. siete 8. ocho 9. nueve 10. diez</p>	<p>Using chalk, write some numbers on the sidewalk. Have your child jump to the numbers you said, then wash the numbers away with water.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of family members who live with you. Count how many people.</p>	<p>Have your child tell you a story about 1 pumpkin, 2 bats and 3 owls.</p> 
<p>Choose a new recipe to make together. Point out the different measurements in the recipe.</p> 	<p>Show your child what time it is during the morning, afternoon, evening and bedtime. Talk about some of the routines you have at those times of day.</p>	<p>With your child count how many books your child owns. Have him choose a few of his favorites to read aloud.</p>	<p>Talk about how much a penny, nickel, dime and quarter are worth and how many of each are in a dollar.</p>	<p>There are 64 counties in Colorado. Count from 1 to 64 together.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> This old man, he played one, He played knick-knack on my thumb; With a knick-knack paddywhack, Give the dog a bone, This old man came rolling home.</p>	<p><b>Dough Counting!</b> Make salt dough or play dough and use it to mold the numbers 1 to 10.</p>
<p><b>Bath Time!</b> Bring a set of measuring cups or spoons into the bathtub. Practice counting and measuring.</p>	<p><b>I Spy Numbers</b> Point out the numbers you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</p>	<p>Point out your child's birthday and those of family members on a calendar. Talk about everyone's age.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing songs with numbers such as <i>Five Little Pumpkins</i> or <i>Five Little Ducks</i>.</p>	<p>Count the number of seeds in a pumpkin, apple or other fruit.</p> 	<p>Read a picture book and then count the pages together.</p>	<p>Did you grow taller? Measure each family member again and see if anyone grew.</p>

**BOOKS TO READ!**

- Tea with Grandpa, by Barney Saltzberg
- Tell Me a Tattoo Story by Alison McGhee
- Gator Dad by Brian Lies
- If I Wrote a Book About You, by Stephany Aulenback
- Corduroy by Don Freeman
- Are You My Mother? by P. D. Eastman
- Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
- Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
- The Napping House by Audrey Wood
- The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
- What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best by Laura Numeroff
- Abuela by Arthur Dorros

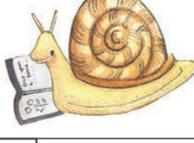


**Native American Heritage Month**  
 November is the month set aside to highlight the significant contributions the peoples living in the land we now call America made to the establishment and growth of the United States. Originally, the area that is now Colorado included members of the Apache, Arapahoe, Bannock, Cheyenne, Comanche, Jicarilla, Kiowa, Kiowa Apache, Navaho, Pueblos, Shoshoni, and Ute tribes. There are two federally recognized Indian tribes in Colorado today: the Southern Ute Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, both in the southwestern area of our state.

**How to Share Books with Your Child**  
 Repetition is important when sharing books with your child. If they have a favorite, read it enthusiastically! Use different voices and makes noises mentioned in the book. Point out words as you read them so your child begins to connect the words and noises you are making to what is on the page. When sharing books about ABC's, coloring or counting books, remember that you are reading for enjoyment, not to try to teach your child skills.

# NOVEMBER: Family

Featured: American Goldfinch- Males are bright yellow with black and white markings. Females have more muted feathers.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Outdoor family time! Check out a nature backpack with a state parks pass from your library and take the family for a fun outdoor learning experience. While you are there, if you see any animals, talk about how animals also have families.</p>	<p>Count how many brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and pets you have in your family.</p>	<p>Put on some of your favorite music and dance with your family.</p> 	<p>Draw pictures of all your family members, save for tomorrow.</p>	<p>Cut out the pictures that were drawn yesterday and make them into puppets by taping them to popsicle sticks or straws. Put on a puppet show about your family.</p>	<p>Talk about the importance of grandparents in your family. See if your child can re-tell one of their favorite stories from a grandparent.</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b>                  Check out some books about families. If possible get <i>Blackout</i> and <i>What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best</i> from this month's book list.</p>
<p>Talk about what kinds of activities you would do if the lights went out. If you have a copy, read <i>Blackout</i>.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b>                  Chook, Chook, Chook, Chook, Chook, Good morning, Mrs. Hen. How many chickens have you got? Madam I've got ten. Four of them yellow, and four of them are brown, and two of them are speckled red, the nicest in town.</p>	<p>Have your child name one thing that makes each member of your family special.</p>	<p><b>Talk about Veteran's Day</b>                  Explain what the word veteran means. Do you have any veterans in your family?</p>	<p>Write a poem about a family of turkeys.</p>	<p>Talk about what each member of your family does best. If you have a copy, read <i>What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best</i>.</p>	<p>Have a family story time. Have each person choose a favorite book to read.</p> 
<p>Play a game as a family. If you don't have a game, make one up!</p> 	<p>Have your child set the table for dinner and tell you who sits at which seat. Help them write place cards with each person's name.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of an animal home. Talk about the different kinds of homes that animals live in.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                  You are my sunshine. My only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are gray. You never know dear how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b>                  Do a simple science experiment together. For example, fill numerous cups with water and add different colors of food coloring. Have your child mix two colors to create a new one. Help them observe what happens.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b>                  Learn a family nighttime poem: When little Fred went to bed, He always said his prayers. He kissed his mama and then papa, And straightaway went upstairs.</p>	<p>Trace your hand to make a turkey. Draw a whole family of turkeys for Thanksgiving.</p>
<p>Talk about some of your family traditions or create a new one.</p>	<p>Have your child tell you a story about a special day they spent with another family member.</p>	<p><b>Dough Family!</b>                  Make salt dough or play dough and use it to sculpt models of your family members.</p>	<p>Talk about the history and meaning of Thanksgiving.</p>	<p>Have each family member share one thing for which they are thankful.</p> 	<p>Have each family member draw a self-portrait.</p>	<p>Help your child write and send a letter to a family member.</p>
<p>Talk a walk outside as a family.</p> 	<p><b>Bath Time!</b>                  During bath time act out: Rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub, And who do you think they were? The butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, They all sailed out to sea, 'twas enough to make a man stare.</p>	<p>Have your child make up a story about their favorite animal family.</p>	<p><b>November is National Adoption Month.</b>                  Talk about how families are similar and different.</p>	<p>Talk about some of the animals in your neighborhood and whether they are part of a family.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b>                  Bye, baby Bunting, Father's gone a-hunting, Mother's gone a-milking, Sister's gone a-silking, Brother's gone to buy a skin to wrap the baby Bunting in.</p>	<p>Have an older adult or grandparent tell your child a story from their childhood.</p>



**BOOKS TO READ!**

*Hiccupotamus* by Steve Smallman  
*A Splendid Friend, Indeed* by Suzanne Bloom



*It Came in the Mail* by Ben Clanton  
*Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel  
*Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard  
*Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka  
*Henry and Mudge: The First Book* by Cynthia Rylant  
*I Will Surprise My Friend! (An Elephant and Piggie Book)* by Mo Willems  
*Making Friends* by Fred Rogers  
*How Do You Hug a Porcupine?* By Laurie Isop  
*One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo  
*A Weekend with Wendell* by Kevin Henkes

**Jump into Books!**

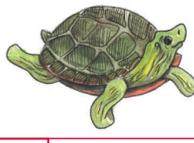
- Page by Page, Page by Page
- Come Along and Set the Stage
- Climb Up Jack's Beanstalk
- Hear Aesop's Animals Talk
- Watch the Hungry Caterpillar walk
- And become engaged!
- Page by Page, Page by Page
- Come Along and Set the Stage
- Thing One or Thing Two
- Horton Hears a Who
- Fish Colors of Red or Blue
- Page by page!

Featured: River Otters and Trout

**DECEMBER: Friends**

Thirty days hath September, April, June and November;  
 Thirty-one the others date, excepting February, twenty-eight;  
 But in leap year we assign, February, twenty-nine.

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<p>Talk about why friends are important.</p>	<p>Make up a rhyme about friends and clap out the beat.</p>	<p>The word friend begins with the letter F. What other things begin with F?</p>	<p>Write a poem about a chubby little snowman. Go outside and build one.</p> 	<p>Discuss ways your child can be a good friend to someone.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                      Insert a friend's name when singing BINGO: I have a very special friend And can you guess her name-o?                      J-U-L-I-E J-U-L-I-E                      J-U-L-I-E                      And Julie is her name-o!</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b>                      Check out some books about friends. If possible get <i>How Rocket Learned to Read</i> and <i>One Cool Friend</i> from this month's book list.</p>
<p>Ask your child what animal they would like to bring home from the zoo if they were allowed. If you have a copy, read <i>One Cool Friend</i>.</p> 	<p>Make up a story about friends by taking turns and each telling a part.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b>                      Pretend to be snowflakes, snowballs and snowmen, and then melt. Talk about how temperature affects snow.</p>	<p>Have your child learn about a friend by asking them questions about their family, pets, likes and dislikes.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                      Take turns being the leader and march in a circle singing: Follow the leader wherever he goes What he does next, nobody knows!</p>	<p>Talk about how friends can help each other. If you have a copy, read <i>How Rocket Learned to Read</i>.</p>	<p>Invite one of your child's friends over to play or meet them and their parents at a park or the library.</p>
<p>Tell a story about a special meal you shared with friends, then make a meal together.</p>	<p>Talk about what qualities a good friend should have.</p>	<p>Read one of your library books together. Point out the author's and illustrator's names.</p>	<p>Invite your friends over to play games. If it's warm enough to be outside, play tag or hide and seek- or, build a snow fort!</p>	<p><b>Dough Friends!</b>                      Make salt dough or play dough and use it to shape the letters in the name of a friend.</p> 	<p>Make a holiday or winter card for a friend.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                      Will you be a friend of mine, A friend of mine, a friend of mine? Will you be a friend of mine and (insert an action) around with me? (Name) is a friend of mine, friend of mine, friend of mine. (Name) is a friend of mine who (insert an action) around with me!</p>
<p>Help your child practice zipping or buttoning their coat. Talk a walk together.</p> 	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b>                      Three little kittens they lost their mittens, And they began to cry, Oh, Mother Dear, we sadly fear Our mittens we have lost. What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens! Then you shall have no pie.</p>	<p>Draw pictures of your friends and cut them out. Make them into puppets by taping them to popsicle sticks or straws. Put on a puppet show about your friends.</p>	<p>Help your child cut out paper snowflakes. Tape them to the window or string them together to make a garland to hang.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                      Sing <i>It's a Small World</i>.</p>	<p>Are you having a special family celebration? Talk about your family's celebrations and traditions.</p>	<p>Spend time reading books about friends, sharing or holidays.</p>
<p>Talk about how animals can be our friends too. Talk about pets you have or other animals your child knows.</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b>                      Bring some favorite toys or action figure friends into the bathtub. See which float and which sink.</p>	<p>Tell your child a story about one of your friends when you were their age.</p> 	<p><b>Song Day!</b>                      I'm a great big snowman, tall and fat. Here is my tummy. Here is my hat. Raisins for my eyes, and a carrot for my nose, I'm all snow from head to toe!</p>	<p>Help your child come up with a New Year's resolution.</p>	<p>Talk about New Year's Eve and practice counting backwards from ten.</p>	<p>Read a book and substitute your child's name and friends' names for the characters in the story.</p>

# Arts & Crafts



## Play Dough

1 cup flour  
1 cup water  
2 tsp. cream of tartar  
1/3 cup salt  
1 Tb. vegetable oil  
food coloring

**Instructions:**  
In a saucepan, mix flour, cream of tartar and salt. Add water and vegetable oil. Turn burner on medium/low and stir. Before it thickens, add food coloring and stir. Continue stirring until it separates from pan and no longer looks wet. Remove and put on wax paper until it cools. Knead cooled dough and store in plastic bag.

## Salt Dough

1 cup of fine salt  
1 cup of flour  
1/2 cup of water (may add more)

**Instructions:**  
In a large bowl, combine the salt and the flour. Make a well in the salt/flour mixture and add the water. Knead until smooth and shape into a ball. When not in use, wrap in plastic or store in an airtight container.

**HINT:** To get a softer dough you can add more flour. Add more salt to get more texture. To add color to your dough, add food coloring or paint. Knead to get an even color.

## Bubble Blowing Solution

3 cups water  
1 cup liquid dish detergent  
1 Tb. sugar

**Instructions:**  
Combine ingredients well. Dip bubble wand in and blow. To make a bubble wand you can bend a pipe cleaner, wire or wire hanger into shape. For colored solution, add food coloring.

## Binoculars

2 toilet paper tubes or 1 paper towel tube  
Yarn  
Markers, crayons or stickers  
Tape  
Hole punch or scissors

**Instructions:**  
Tape the two toilet paper tubes together. If using a paper towel tube, cut it in half and tape two pieces together. Make a small hole in each side and tie string around to make a necklace. Decorate tubes with markers, crayons or stickers. Once completed, ask your child to describe what they see when they use their binoculars.

## Beaded Bracelet

1 pipe cleaner  
Assorted beads

**Instructions:**  
Bend the end of the pipe cleaner so that the beads will not fall off. Show your child how to thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. Encourage them to make a color pattern or to count the beads. Once the pipe cleaner is almost full, bend the two ends together to make a bracelet.

## Sock Puppet

1 old, mismatched light colored sock  
Glue  
Construction paper  
Yarn  
Markers

**Instructions:**  
Have your child put the sock on their hand to see how it would work as a puppet. Help them decide what kind of puppet they would like to make. Using glue, paper, markers, yarn and any other craft supplies you might have, create a face and hair for the puppet. Once it is finished, your child can give their new sock puppet a name and use it to tell a story.

## Edible Finger Paint

Vanilla or plain yogurt  
Food coloring  
Paper or paper plate

**Instructions:**  
Divide yogurt up into separate containers to make as many colors as you would like. Add food coloring to each and mix. Encourage your child to use his fingers to dip in the paint and draw a picture on the paper or paper plate. If your child is hesitant to touch the paint with his fingers, let him use a paintbrush or Q-tip. Refrigerate any left over paint to use within the next few days.

## Paper Plate Mask

Paper plates Construction paper  
Scissors Markers  
String Glue

**Instructions:**  
Cut two circles out of the paper plate for your eyes. Decorate the paper plate with crayons, markers, colored pencils, or even cut outs from magazines. Use construction paper to cut out shapes for ears, trunk, or nose. Using scissors or a hole punch, make two small holes near the side of the plate to attach string. Pull the string and make a knot, then take both pieces to tie around the back of your child's head. Be creative with what you have to decorate the mask. Stickers, pieces of fabric, feathers, or other items make great decorations.

## Craft Books to Check Out!

*Around the World Art & Activities*  
by Judy Press

*Art Lab for Little Kids: 52 Playful Projects for Preschoolers* by Susan Schwake

*The Arts and Crafts Busy Book*  
by Trish Kuffner

*Easy Origami* by John Montroll

*Ed Emberley's Complete Funprint Drawing Book* by Ed Emberley

*First Art for Toddlers and Twos*  
by MaryAnn F. Kohl

*Little Kid Paper Plate Crafts*  
by Chris Yates

*Preschool Art: It's the Process Not the Product!* by MaryAnn F. Kohl

*Science Arts: Discovering Science Through Art Experiences*  
by MaryAnn F. Kohl

*Show Me a Story: 40 Craft Projects and Activities to Spark Children's Storytelling* by Emily K. Neuberger

## Books About Art to Read Aloud!

*Art & Max* by David Wiesner

*The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola

*Beautiful Oops!* by Barney Saltzberg

*Dave the Potter* by Laban Carrick Hill

*The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds

*Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni

*Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

*The Museum* by Susan Verde

*Museum Shapes*  
by the Metropolitan Museum of Art

*Too Much Glue* by Jason Lefebvre

# Helpful Contacts & Websites

Let's Move in Libraries  
<http://www.letsmoveinlibraries.org/map/Colorado/>

Get Outdoors Colorado  
<http://www.getoutdoorscolorado.org/outdoor-kids>

Rocky Mountain PBS  
<http://www.rmpbs.org/earlylearning/>

Reach Out & Read Colorado  
<https://reachoutandreadco.org/>

Early Learning & Development Guidelines  
<https://earlylearningco.org/>

Colorado Department of Education Office of Early Learning and School Readiness  
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/offices/earlylearningschoolreadinessoffice>

Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Early Childhood  
<http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec?lang=en>

Bright by Three/ Bright by Text  
<http://brightbythree.org/>

USDA Choose My Plate  
<http://www.choosemyplate.gov>

# Online Reading Resources

Get Ready to Read!  
<http://www.getreadytoread.org>

PBS Kids Reading Games  
<http://pbskids.org/games/reading>

The Peter Rabbit Website  
<http://www.peterrabbit.com>

RIF (Reading is Fundamental) Leading to Reading  
<http://www.rif.org/>

Sesame Street Online  
<http://sesamestreet.org>

Starfall  
<http://www.starfall.com>

StoryBlocks  
<http://www.storyblocks.org/>

Storyplace: The Children's Digital Library  
<http://storyplace.org>



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