Welcome!

The Maryland State Library is proud to introduce the Maryland Day by Day Family Literacy Activity Calendar. This calendar is designed to be a “Forever” calendar, meaning it can be used over again, year after year. Each month contains little boxes in which to fill the dates (ideally, with pencil!) so that the days/dates can be changed the next year.

You will be excited to watch your child discover whole new worlds through books, reading, nature exploration, and arts and crafts. The activities that fill this calendar are selected to support the areas of learning that should help your child become ready for school and ready for reading. Our goal is to help provide you with the tools that make spending time together easy and fun, while at the same time serving as a guide for learning new things about our state and our world. In addition to suggesting activities using materials found in your home, we provide lists of books and music which you can find at your local library, along with many other educational resources. Public libraries across Maryland and other organizations are here to assist and support you as your family transitions through the early learning years to the school years.

We hope that this calendar provides your family with a love of learning to span the entire year, from January to December.

Seek & Find
Is there a detective in the house? Each month’s illustration features a Seek & Find to challenge your child’s attention to detail. Have fun learning about each month’s topic while hunting for all the small objects hidden in the pictures. Good luck!

~Marcia Leiter, Illustrator

On the Cover
Maryland Flora and Fauna Seek & Find
White Oak Tree & Acorns
Black-Eyed Susans
North American Porcupine
Eastern Striped Skunk
American Beaver
Opossum
Star-Nosed Mole
Gray Squirrel
Field Mouse
Eastern Chipmunk
Box Turtle
Scarlet Snake
Baltimore Oriole and Chicks
Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly
Dragonfly
Ladybug
Black Bear
Red Fox
About the Calendar

Children love to learn, and your child learns best when doing fun and interesting activities with you. This calendar provides daily activities for you to do together that are enjoyable and educational. These activities will help you get your child ready to succeed in school. Many of the activities require no supplies or use only common household items. “Play” is a child’s “work” so simply playing with your child using the daily activities is the goal. Remember, the things you learn with joy, you’ll remember forever.

Tips for Using the Calendar

• Every month includes a booklist of suggested titles to read with your child. These are just suggestions. Choose books together with your child that you will both enjoy.
• Each day has an activity to do together. Like the booklists, these are suggestions. You can change them to better suit your child or make up your own activity.
• Some activities use salt dough or homemade play dough. Easy recipes for both are in the “Arts & Crafts” section of this calendar located in the back.
• If a book or activity is not interesting to your child, stop and try something else. The goal is to make learning fun.
• Children love to read the same books over and over, and doing so gives them a certain assurance and confidence. Read a book as many times as a child wants.
• Every child learns at his/her own pace. If you are doing these activities with more than one child, make sure to praise 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 things you can do to get your child ready for reading and success in school.
• Set the Mood: Make yourself and your child comfortable. Sit next to each other or with your child on your lap. Develop a routine of when you might read together.
• 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 questions show that 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 to every word.
• 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.

Tips for Using the Library

• Visit Often: Your local public library always has new books and other resources for you and your child to explore.
• Attend Events: Most libraries have free programs for young children such as story times, puppet shows and summer reading programs.
• Go Online: You can access the Internet for free and find out information on health and wellness, child safety and school readiness.
• Ask a Librarian: If you have trouble figuring out where to start or how to use the library, ask!

This is just the beginning

There is a lot of good information that wouldn’t fit in this calendar. Use the links and resources listed in the back of the calendar to learn more. There are also organizations in your community that offer a wealth of information. This calendar provides contact information for many of these organizations, but be sure to check for others that may be near you.

Remember to have fun with your child as they read, learn, and grow!
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.

Books to Read
Bath Time! by Sandra Boynton
The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist by Stan and Jan Berenstain
Froggy Gets a Doggy by Jonathan London
Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon? by Jane Yolen
My Daddy Is a Pretzel: Yoga for Parents and Kids by Baron Baptiste
My Trip to the Hospital by Mercer Mayer
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

Seek & Find
Bath Time
A Bandaid on a Box
A Mouse Toothbrush
A Bunny Jumping Rope
A Fire Escape Plan
A Bug In a Boat
A Mouse Doctor
A Brush for a Bunny
A Bird In a Bath
A Bunny Playing Ball
A Comb In a Mirror

ChooseMyPlate.gov
### January: Health and Safety

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Make an evacuation plan in case of a fire. Teach your child to “Stop, Drop and Roll.”" /></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Song Day! I like to eat, eat apples and bananas. I like to eat, eat apples and bananas. Now change the vowel sound to A. I like to ate, ate, ate ay-poples and ba-nay-nays I like to ate, ate, ate ay-poples and ba-nay-nays.</td>
<td>Practice Dog Safety 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.</td>
<td>Visit Your Library! Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="What are some vegetables you have in your house? Make some soup!" /></td>
<td>Talk about the importance of limiting the number of sugary foods you eat. Have a “No Sugar” day today.</td>
<td>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 Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes to keep up the energy!</td>
<td>Bath Time!</td>
<td>Focus on grains. What are they? How many different grains can you find and eat?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Find out your child’s favorite vegetable, and cook a meal that includes it.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Science Day!</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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!”</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>Draw pictures of vegetables and save them for tomorrow’s activity.</td>
<td>Make a Nutrition Train! 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!</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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!</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Draw pictures of different fruits and vegetables and save them for tomorrow’s activity.</td>
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<td>Everyone dance together and you can make up your own tune. Then do the Hokey Pokey!</td>
<td>Everyone dance together and you can make up your own tune. Then do the Hokey Pokey!</td>
<td>Play a game outside like Tag, Kick the Can or Hide and Go Seek. If it is too cold to be outside, then exercise by putting on music and dancing fast. Talk about some of your favorite songs.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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?</td>
<td>Talk about how important vegetables are to being healthy. Try to eat three different vegetables today.</td>
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Books to Read

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni
Elmer by David McKee
Freight Train by Donald Crews
The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
Go Away, Big Green Monster by Ed Emberley
I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More! by Karen Beaumont
Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
Little Black Crow by Chris Raschka
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by Peter Brown
One by Kathryn Otoshi
The Pink House by Kate Salley Palmer
Pinkalicious by Victoria Kann
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
You Can’t Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman

The Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, measuring almost 200 miles long. It is thought to be over 12,000 years old, forming when the glaciers melted, flooding the Susquehanna River. It is home to over 2,500 species of plants, 300 species of finfish, and almost 20 species of shellfish, including the blue crab and eastern oyster. Oysters help improve water quality and provide food and habitat to other animals. Although over-harvesting, disease, and habitat loss have led to a drop in population, recovery efforts are underway to replenish oysters in the bay, revitalizing the Chesapeake ecosystem.

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/oysters

Seek & Find

Find everything that is:

Red
Yellow
Blue
Green
Orange
Pink
Brown
Violet

Black
White
Gray
Pink
Brown
Multicolor
### February: Colors

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| **Science Day!** Do you know the colors that make the rainbow? R- Red, O-Orange, Y- Yellow, G- Green, B- Blue, I- Indigo, and V- Violet
Also known as the Color Spectrum! Draw a rainbow using those colors. | 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! | **Today’s color is red.** Get your heart rate up by doing jumping jacks! Have your child spell their name or count while they jump. | **Today’s color is yellow.** Think of all the flowers that have yellow in them. Did you know the state flower is the Black-Eyed Susan? Have you ever seen one? | **The color of the day is gray.** 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? | **The color of the day is blue like the sea.** Sing A Sailor Went to Sea 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. | Visit Your Library! Check out some books from this month’s booklist. If possible, get I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More!, Kitten’s First Full Moon, Little Black Crow and Mr. Tiger Goes Wild. |
| Make some paint from yogurt and food coloring! If you don’t have yogurt, use shaving cream. If you have a copy, read I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More! | Make little snowmen out of cotton balls and practice your counting. What are your favorite things that are white? | Make Valentine cards together. Give them to people in your family or to your friends. | **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! | **Today’s color is plum.** 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!” | **Today’s colors are black and white.** Some books are illustrated in only black and white. Look through your books to find one. If you have a copy, read Kitten’s First Full Moon. Ask your child to tell you the story. | Color Storytime! Pretend you’re a librarian and have a story time for your family and stuffed animals. |
| **Today’s color is brown.** Make up a teddy bear action rhyme! For young ones, try bouncing them up and down and clapping hands. | Try saying this tongue twister five times: She sells sea shells by the sea shore! | **The color for the day is navy blue.** 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. | **The color of the day is lime green.** Talk about all the things that grow! How many are lime green? | **Today’s color is gold.** 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! | **Make bubbles with dish soap & water.** What colors are your bubbles? Sing a song about bubbles while you pop them! | |
| **Today’s color is tan.** Go outside or look outside and see what kinds of birds you can see. Do you see any birds that are black? If you have a copy, read Little Black Crow. | **Today’s colors are pastels.** 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. | **The colors for today are silver and gold.** 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. | **Today’s color is orange.** Read Mr. Tiger Goes Wild. Talk about his feelings throughout the book. How did the book make you feel? | **Multi-color day!** 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. | **Today’s color is pink.** Do This Little Piggie on your child’s fingers or toes. | |
| **Today’s colors are neon- which are very bright shades.** 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! | Use your yogurt paint from earlier this month and place it in zip lock bags. Seal them with as little air as possible. Your child can practice writing their letters on the bag. | 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. | **Can you make a butterfly out of shades of purple?** Try making different shades of purple paint and then paint some butterflies. | **Primary colors** 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! | **An Alphabet of Colors!** Starting with A, go through the alphabet and see if you and your child can name a color for every letter! | |

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**Maryland Spotlight: Jerdine Nolen** Born in Mississippi and raised in Illinois, Jerdine Nolen now calls Maryland home. She has always loved words and writing and has spent her life as an educator and children's book author. She has written many picture books, including In My Momma's Kitchen, Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life, and the Plantzilla series; early chapter books, including the Bradford Street Buddies and Max & Jax series; and middle grade novels, including Eliza's Freedom Road and Calico Girl. Look for Nolen's picture book, Freedom Bird, in 2020. Many of her books have been chosen as nominees or winners of state books awards and have been noted in the children's publishing world as a Best Book of the Year. Nolen states, "Stories help us examine the world we live in. Stories give us answers and insights to questions no one person can answer on their own—stories help us share our lives."
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.

Seek & Find

A Beach Ball
Flying Boots
A Mouse Kite
Lunch for a Worm
A Sniffing Bee
A Mouse In a Pocket
Reading a Book
A Nesting Bird
A Purple Crocus

Books to Read

All the World
by Liz Garton Scanlon

Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months
by Maurice Sendak

The Curious Garden
by Peter Brown

Flotsam
by David Wiesner

In the Small, Small Pond
by Denise Fleming

Kite Day
by Will Hillenbrand

Leaf Man
by Lois Ehlert

Mouse's First Fall
by Lauren Thompson

My Garden
by Kevin Henkes

Snow
by Uri Shulevitz

The Snowy Day
by Ezra Jack Keats

Winter is the Warmest Season
by Lauren Stringer

Maryland Spotlight: Kevin O’Malley

In 4th grade, Kevin O’Malley knew he wanted to illustrate children’s books. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, Kevin is the beloved illustrator of over 75 books full of personality and humor, including Straight to the Pole, Roller Coaster, and the popular Miss Malarkey series. He lives in Baltimore.
### March: Seasons

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<tr>
<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
<td>Teach your child about the four seasons. Help them learn the names of each one and what it looks like as the seasons change.</td>
<td><strong>Take a Walk Outside</strong></td>
<td>See what you can find to count: sticks, petals of flowers that have fallen, leaves, or acorns. Can you see any signs of springs?</td>
<td><strong>It's March into Literacy Month</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sing a Song of Spring!</strong></td>
<td>Talk about daylight saving times and why we “spring ahead” an hour. Have your child help you change the clocks.</td>
<td><strong>Create your own piece of art and display it in your home!</strong></td>
<td><strong>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!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong></td>
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<td>Pretend to be falling leaves! Talk about why leaves fall off the trees.</td>
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<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
<td><strong>It’s Youth Art Month.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about how some animals migrate south for the winter. Explain south by showing your child on a map or globe.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Try to have a picnic today at a local park, in your yard, or even inside your house!</strong></td>
<td><strong>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!</strong></td>
<td><strong>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?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about how the weather changes each season.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Say a word and have your child tell you the opposite (big, small, happy, sad.)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about the different clothes you wear each season. Do animals wear clothes? What is your favorite furry animal and why?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kite Day!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make a mini kite with paper, popsicle sticks, and string. How do you think a kite works? If you have a copy, read Kite Day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice jumping and hopping on one foot. Create a rhyme as you hop and jump.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Play Simon Says. Take turns with your child.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Music in Our Schools Month.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Find things that are red, orange or yellow, like leaves in the fall.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice jumping and hopping on one foot. Create a rhyme as you hop and jump.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Play Simon Says. Take turns with your child.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong></td>
<td><strong>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.”</strong></td>
<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Science Day!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Higglety pigglety pop, The dog has eaten the mop! The pig’s in a hurry, The cat’s in a flurry, Higglety, pigglety, pop!</strong></td>
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In 1986, Baltimore County Public Library created Sneaks the Cat as its Summer Reading Club mascot. In 1999, Sneaks became the official face of summer reading to over half of the public library systems in Maryland. Today, Sneaks is the popular mascot of summer reading in public libraries throughout Maryland.

**Books to Read**
- *Book! Book! Book!* by Deborah Bruss
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr
- *The Library* by Sarah Stewart
- *Library Mouse* by Daniel Kirk
- *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen
- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *Miss Brooks Loves Books (And I Don’t)* by Barbara Bottner
- *The Neighborhood Mother Goose* by Nina Crews
- *Rocket Writes A Story* by Tedd Hurley
- *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead
- *We Are in a Book! (An Elephant and Piggie Book)* by Mo Willems
- *Wild About Books!* by Judy Sierra
- *Spanish-Language Books*
  - *Book Fiesta* by Pat Mora
  - *Fiesta Babies* by Carmen Tafolla
  - *Gorrion Del Metro* by Leyla Torres
  - *Gracias/Thanks* by Pat Mora
  - *Just a Minute! A Trickster Tale and Counting Book* by Yuyi Morales
  - *Magic Windows/Ventanas Magicas* by Carmen Lomas Garza
  - *My Abuelita* by Tony Johnston
  - *My Name is Celia* by Monica Brown
  - *The Day of the Dead/El Dia de los Muertos* by Bob Barner
  - *Wild About Books!* by Judy Sierra
  - *The Day of the Dead/El Dia de los Muertos* by Bob Barner

**Sneaks the Cat**
- *MD Summer Reading Mascot*

In 1986, Baltimore County Public Library created Sneaks the Cat as its Summer Reading Club mascot. In 1999, Sneaks became the official face of summer reading to over half of the public library systems in Maryland. Today, Sneaks is the popular mascot of summer reading in public libraries throughout Maryland.

Sneaks photo courtesy of BCPL

**Seek & Find**
- *A Raven Reading*
- *A Mouse on a Tower*
- *A Happy Sailor*
- *A Chugging Train*
- *A Knee Patch*
- *A Cowboy Hat*
- *A Log Cabin*
- *A Bird Saying Hello*
- *A Statehouse Dome*
### April: Reading

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<tr>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hey diddle diddle&lt;br&gt;The cat and the fiddle,&lt;br&gt;The cow jumped over the moon;&lt;br&gt;The little dog laughed&lt;br&gt;To see such sport,&lt;br&gt;And the dish ran away with the spoon.</td>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong>&lt;br&gt;All around the mulberry bush&lt;br&gt;The monkey chased the weasel&lt;br&gt;The monkey stopped to pull up his socks&lt;br&gt;Pop! Goes the weasel.&lt;br&gt;Can you work on writing your own story together? You can add to it every day this month.</td>
<td><strong>What is April Fool’s Day?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tell a story about someone who plays a trick or joke.</td>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall.&lt;br&gt;Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.&lt;br&gt;All the king’s horses&lt;br&gt;All the king’s men.&lt;br&gt;Couldn’t put Humpty together again.&lt;br&gt;What did you learn about the different jobs the peas do? Look for the red ladybug on each page!</td>
<td><strong>ABC</strong>&lt;br&gt;PRACTICE SINGING THE ABC’S. TALK ABOUT THE DIFFERENT JOBS THE PEAS DO?&lt;br&gt;What are the different jobs the peas do? Look for the red ladybug on each page!</td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Celebrate National Library Week by checking out some books. If possible, get LMNO Peas, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Library Mouse, Rocket Writes a Story, and Wild About Books.</td>
<td><strong>Go outside and look up at the clouds. Do they look like animals, shapes or something else?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Read a story and then act it out using puppets, dolls, or stuffed animals.</td>
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Finger Play: I Have a Little Turtle

I have a little turtle (cup hands)
He lives inside a box,
He swims in his puddle,
And climbs up on his rocks.

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)
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! (shake head and wave finger)

Books to Read

Bark, George by Jules Feiffer
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen
The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
Peek-a-Moo! by Marie Torres Cimarusti
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy E. Shaw
Those Darn Squirrels! by Adam Rubin
We’re Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? by Robert Page
What’s Your Favorite Animal? by Eric Carle
When Dinosaurs Came with Everything by Else Broach

Seek & Find

A Toe In Danger
A Sailboat
A Mother Otter
A Piggyback Ride
Three Dragonflies
A Curious Oyster
A Pair of Dolphins
A Heron Chick Hiding
A Very Long Bridge
**May: Animals**

**Assateague Island** is a 37-mile barrier island located off the eastern coast of the Delmarva peninsula. The northern two-thirds of the island is in Maryland; the southern third is in Virginia. The Maryland section contains the majority of Assateague Island National Seashore and Assateague State Park. In addition to its beaches and the Assateague Lighthouse, this island is best known for its herds of Assateague ponies, who have roamed the beaches, pine forest, and salt marsh since the 1600s.

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<tr>
<td><strong>Make an animal collage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Song Day!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice the sounds that animals make.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lion Sleeps Tonight.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Play leap frog with your child.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Our state bird is the Baltimore Oriole and the state dog is a</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut out pictures of animals or draw some pictures and paste them on a big piece of paper.</td>
<td>Sing Old MacDonald Had a Farm. Sing as many animals as you can think of!</td>
<td>Make up a story about an animal. Where do they live? What kinds of animal friends do they have? Draw pictures to go along with your story.</td>
<td>Make up a story about the little turtle from the finger play I Have a Little Turtle. Do the finger play when you’re finished drawing the picture.</td>
<td>Play about why it is called leap frog.</td>
<td>the Chesapeake Bay Retriever. Draw a picture of what you think these look like.</td>
<td>Check out some books from this month's list. If possible, get <em>Sheep in a Jeep</em> and <em>The Lion &amp; the Mouse.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Can you think of words or sounds that rhyme with the word sheep?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Help your child make a card for Mother’s Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count the number of different animals you can find on packaging, clothing, or other things around you.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Draw a picture of the little turtle from the finger play I Have a Little Turtle. Do the finger play when you’re finished drawing the picture.</strong></td>
<td><strong>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 <em>The Lion &amp; the Mouse.</em></strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice singing your ABC’s today! Can you think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make thumb-print animals!</strong></td>
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<td>If you have a copy, read <em>Sheep in a Jeep.</em> Practice making the sounds in the book.</td>
<td>Help your child make a card for Mother’s Day—you can include grandmothers, godmothers, or friends’ mothers.</td>
<td>Count the number of different animals you can find on packaging, clothing, or other things around you.</td>
<td>Draw a picture of the little turtle from the finger play <em>I Have a Little Turtle.</em> Do the finger play when you’re finished drawing the picture.</td>
<td>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 <em>The Lion &amp; the Mouse.</em></td>
<td>Practice singing your ABC’s today! Can you think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet?</td>
<td><strong>Cut strips of paper and make bookmarks for your friends and family.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dance to songs with animals in the title like Hound Dog and The Lion Sleeps Tonight.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take turns pretending to be different animals and guess which animal the other person is pretending to be.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Salt Dough Animals!</strong> Get out your salt dough or play dough and make some animals!</td>
<td><strong>Play Which is bigger? using animals.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mother Goose Time!</strong> Hickory, dickory, dare, The pig flew up in the air; The man in brown, Soon brought him down, Hickory, dickory, dare.</td>
<td><strong>Let’s Pretend</strong> What animal would you be and why?</td>
<td><strong>It’s Children’s Book Week!</strong> If you can’t visit your library make your own book! Don’t forget to draw pictures to go along with the story.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Talk about what kinds of animals live in our state. Visit dnr.maryland.gov to learn more about which animals live in Maryland.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about the names of baby animals: kitten, puppy, lamb, colt, etc.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make a poster about insects! Don’t forget to include colorful ones like ladybugs and butterflies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>What animals live under water? Make your best fishy face!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about how eggs come from chickens. Decorate an egg with markers. Don’t forget to use it before it spoils!</strong></td>
<td><strong>The author of <em>The Wizard of Oz</em> was born this month. Draw a picture of the lion!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Look through a magazine or book for animals found in other words like coward, crabby, or catastrophe.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What are some cold weather animals? Talk about animals that live in the snow and draw your favorite!</strong></td>
<td><strong>What kind of animals live in the jungle? Can you make up a story about these animals?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Do you know the sounds the jungle animals in your story from yesterday make? Take turns making the animal’s sounds!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Together, write a poem about your pet or what your favorite animal does all day.</strong></td>
<td>**Make up a finger play to <em>The Quiet Mouse.</em> Once there lived a quiet mouse. He lived inside a quiet house. When all was quiet as could be, OUT POPPED HE!*”</td>
<td>**Make up a finger play to <em>The Quiet Mouse.</em> Once there lived a quiet mouse. He lived inside a quiet house. When all was quiet as could be, OUT POPPED HE!*”</td>
<td><strong>Library!</strong></td>
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"OUT POPPED HE!*”
**Books to Read**

- *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff
- *Jamberry* by Bruce Degen
- *Lemons Are Not Red* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- *Little Pea* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak
- *Orange Pear Apple Bear* by Emily Gravett
- *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown
- *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Watermelon Seed* by Greg Pizzoli
- *We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past* by Jacqueline Woodson

**Maryland’s Best — Homegrown By Heroes**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has partnered with the Farmer Veteran Coalition and MidAtlantic Farm Credit to create the Maryland’s Best — Homegrown By Heroes Program.

This program supports Maryland veteran farmers’ efforts to produce local, fresh produce by brand- ing products with the Maryland’s Best — Homegrown By Heroes logo.

**Seek & Find Healthy Foods**

- Cherries
- Lettuce
- Tomatoes
- Spinach
- Carrots
- Strawberries
- Whole Grain Bread

- Beets
- Peas
- Apple
- Celery
- Grapes
- Kale
### June: Food

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<td>Make popsicles by putting juice into ice cube trays and placing a toothpick in each cube. Freeze and eat!</td>
<td>Talk about the Food Plate from January. Does your child remember the different foods that we should eat every day?</td>
<td>Pick a letter and eat three foods with that letter. Talk about why they are good for you when you eat them.</td>
<td>Make a card for a father, friend’s father, or grandfather today.</td>
<td>Science Day! 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.</td>
<td>Find a package of dried beans. Use them to practice counting. You can use them again later in the month.</td>
<td>Visit Your Library! Check out some of the great books about food listed above! If possible, get If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, The Watermelon Seed, Jamberry, and Little Pea.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make up a story about what you think would happen if you gave a mouse a cookie. If you have a copy, read If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.</td>
<td>Use animal crackers to host an animal cracker circus!</td>
<td>Talk about foods and flavors enjoyed in Maryland. Do you know how to make crab cakes or a Smith Island cake? Have you tried Old Bay seasoning? Explore these tastes.</td>
<td>Read one of the books about food from the library. When you are done, have your child retell you the story.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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?</td>
<td>When you go to the store, spend time pointing out the color of the foods and their names.</td>
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<td>Talk about yesterday’s picnic. Describe some of the foods you ate. What different colors did you eat and what shapes?</td>
<td>Cows are wonderful! Enjoy a glass of milk and draw a picture of a cow family.</td>
<td>Go outside and make mud pies. Count them forwards and backwards but don’t eat them!</td>
<td>Eat an apple or watermelon and count the seeds. If you have a copy, read The Watermelon Seed.</td>
<td>Science Day! 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.</td>
<td>Try and visit a local farm or farmer’s market today to see what foods are growing locally. Have you eaten any of them before?</td>
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<td>Bake something together! If you can’t bake, pretend! Practice measuring ingredients.</td>
<td>Make a food alphabet book. Fold over paper, and either draw or cut out pictures of food items.</td>
<td>Science Day! Talk about taste buds. Find items around your house that taste different, such as salty, sweet, and sour. What is your favorite?</td>
<td>How many different types of berries can you think of? How many have you eaten before? If you have a copy, read Jamberry.</td>
<td>Song Day! 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.</td>
<td>Spend some time making a meal together. Talk about what kinds of food you are making and let your child help.</td>
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<td>Go outside and march around to The Farmer in the Dell. 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.</td>
<td>Find a can or box in the house and use it to practice reviewing the alphabet.</td>
<td>Make a paper plate pizza. Use a paper plate as the pizza and you can draw or cut out shapes to “make” the toppings.</td>
<td>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!</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! Mr. East gave a feast; Mr. North laid the cloth; Mr. West did his best; Mr. South burned his mouth, eating a cold potato.</td>
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<td>Eat a rainbow! Try to eat something red, orange, yellow, green, and blue today!</td>
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Books to Read

Angelina Ballerina by Katharine Holabird
Bats in the Band by Brian Lies
Ben’s Trumpet by Rachel Isadora
Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett
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
Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman
Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs by Alan Katz
Tito Puente, Mambo King by Monica Brown
The Wheels on the Bus by Paul O. Zelinsky
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin by Lloyd Moss

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. A recommended list of children’s music is also included in the back of this calendar.

Seek & Find

Insects & Instruments

Praying Mantises
Cicada
Grasshopper
Cricket
Beetle
Caterpillar
Butterfly
Dragonfly
Ladybug
Ant
Bumble Bee

Bongo Drum
Maracas
Violin
Flute
Banjo
Snare Drum
Clarinet
Tambourine
Tuba
Trumpet
Kazoo
"Music is as inherently motor as it is auditory. Many of us ‘conduct’ while listening to classical music. hum along with show tunes, or dance to popular music.”

–Dr. Mark Jude Tramo, musician and scientist

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| ![Mother Goose Time!](image1) | Mother Goose Time!  
Little Bay 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.  
Go outside together and jump rope or do some jumping jacks. Sing songs as you jump.  
Put on some music and find the rhythm. Practice clapping to the beat.  
Play musical chairs. Change the rules to fit how many players you have.  
Talk a walk outside and listen to nature’s music. Try to identify who or what is making each sound.  
Read a book together and point out any unusual words. Talk about what they mean.  
Put on some music while you bake something together. | Song a patriotic song such as This Land is Your Land or The Star Spangled Banner.  
Sing and act out The Noble Duke of York.  
Have your child make up their own song and help them write down the lyrics.  
Read a book and stop halfway through. Have your child guess what will happen before you read the rest of the book. | Talk about musical theater. If you have a favorite musical, sing or play some of the music for your child.  
Create a dance to your favorite song. Talk about what makes that song your favorite.  
Play some classical music and dance to it. If you have a copy, read Flora and the Flamingo and try to copy the flamingo like Flora tries.  
What in your house can become a musical instrument? Look around and make some music.  
Play some quiet music and stretch along to it. Count quietly as you stretch together.  
Science Day!  
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.  
Mother Goose Time!  
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!  
Bath Time!  
Sing and do the motions to Where is Thumbkin? Have the finger family run away under the water. | Count out ten dry beans or pieces of uncooked pasta. Put them between two paper plates and staple the plates together to make a rattle.  
Song Day! Sing and do the motions to Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.  
Song Day! Sing a lullaby together at bedtime such as Rock-a-bye Baby.  
Song Day! Sing and do the motions to Five Little Speckled Frogs. | Visit Your Library!  
Check out some books about music and dance. If possible get Flora and the Flamingo and Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin from this month’s booklist.  
Take Me Out to the Ballgame together.  
Visit Your Library! Sing and dance to The Hokey Pokey.  
Visit Your Library! Sing and dance to The Wheels on the Bus.  
Visit Your Library!  
Visit Your Library! Sing and do the motions to Five Little Speckled Frogs.  
Visit Your Library! Sing and dance to The Hokey Pokey. |
“We cannot create what we can’t imagine.”
–Lucille Clifton, 1936-2010

Books to Read

The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse
by Eric Carl

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type
by Doreen Cronin

Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
by Mo Willems

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett

Harold and the Purple Crayon
by Crockett Johnson

It Looked Like Spilt Milk
by Charles G. Shaw

Journey by Aaron Becker

Pete’s a Pizza by William Steig

Press Here by Herve Tullet

Quinnie Blue by Dinah Johnson

Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner

Stuck by Oliver Jeffers

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

Where the Wild Things Are
by Maurice Sendak

Seek & Find

Deep Sea Adventure

A Spouting Whale
A Spying Whale and a Seagull
Feeding a Big Fish
Juvenile Jellyfish
Riding a Seahorse
X Marks the Spot
Sleeping Baby Octopus
A Pirate Hook
Storytime for Starfish
Flying Ray
Circling Sharks
The Planet Saturn
August: Imagination

“Once you learn to read you are forever free.” —Frederick Douglass, 1818-1895

Born in Maryland in Talbot County, Frederick Douglass escaped a life of slavery in 1838 and spent the rest of his life as an abolitionist, author, and public speaker on human rights. At an early age he realized the importance of reading as a way toward freedom.

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<tr>
<td>Talk about what the word imagination means. Point out and say aloud each letter in the word “imagination.”</td>
<td>Make a fort or castle with blankets and play in it together.</td>
<td>Have your child imagine what it might be like to live on the moon. Have them draw a picture of what they imagine.</td>
<td>Have your child pretend to be a bird such as a sandpiper and fly around the house.</td>
<td>Make a hat out of things in your house. Decide where or for what event your child would wear their hat.</td>
<td>Song Day! Have a real or imaginary tea party with your child and sing “I’m a Little Teapot.”</td>
<td>Visit Your Library! Check out some books about imagination. If possible get Harold and the Purple Crayon, It Looked Like Spilt Milk and Pete’s a Pizza from this month’s booklist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go outside, lie on the ground, and look up at the clouds. What shapes do you see? If you have a copy, read It Looked Like Spilt Milk.</td>
<td>Make up a recipe together and cook something fun. Try to use healthy ingredients.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Use a broom or stick as a pretend horse. Ride your horse around the house, driveway or yard.</td>
<td>Make up a song about the month of August and sing it together.</td>
<td>Bath Time! Bring some objects with you into the bath. Use them to tell a story about their life in the water.</td>
<td>Pretend to make a pizza. If you have a copy, read Pete’s a Pizza or any book about pizza. Act out the book after you read it together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read a book and ask your child to imagine what would have happened if the characters in the story made different choices.</td>
<td>Science Day! Pretend that you are seeds planted in the ground and then grow into a flower. Talk about what seeds need to grow.</td>
<td>Paint on the sidewalk or driveway with water and watch it evaporate.</td>
<td>Make bubble solution (recipe in the back). Sit outside and blow bubbles. Look for shapes in the bubbles that float by.</td>
<td>Set up a pretend kitchen and cook something with your child.</td>
<td>Song Day! Sing and do the motions to London Bridge.</td>
<td>Make a guessing box from an empty tissue box. Pick out items together to put in the box. Let your child put his hand into the box and without looking, guess what each object is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use your imagination to go on a Maryland trip. Where would you go and what would you see? Use the state map in the back of this calendar and plan your pretend trip.</td>
<td>Read a book together. Have your child imagine what happens after the book ends.</td>
<td>Use dolls, action figures, or stuffed animals to act out a story.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! Hickory, Dickory, Dock! The mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one. The mouse ran down. Hickory, Dickory, Dock.</td>
<td>Sing a real or imaginary tea party with your child and sing I’m a Little Teapot.</td>
<td>Dough Animals! 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.</td>
<td>I Spy Outside Take a walk outside and play I Spy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play dress up using old clothes. Put on a little show in costume.</td>
<td>Imagine that a laundry basket or box is a car for your child. Make car noises and drive them around the house.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! Star light, star bright, the first star I see tonight; I wish I may, I wish I might, Have the wish I wish tonight.</td>
<td>Ask your child what kind of pet they would have if they could have any animal in the world.</td>
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<td>Cover the floor with paper and have everyone make one large picture together.</td>
<td>Read a fairytale together. If you don’t have any fairytale books, make up your own story about a character from a fairytale.</td>
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Books to Read

Alphabatics by Suse MacDonald
Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson
AlphOops! The Day Z Went First by Alethea Kontis
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Curious George Learns the Alphabet by H. A. Rey
Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert
The Graphic Alphabet by David Pelletier
The Hidden Alphabet by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
I Stink! by Kate McMullan
Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book by Muriel Feelings
Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth
Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC by June Sobel
The Sleepy Little Alphabet by Judy Sierra

American Sign Language Alphabet

Seek & Find Alphabet
Find all the things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. There is a list of 100 words on the last page of the calendar.
### September: Letters

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Make an ABC Book</td>
<td>A is for Apple</td>
<td>B is for Bumblebee</td>
<td>C is for Cup</td>
<td>D is for Dig</td>
<td>E is for Exercise</td>
<td>Visit Your Library!</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Eat an apple and count the seeds.</td>
<td>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!</td>
<td>Make a tower using paper or plastic cups. How high can you go?</td>
<td>Fill a small container with dirt or rice and hide objects in it. Have your child dig for treasure!</td>
<td>Touch your toes, do some jumping jacks and, stretch your arms up high. Feel your body move and breathe!</td>
<td>Check out some alphabet books. If possible get Eating the Alphabet and Shiver Me Letters from this month’s booklist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for Letters</td>
<td>F is for Fruit</td>
<td>G is for Grandparents</td>
<td>H is for Honey</td>
<td>I is for Ice</td>
<td>J is for Jack and Jill</td>
<td>Letters Ahoy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read one of your library books. Help your child find the letters of their name in the words of the book.</td>
<td>Talk about your favorite fruits and then make some fruit salad together.</td>
<td>Tell your child a story about their grandparent or have a grandparent tell a story themselves.</td>
<td>Melt ice cubes and talk about temperature. Have your child list things that are hot and things that are cold.</td>
<td>Melt ice cubes and talk about temperature. Have your child list things that are hot and things that are cold.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Talk like a pirate day! If you have a copy, read Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dough Spelling!</td>
<td>K is for King</td>
<td>L is for Leaves</td>
<td>M is for Music</td>
<td>N is for Noodle</td>
<td>O is for Origami</td>
<td>Eat Your Letters!</td>
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<td>Make salt dough or play dough and use it to spell out your name.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Take a walk outside and look for leaves. Try to find ten different kinds of leaves.</td>
<td>Sing the Alphabet Song together. Try singing it while doing the American Sign Language letters (above.)</td>
<td>Help your child spell their name or make the alphabet using spaghetti noodles.</td>
<td>Origami is the Japanese art of making objects by folding paper. Help your child fold a paper airplane.</td>
<td>Have a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables. If you have a copy, read Eating the Alphabet for inspiration!</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Spy Letters</td>
<td>P is for Pat-a-cake</td>
<td>Q is for Quilt</td>
<td>R is for Ring Around the Rosie</td>
<td>S is for Sign Language</td>
<td>T is for Treasure Hunt</td>
<td>Sign Your Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point out the letters you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</td>
<td>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!</td>
<td>Draw a family quilt on paper and have each family member decorate one or more squares.</td>
<td>Ring around the rosie. A pocketful of posies “Ashes, Ashes” we all fall down!</td>
<td>Explain the idea of sign language. Teach them to say I love you.</td>
<td>Find objects around the house that start with each letter of the alphabet.</td>
<td>Using the guide above, practice spelling out your child’s name in American Sign Language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tell the Story</td>
<td>U is for Umbrella</td>
<td>V is for Vegetables</td>
<td>W is for Wash</td>
<td>X is for X-marks-the-spot</td>
<td>Y is for Yellow</td>
<td>Z is for Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose your favorite alphabet book to look at together. Have your child tell the story by looking at the illustrations.</td>
<td>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!</td>
<td>Name a vegetable that starts with each letter of the alphabet.</td>
<td>Make paint with shaving cream mixed with a few drops of food coloring. Paint with it in the tub during bath time.</td>
<td>Find your country, state and city on a map. Draw a map of your neighborhood.</td>
<td>Point out all the yellow objects you see throughout the day.</td>
<td>Write a list of animals you may see at the zoo. Draw or paint a picture of your favorite zoo animal.</td>
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Seek & Find

The mice are playing hide and seek. How many mice can you find? Count them. Don’t miss any!

Maryland Spotlight: Laura Gehl

Laura is a former science teacher who loves visiting schools, providing interactive, prop-filled presentations. She is the author of many award-winning books, including One Big Pair of Underwear, Hare and Tortoise Race Across Israel, And Then Another Sheep Turned Up, Koala Challah, the Peep and Egg series, My Pillow Keeps Moving, I Got a Chicken for my Birthday, and Delivery Bear. Upcoming releases include Except When They Don’t, Dibs!, Juniper Kai: Super Spy, and the Baby Scientist series. Laura lives in Maryland with her husband, four children, and a large stash of dark chocolate.

Books to Read

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker
Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3 by Bill Martin Jr.
Count Down to Fall by Fran Hawk
Fiesta! by Ginger Roglesong Guy
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Ellen Christelow
How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten? by Jane Yolen
How Much is a Million? by David M. Schwartz

Mouse Count by Ellen Stoll Walsh
One Hundred Hungry Ants by Elinor J. Pinczes
Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews
Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood
Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang
### October: Numbers

**“Poetry is a matter of life, not just a matter of language.” – Lucille Clifton, 1936-2010**

Born in 1936, award-winning author, Lucille Clifton, was Maryland’s poet laureate from 1974-1985. In her work, she focused on the African-American experience and family life. She also wrote many children’s books, designed to help children better understand their world. Her most famous character was Everett Anderson, an African-American boy living in a big city. Clifton wrote eight Everett Anderson titles, including Everett Anderson’s Goodbye (1984), which won the Coretta Scott King Award. Clifton believed that “Poetry is a matter of life, not just a matter of language.” She died in 2010.

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<tr>
<td>Help your child write out the numbers 1 to 10. Use this sheet throughout the month to practice counting.</td>
<td>How tall are you? Measure each family member today and again at the end of the month.</td>
<td>It’s Popcorn Poppin’ Month!</td>
<td>Song Day! One potato, two potato, three potato, four, five potato, six potato, seven potato, more!</td>
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<td>Draw a picture with ten black dots. If you have a copy, read Ten Black Dots.</td>
<td>Count the pairs of socks your child has. Talk about other things that come in pairs.</td>
<td>Count by fives and tens as high as your child can go.</td>
<td>Show your child a clock and count the hours. Explain the number of hours in a day.</td>
<td>Science Day! Help your child sort coins into groups by size. Talk about size and which is smaller and which is bigger.</td>
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<td>Number 5 Day! Look for the number five today. If you have a copy, read Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.</td>
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<td>It’s Fire Prevention Month! 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.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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!</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Talk about how much a penny, nickel, dime and quarter are worth and how many of each are in a dollar.</td>
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<td>Choose a new recipe to make together. Point out the different measurements in the recipe.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>With your child count how many books your child owns. Have him choose a few of his favorites to read aloud.</td>
<td>There are 24 counties in Maryland. Count from 1 to 24 together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bath Time! Bring a set of measuring cups or spoons into the bathtub. Practice counting and measuring.</td>
<td>I Spy Numbers Point out the numbers you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</td>
<td>Point out your child’s birthday and those of family members on a calendar. Talk about everyone’s age.</td>
<td>Song Day! Sing songs with numbers such as Five Little Pumpkins or Five Little Ducks.</td>
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<td>Count the number of seeds in a pumpkin, apple or other fruit.</td>
<td>Visit Your Library! Check out some number books. If possible get Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed and Ten Black Dots from this month’s booklist.</td>
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<td>Dough Counting! Make salt dough or play dough and use it to mold the numbers 1 to 10.</td>
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**October:**

**Sunday:**

- Help your child write out the numbers 1 to 10. Use this sheet throughout the month to practice counting.

**Monday:**

- How tall are you? Measure each family member today and again at the end of the month.

**Tuesday:**

- It’s Popcorn Poppin’ Month!
- Pop some popcorn and count how many pieces you eat.

**Wednesday:**

- Song Day! One potato, two potato, three potato, four, five potato, six potato, seven potato, more!

**Thursday:**

- Science Day! Help your child sort coins into groups by size. Talk about size and which is smaller and which is bigger.

**Friday:**

- Help your child count their fingers and toes. Count forwards and backwards.

**Saturday:**

- Visit Your Library! Check out some number books. If possible get *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* and *Ten Black Dots* from this month’s booklist.
Maryland was home to several different Indian tribes when English settlers arrived in the 17th century. The Algonquian-speaking Indians of the Chesapeake Bay and coastal areas including the Lenape, Nanticoke, Piscataway, Assateagues, Powhatan, and Pocomoke Indians. There were also Iroquois-speaking groups such as the Susquehannocks, living in the Piedmont and in the mountains. These tribes were part of the Northeast Woodlands group, living in wigwams or longhouses. They were “hunter-gatherers”; farmers, fishers, and trappers, living off of the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding forests and rivers. Today, Maryland recognizes two tribes: the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe.
### November: Family

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<td>Does your family have favorite foods? Spend time cooking a meal together.</td>
<td>Talk about what kinds of activities you would do if the lights went out. If you have a copy, read Blackout.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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.</td>
<td>Have your child name one thing that makes each member of your family special.</td>
<td>Talk about Veteran’s Day Explain what the word veteran means. Do you have any veterans in your family?</td>
<td>Write a poem about a family of turkeys.</td>
<td>Have a family story time. Have each person choose a favorite book to read.</td>
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<td>Play a game as a family. If you don’t have a game, make one up!</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Song Day! 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.</td>
<td>Science Day! 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.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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.</td>
<td>Trace your hand to make a turkey. Draw a whole family of turkeys for Thanksgiving.</td>
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<td>Talk about some of your family traditions or create a new one.</td>
<td>Have your child tell you a story about a special day they spent with another family member.</td>
<td>Dough Family! Make salt dough or play dough and use it to sculpt models of your family members.</td>
<td>Have each family member share one thing for which they are thankful.</td>
<td>Have each family member draw a self-portrait.</td>
<td>Help your child write and send a letter to a family member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bath Time! 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.</td>
<td>Have your child make up a story about their favorite animal family.</td>
<td>November is National Adoption Month. Talk about how families are similar and different.</td>
<td>Talk about some of the animals in your neighborhood and whether they are part of a family.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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.</td>
<td>Have an older adult or grandparent tell your child a story from their childhood.</td>
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**Maryland Public Libraries: Early Literacy & Learning Spaces**

Maryland public libraries throughout the state provide interactive, fun learning spaces for children and families to foster early literacy skills, family engagement, and school readiness. These areas are specifically designed for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, birth to 5, and encourage interactive play and learning with parents, family members, or caregivers through books, learning toys, and spaces that encourage imagination, language development, motor, STEM, and social skills.
Books to Read

* Bear Feels Scared by Karma Wilson
* Boo’s Dinosaur by Betsy Byars
* Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel
* George and Martha by James Marshall
* Henry and Mudge: The First Book by Cynthia Rylant
* How Do You Hug a Porcupine? by Laurie Bopp
* How Rocket Learned to Read by Tad Hills
* I Will Surprise My Friend! (An Elephant and Piggie Book) by Mo Willems
* Making Friends by Red Rogers
* Mr. Gumpy’s Outing by John Burningham
* My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann
* One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo
* A Weekend with Wendell by Kevin Henkes
* Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka

Everyday Fun to Get Your Child Ready to Read

Many of the daily activities included in this calendar can be adapted for you and your baby. The point of the activities is to have fun learning—feel free to change them to better suit you and your little one. Keep in mind that learning to read begins now—way before your child ever starts school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are by doing the following together everyday:

• Talking       • Singing      • Reading
• Writing        • Playing

Seek & Find

Snowy Day

A Mitten on a Tail       Mouse Whiskers
A Snow Bee               A Snow Bird
A Hat for an Ear         Boot Buttons
A Snow Angel             Bunny Tracks
Hot Chocolate Hot Tub    Snowballs
Marshmallow Snowman      Bird Tracks
**Maryland Spotlight: Mary Amato** Mary Amato is an award winning children’s and YA book author, poet, playwright, and songwriter. Her books have been translated into foreign languages, optioned for television, produced on stage, and have won the children’s choice awards in several states. She teaches popular workshops on writing and the creative process around the country. Among her most recent titles are: *News From Me*, *Lucy McGee; Open Mic Night at Westminster Cemetery*, *Our Teacher is a Vampire and Other (Not) True Stories*, *The Chicken of the Family*, *Please Write in This Book*, and her *Riot Brothers* series. Mary gives voice to the funny, sad, messy, and wondrous stories of life, especially the stories of children and young adults. Her mission is that “each book has humor, heart and grit. I believe that stories lift us, heal us, and connect us.” She lives in Hyattsville, MD.

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<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Talk about why friends are important.</td>
<td>Make up a rhyme about friends and clap out the beat.</td>
<td>The word friend begins with the letter F. What other things begin with F?</td>
<td>Write a poem about a chubby little snowman.</td>
<td>Song Day! 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!</td>
<td>Visit Your Library! Check out some books about friends. If possible get How Rocket Learned to Read and One Cool Friend from this month’s booklist.</td>
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<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Ask your child what animal they would like to bring home from the zoo if they were allowed. If you have a copy, read One Cool Friend.</td>
<td>Make up a story about friends by taking turns and each telling a part.</td>
<td>Science Day! Pretend to be snowflakes, snowballs and snowmen, and then melt. Talk about how temperature affects snow.</td>
<td>Have your child learn about a friend by asking them questions about their family, pets, likes and dislikes.</td>
<td>Talk about how friends can help each other. If you have a copy, read How Rocket Learned to Read.</td>
<td>Invite one of your child’s friends over to play or meet them and their parents at a park or the library.</td>
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<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Tell a story about a special meal you shared with friends, then make a meal together.</td>
<td>Talk about what qualities a good friend should have.</td>
<td>Read one of your library books together. Point out the author’s and illustrator’s names.</td>
<td>Talk about winter in Maryland and how it compares to winter in other places.</td>
<td>Dough Friends! Make salt dough or play dough and use it to shape the letters in the name of a friend.</td>
<td>Song Day! 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!</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Mother Goose Time! 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Help your child cut out paper snowflakes. Tape them to the window or string them together to make a garland to hang.</td>
<td>Dough Friends! Make salt dough or play dough and use it to shape the letters in the name of a friend.</td>
<td>Song Day! Sing it’s a Small World.</td>
<td>Are you having a special family celebration? Talk about your family’s celebrations and traditions.</td>
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<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Help your child practice zipping or buttoning their coat. Take a walk outside together.</td>
<td>Bath Time! Bring some favorite toys or action figure friends into the bathtub. See which float and which sink.</td>
<td>Help your child come up with a New Year’s resolution.</td>
<td>Help your child bring a New Year’s Eve and practice counting backwards from ten.</td>
<td>Read a book and substitute your child’s name and friends’ names for the characters in the story.</td>
<td>Spend time reading books about friends, sharing or holidays.</td>
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<td><img src="https://example.com" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Talk about how animals can be our friends too. Talk about pets you have or other animals your child knows.</td>
<td>Talk about how friends can be a good friend to someone.</td>
<td>Discuss ways your child can be a good friend to someone.</td>
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Maryland Spotlight: Mary Amato

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Choosing Books for Babies

- Board books are popular because they are small and sturdy.
- As your baby learns to grasp things, choose light, washable cloth or vinyl books.
- Choose books with bright, colorful illustrations, geometric shapes, and clear pictures of human faces with high contrast between the picture and the background.
- Choose books with familiar objects or routine events like taking a bath or going to bed.
- As your baby gets older, choose books with textures, things to touch, and flaps to lift.
- Babies of any age enjoy homemade books and family photo albums.
- Mother Goose rhymes are always a good choice.

Books to Read to Little Ones

- Baby Cakes by Karma Wilson
- Baby Faces by Margaret Miller
- Barnyard Dance by Sandra Boynton
- Clap Hands by Helen Oxenbury
- Counting Kisses by Karen Katz
- From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- Hush, Little Baby by Marla Frazee
- I Love Animals by Flora McDonnell
- I Went Walking by Sue Williams
- Itsy Bitsy Spider by Annie Kubler
- Llama Llama Nighty-Night by Anna Dewdney
- “More, More, More,” Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams
- My Very First Mother Goose by Iona Opie
- Piggies by Audrey Wood
- Say Goodnight by Helen Oxenbury
- Time for Bed by Mem Fox

Tips for Sharing Books with Babies

- Set the Mood: Pick a time when you and your child are in a good mood, ready to enjoy your time together. Choose a quiet spot. Turn off the TV and the radio. Your voice is your child’s favorite sound. Babies enjoy a soft, sing-song voice. You don’t even need to read every page or all the words on the page of a book -- talking about one picture or one page is just fine. Singing about a picture or the story is great, too! Even if you can’t sing on key, your child still thinks your voice is beautiful.

- Preparation: Choose books you will enjoy. Don’t worry if you think you are not a good reader yourself. Even if you just talk about the pictures, you and your child will gain the enjoyment from the experience of reading together.

- Participation: Hold your baby in your lap and be sure (s)he can see the pages. Let your baby interact with the book and pages. Ask questions and point out objects. Do not be upset if your baby grabs the book and begins to chew on it. That is normal! If your baby puts a book in his mouth, you might try to gently and slowly take the book away from the baby’s mouth and cheerfully say, “Let’s see what’s inside this book!” If your baby just wants to play with the book, that is fine. Perhaps you can try to read it together later.

- Read Often: Spend time every day reading a book with your baby. Let your baby play with books. Keep a book in your diaper bag so you can pull it out when it is convenient.

Special Information About Babies and Reading

Reading out loud helps babies to associate reading with warm, pleasant feelings. It introduces babies to sounds and rhythms, especially through rhymes like Mother Goose and poetry. Babies make sounds first — gurgling and cooing — which eventually become talking. They point, touch and chew on books, which help to develop their senses. Brain research has shown that your child’s brain is being “wired” continually in the first months and years of his life. This “window of opportunity” is the perfect time to read aloud and share books with your little one.
"Music, Music, Music"

"Music, music, music" are the words to an old song that reminds us that the connection to music is in each one of us. Many studies have shown the incredible impact music can have on a child’s development. Children can respond to music in the womb and, by a few months old, their wiggling and cooing demonstrate their reaction to a particular song, melody or rhythm. By the age of two, the brain signals the body to develop a sense of physical rhythm as well as movement like marching and dancing.

Music is for Every Age

From newborn infants to adults, we all respond and connect to music. Babies under six months tend to use their whole bodies (such as wiggling) if they hear music they like. As they grow older and motor skills begin to develop, they start to clap their hands or shake a rattle. To children, their parent or caregiver’s voice is their favorite sound so it is important to spend time singing with your child.

Sing, dance, play and move with your child throughout each day. As your child grows older, you can expose your child to all different kinds of music including classical, world music, reggae and oldies. Many contemporary and classic songs are filled with wonderful drumming and rhythm sections that inspire dancing.

Many mainstream rock and pop bands release albums for children. Rockabye Baby, for example, is one series that includes instrumental lullaby versions from bands such as Coldplay and Pink Floyd. If you prefer more traditional children’s music, make sure to check your library for the selections recommended in the “Children’s Music to Check Out!” section.

Maryland Spotlight: Mr. Jon (Jon Lewis)

Singer/Songwriter, Jon Lewis, has over two decades of musical experiences that include playing shows in coffee houses, recording music CDs, appearing on a TV show, becoming a finalist in a national song-writing competition, and having international radio play from Belize to Ireland.

In 2009, Jon began working with children at the C. Burr Artz Central Library in Frederick MD, leading to a new direction in his musical career: songwriting and performing regularly for children. Jon and his wife, Carrie, recorded their first album for children and families, Mr. Jon & Friends at a Grammy Award winning studio, Acacia Recording & Production. It quickly became a top seller on CDbaby.com and won a 2013 Parents’ Choice Award. Currently, Mr. Jon plays over 200 shows a year for children. Mr. Jon’s new album, Rock & Rhyme, is also a top seller on CDbaby.com and recipient of another Parents’ Choice Award.

Mr. Jon & Friends make music for children and their families that inspires fun, laughter, and dancing. Sometimes with a band, sometimes as a duo, and sometimes solo -- the music of Mr. Jon & Friends will bring a smile to all who hear. Jon states: "I love the power of music. Such a great way to promote early learning, healthy movements, and connection with others. It’s also super fun for your ears!"

Sing Together!

Try out these alternative words for the song A-B-C, 1-2-3 by the Tokens
(You can sing the fun words together;
Dilly dilly dum dum dum dum dum dilly dilly
Don’t forget to clap your hands and even do the twist!)
A B C D E F G
I’ll Read To You And You Read To Me
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Books Give You Wings — They’re A Bit Of Heaven
7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Books Give You Roots That Reach For The Sun
G F E D C B A
Hooray We’re Going To The Library Today

Children's Music

Anna Moo Crackers by Anna Moo
Baby Loves Hip Hop Presents the Dino-5 by Various Artists
Best of the Laurie Berkner Band by Laurie Berkner
Clap for Love by Little Miss Ann
Family Time by Ziggy Marley
Here Come the 123s by They Might Be Giants
Here Come the ABCs by They Might Be Giants
Jim Gill Sings Moving Rhymes for Modern Times by Jim Gill
Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes by Jim Gill
Kids in Action by Greg & Steve
Kids in Motion by Greg & Steve
Little Songs by Brian Vogan
Raffi The Singable Songs Collection by Raffi
Six Little Ducks by Kimbo
Smithsonian Folkways Children’s Music Collection by Various Artists
SnackTime by the Barenaked Ladies
Time for Music by Raffi
World Playground by Putamayo Presents
Learn About Maryland

Seek & Find

How many counties does Maryland have? Count them.
What states surround Maryland? Name them.
Which counties are in each of Maryland’s Geographical Regions?
What are Maryland’s main bodies of water?
Which county do you live in? Find it on the Map.
**HISTORIC SITES**

**Allegheny**  
Fort Cumberland was a military and economic center during the French and Indian War (1754–63) and figured significantly in the early career of George Washington.

**Anne Arundel**  
Home of the United States Naval Academy, founded in 1845. John Paul Jones is interred here in a crypt in the Naval Academy Chapel.

**Baltimore**  

**Caroline**  
The Lincester Mill was a part of the east/west secret network used to assist freedom seekers.

**Carroll**  
The Lincester Mill is located in Union Mills, MD. The homestead is now a museum of American culture, operated by the Union Mills Homestead Foundation.

**Frederick**  
South Mountain Battlefield was the first major Civil War battle to take place in MD.

**Montgomery**  
The Clara Barton National Historic Site includes the Clara Barton House, established in 1974. Clara Barton was an American pioneer teacher, nurse, and humanitarian, and was the founder of the American Red Cross.

**St. Mary’s**  
St. Mary’s City is home to a living history museum on the site of the first English colony in Maryland.

**Washington**  
The Antietam National Battlefield of the Civil War is located in Sharpsburg, MD.

**PARKS & GARDENS**

**Allegheny**  
Rocky Gap State Park contains 243-acres and is surrounded by mountains and Lake Habeeb, known for having the “bluest water in the state.”

**Caroline**  
Adkins Arboretum is a 400 acre garden dedicated to the diverse, native plants of the Delmarva Peninsula.

**Carroll**  
The Carroll County Farm Museum offers sensational events and family-friendly activities in a nostalgic setting.

**Dorchester**  
Harriet Tubman Memorial Garden features interpretive signs and murals that pay tribute to her and those who traveled to freedom through the Underground Railroad.

**Garrett**  
The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival happens every spring.

**Howard**  
The World of Montgomery Festival happens every October.

**Kent**  
The National Music Festival is held every June.

**Montgomery**  
The National Folk Festival is held every September.

**Prince George’s County**  
The Hispanic Festival is held every September.

**Queen Anne’s**  
Kent Island Day is held every May.

**Somerset**  
The Leitersburg Peach Festival occurs annually in late summer.

**Wicomico**  
The National Folk Festival is held every September.

**Worcester**  
The Jelly Fish Festival is held every June.

**FESTIVALS**

**Alleghany**  
Annual Heritage Days Festival celebrates the start of summer and the history of the area.

**Anne Arundel**  
Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival happens in September at the Annapolis City Dock.

**Baltimore**  
Artscapes is America’s largest free arts festival and is held every July.

**Baltimore County**  
The Maryland State Fair happens annually in late August-early September.

**Calvert**  
American Indian Heritage Day takes place every fall.

**Caroline**  
The Wheat Thrashing Steam & Gas Engine Show occurs in August.

**Carroll**  
The Flower and Jazz Festival is held the second Saturday in May.

**Charles**  
Cobb Island Day is held every June.

**Cecil**  
The Elkton Fall Fest happens every September.

**Dorchester**  
Cambridge Tall Ships Schooner Rendezvous is held every October.

**Frederick**  
Colorfest, one of the largest outdoor craft shows on the East Coast, is held every October.

**Garrett**  
Celtic Festival is held annually in early summer.

**Harford**  
The Darlington Apple Festival is held each October.

**Howard**  
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**Montgomery**  
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**Prince George’s County**  
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Kent Island Day is held every May.

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**FAMOUS PEOPLE**

**Anne Arundel**  
Charles Carroll was one of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence.

**Cecil**  
The Clara Barton House was named after Clara Barton, an American pioneer teacher, nurse, and humanitarian, and was the founder of the American Red Cross.

**Dorchester**  
Harriet Tubman was born into slavery and later utilized the Underground Railroad here.

**Frederick**  
Famed Orioles baseball player Cal "Iron Man" Ripken, was born in Havre de Grace.

**Garrett**  
Famed Orioles baseball player Cal "Iron Man" Ripken, was born in Havre de Grace.

**Harford**  
Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in 1818.

**Howard**  
The National Folk Festival is held every September.

**Kent**  
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**Montgomery**  
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**PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY**  
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**QUEEN ANNE’S**  
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**SOMERSET**  
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**WASHINGTON**  
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**WICOMICO**  
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**WORCESTER**  
The Jelly Fish Festival is held every June.

**WASHINGTON**  
The Antietam National Battlefield of the Civil War is located in Sharpsburg, MD.

**Allegany**  
St. Mary’s City is home to a living history museum on the site of the first English colony in Maryland.

**Baltimore**  
The B & O Railroad Museum denotes the birthplace of American railroading.

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Arts & Crafts
Play Dough
1 cup flour
1 cup water
2 tsp, cream of tartar
1/3 cup salt
1 Tbsp. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Salt Dough
3 cups water
1 cup liquid dish detergent
1 Tbsp. 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.

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

Instructions:
Have your child put the sock on his 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.

Craft Books to Check Out!

Bubble Blowing
Solution
3 cups water
1 cup liquid dish detergent
1 Tbsp. 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.

Little Kid Paper Plate Crafts
by MaryAnn F. Kohl

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. Neuburger

Books About Art to Read Aloud

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

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
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Show Me a Story: 40 Craft Projects and Activities to Spark Children's Storytelling
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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
Find & Visit Your Library!

Did you know that there are over 200 public library branches throughout Maryland and 19 bookmobiles? In 2018, Maryland public libraries offered over 35,000 early literacy programs for children, birth through age 5. Get in on the fun! Find your public library below.

Allegany County Library System | 301.777.1200 | alleganycountylibrary.info
Anne Arundel County Public Library | 410.222.7371 | aacpl.net
Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore City) | 410.396.5395 | prattlibrary.org
Baltimore County Public Library | 410.887.6100 | bcp.info
Calvert Library | 410.535.0291 or 301.855.1862 | calvertlibrary.info
Caroline County Public Library | 410.479.1343 | carolib.org
Carroll County Public Library | 410.386.4488 | library.carr.org
Cecil County Public Library | 410.996.5600 | cecilbranch.info
Charles County Public Library | 301.934.9001 | ccplonline.org
Dorchester County Public Library | 410.228.7331 | dorchesterlibrary.org
Frederick County Public Libraries | 301.600.1630 | fcpl.org
The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County | 301.334.3996 | relib.net
Harford County Public Library | 410.638.3151 | hcponline.org
Howard County Library System | 410.313.7750 | hclibrary.org
Kent County Public Library | 410.778.3636 | kentcountylibrary.org
Montgomery County Public Libraries | 240.777.0016 | montgomerycountymd.gov/library/
Prince George’s County Memorial Library System | 301.699.3500 | pgcmls.info
Queen Anne’s County Library | 410.758.0980 | qclibrary.org
St. Mary’s County Library | 301.475.2846 | stmclibrary.org
Somerset County Library | 410.651.0852 | somlibrary.org
Talbot County Free Library | 410.822.1626 | tcfl.org
Washington County Free Library | 301.739.3250 | washcolibrary.org
Wicomico Public Libraries | 410.749.3612 | wicomicolibraries.org
Worcester County Library | 410.632.2600 | worcesterlibrary.org
MD State Library Resource Center (SLRC) | Enoch Pratt Free Library | 410.396.5429 | slrc.info
MD Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH) | 410-230-2424
http://www.lbph.maryland.gov

Find your local public library at:
marylandlibraries.org

Helpful Contacts & Reading Resources

B’more for Healthy Babies
healthybabiesbaltimore.com

CentroNia, Maryland
301.543.8040
https://www.centronia.org/

Get Ready to Read!
getreadytoread.org

Maryland Public Television - Kids
410.356.5600
mpt.org/kids/

Maryland Book Bank
443.517.9767
mdbookbank.org

Maryland Family Network
410.659.7701
marylandfamilynetwork.org

Maryland Head Start Association
301.744.9472; 443.595.6472
md-hsa.org

MD Department of Agriculture
Maryland’s Best - Homegrown by Heroes
410.841.5779
https://marylandsbest.maryland.gov/
homegrown-by-heroes/

MD State Department of Education
410-767-0100
marylandpublicschools.org

MD Department of the Environment
410-537-3000
mde.maryland.gov

MD Department of Health – Maternal and Child Health Bureau
phpa.health.maryland.gov
410.767.6500

MD Department of Human Services (for Children & Families)
1.800.332.6347
dhs.maryland.gov

MD Department of Natural Resources (Educational Resources)
877.620.8367
dnr.maryland.gov/education

PBS Kids Reading Games
pbskids.org/games/reading

The Peter Rabbit Website
peterrabbit.com

Ready At Five
410.788.5725
readyatfive.org

RIF (Reading is Fundamental)
Leading to Reading
rif.org

Sesame Street Online
sesamestreet.org

Starfall
starfall.com

Storyline
storylineonline.net

Storyplace:
The Children’s Digital Library
storyplace.org
Is Your Child on the Path to School Readiness?

Take the Start Smart Readiness Quiz online:
http://www.theschoolfoundation.org/start-smart/readiness-quiz

Take this quick quiz to evaluate if your 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 year old is developing towards school readiness. Thank you to The School Foundation of Florence County, SC, for making this site available.

Tell us what you think!
Complete our survey about Maryland Day by Day by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link below.
https://tinyurl.com/y3g3bbn2

Acknowledgements

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From Carrie Sanders and the Maryland State Library, we dedicate Maryland Day by Day to families across the state in the hope that you will continue to develop a love for libraries, books, and learning that will last a lifetime.
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