

Kalamazoo Early Learning 2016 Calendar



Kalamazoo
Public Library



Kalamazoo Public Library and the Kalamazoo community are dedicated to the enrichment of your young child. We created this calendar together to show our support for you and your child as you pursue learning together! Please use the activities here to engage your child in alphabet and counting games, color recognition exercises, materials exploration, and much more! You are your child's first teacher and we want to support you!



Kalamazoo
Public Library

kpl.gov



KALAMAZOO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Raymond Harvey - Music Director



College of Education and Human Development
Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic

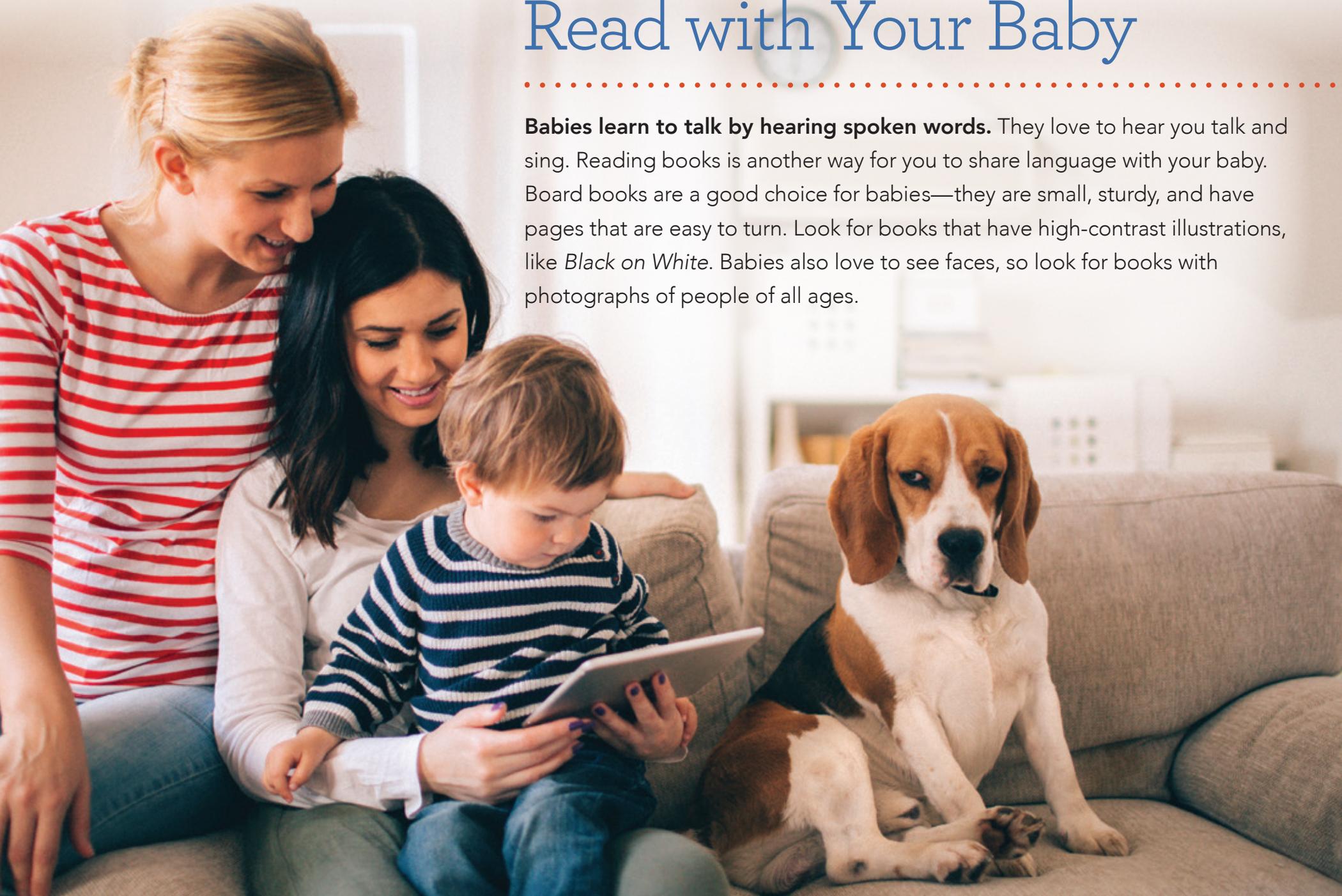


Kalamazoo
RESA
Enhancing your



Read with Your Baby

Babies learn to talk by hearing spoken words. They love to hear you talk and sing. Reading books is another way for you to share language with your baby. Board books are a good choice for babies—they are small, sturdy, and have pages that are easy to turn. Look for books that have high-contrast illustrations, like *Black on White*. Babies also love to see faces, so look for books with photographs of people of all ages.



JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 A is the letter of the day. Draw an A together! Look for A 's today.	2 Talk with your child about their favorite kinds of soup.
3 Build a snowman together!	4 Reading before bed is a time-honored tradition. What other times can you find to read?	5 The color of the day is blue . See how many blue things you can find!	6 Draw shapes in shaving cream! Recognizing shapes is the beginning of recognizing letters and numbers.	7 The shape of the day is a triangle . See how many triangles you can find!	8 Count how many vegetables you eat today. What colors are they?	9 Visit the library with your child. Stay and read awhile.
10 Learn a new word together today. Practice using it.	11 Today is all about the number 1 . See how many 1 's you can find as you go about your day.	12 Sing the alphabet song today. Have fun trying different voices: loud, soft, mad, happy, etc.	13 Dance, dance, dance! Turn on some music and dance with your child!	14 At your home, act out the story of <i>Goldilocks and the Three Bears</i> with stuffed animals.	15 Talk about birthdays. Look at a calendar together and talk about special events.	16 B is the letter of the day. Draw a B together. Look for B 's today.
17 Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Make up your own hand motions to the song.	18 Sign up for KPL's "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. Read 1000 books with your child!	19 Point to words and letters everywhere you go! Help your child know that printed words have meaning!	20 Pretend you are going to the beach. Pack, get dressed, sunbathe and go swimming.	21 Talk about names—first, middle, last. Clap out the syllables of your names together!	22 Cut snowflakes out of paper together and decorate!	23 Sing your favorite song to your child. Ask them what their favorite song is.
24 Read a story together. Talk about the beginning, middle, and end of the story.	25 Count your baby's fingers and toes.	26 Talk about different materials: paper, cloth, wood, metal, etc. Can you find things made of each?	27 Talk with your child about their babyhood. What kinds of things did they do? Say?	28 C is the letter of the day. Draw a C together. Look for C 's today.	29 Sing the alphabet and then sing it backwards!	30 Read a familiar book together! Then let your child "read" the story back to you.
31 Be extra kind to someone today. Help your child think of something you can do for someone else.	1	2	<p>Song/Rhyme: Hickory Dickory Dock</p> <p>Hickory Dickory Dock The mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one. The mouse ran down. Hickory Dickory Dock.</p>			

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

Playing Is Learning

Play is the work of children.

Play brings enjoyment, releases energy, and gives children a way to express themselves. But play goes beyond just being fun—it has developmental benefits as well.

Play encourages creativity and imagination, self-confidence, and problem-solving. It helps kids to understand new concepts and lets them try out new roles. Play increases children's communication skills, vocabulary, and attention. When playing with others, kids learn empathy and cooperation. Don't ever stop playing together!



FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 D is the letter of the day. Draw a D together, trace it with your finger. Look for D 's today.	2 Today is all about the number 2 . See how many 2 's you can find.	3 Make a list together of your family safety rules.	4 A square is the shape of the day. Count how many squares you can find today! 	5 Talk about the parts of a book: title, author, illustrator, and which direction we read it.	6 Wash hands and talk through the proper steps. Make up a song about washing hands.
7 Make a weather book out of paper. Draw pictures of different kinds of weather and talk about it.	8 Practice jumping on 1 foot, then the other. Count your jumps. Clap your hands with each jump.	9 Make signs with descriptive words like "hot," "soft," etc. Tape them up around your house.	10 At the grocery produce section, name all of the colors you can see!	11 Look through a picture book and tell the story without the words. Word-less picture books are fun!	12 Make Valentines together today. Give them to loved ones.	13 Talk about your favorite childhood book with your child. Find it if you can, and read it to them.
14 The color of the day is red . See how many red things you can find!	15 Visit the library with your child sometime this week. Stay and read awhile.	16 E is the letter of the day. Draw an E together! Look for E 's today.	17 Count all the doors and windows in your home. Are there more doors or windows?	18 Sort coins into groups by size. Learn the names of the coins. Which ones are bigger? Worth more?	19 Help with laundry: Let your child fold all of the square things!	20 Go on a nature walk this week! What does winter look like in your neighborhood?
21 Count the socks in your house, singly and in pairs. Talk about things that come in pairs.	22 Mix up all your silverware and let your child sort them out. Sorting is great early math skill practice!	23 Cut out pictures of foods you like from the grocery store ad. Paste them on another piece of paper.	24 Talk with your child about literacy and reading. What does it mean to you? Why is it important?	25 Talk about the best and worst. Keep that conversation going as often as you can!	26 Make a recipe together. Talk about how it smells, looks, and how it will taste.	27 Talk through your baby's day with them. Tell them what you are doing. Build their everyday vocabulary.
28 Make up new words to a familiar song like the ABC song.	29 Jump high, jump low. Leap like a frog!	1	2	3	4	5

Song: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

(Sung to the tune of London Bridge Is Falling Down. Throughout, touch corresponding part of own body.)

Head and shoulders knees and toes,
knees and toes, knees and toes.

Head and shoulders knees and toes,
eyes, ears, mouth, and nose.
Head and shoulders, knees and toes.

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Your child is learning many things every day by playing and exploring with you! Through these experiences, your child is becoming a curious learner, which is an important quality for kindergarten success. Remember that every child is unique, developing skills at her or his own pace. Although there is no perfect formula to determine if your child is ready for kindergarten, there are many resources available to help you make that decision. Talk with your child's pre-K teacher or your local school district to explore your child's readiness. Get excited about learning with your child!

MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	1 Talk about patterns like stripes and spots. Which animals have stripes? Which ones have spots?	2 Start each day at the window and talk about the weather.	3 Today is all about the number 3. See how many 3's you can find as you go about your day.	4 Collect 5 blue items in your house. Talk about shades of colors. Which one is lighter/darker?	5 F is the letter of the day. Draw an F together, trace it with your finger. Look for F's today.
6 Read a book together today. Talk about the author and illustrator. What do they each do?	7 Put glue on a piece of paper, let your child glue noodles on, making shapes and letters!	8 Visit the library with your child sometime this week. Stay and read awhile.	9 The color of the day is purple. See how many purple things you can find!	10 Make a recipe together. Follow the steps together, practice measuring.	11 Play with play dough today. Can you make letters or shapes out of the dough?	12 Show your child how to measure with measuring cups. Let them practice with water or dried beans.
13 Cut out different sized rectangles from paper or fabric. Ask your child which is largest, which is softest?	14 Make a fort and read in it together today.	15 Talk about your day today. What was your favorite part? What part was your least favorite?	16 Let your child help with preparing a meal or snack today. Talk through what you are doing.	17 At the grocery store, tell which things are cold.	18 Gather a variety of jars and containers with lids. Match up the corresponding lids and containers.	19 Gather mystery objects and put them in a bag. Can your child feel the item with their hands and guess what it is?
20 Play some music and dance today!	21 The shape of the day is a rectangle. See how many rectangles you can find.	22 Just for fun, read with a flashlight in the dark. Make shadow puppets or tell each other stories.	23 Talk about sweet, salty, sour, spicy, and bitter. Taste something of each. What do they like best?	24 G is the letter of the day. Draw a G together, trace it with your finger. Look for G's today.	25 Shaving cream and food coloring make "paint" to use in the bathtub!	26 Talk about syllables as the sounds in a word. Clap some words out together. One clap for each syllable.
27 Make something out of a cardboard box and tape.	28 Kids love to help! Give your child a small cloth so he can dust along with you.	29 Make a book of your own. Staple paper together and draw a story. Parents can write in the words.	30 Texture fun: give your child scraps of paper, cardboard, fabrics, etc. Talk about the different textures.	31 Introduce scissors to your child. Demonstrate how to properly hold them and practice cutting.	1	2

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

Fingerplay: Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill
One named Jack (show left hand)
and the other named Jill (show right hand)

Fly away, Jack! (fly left hand behind back)
Fly away, Jill! (fly right hand behind back)
Come back, Jack! (fly left hand back from behind back)
Come back, Jill! (fly right hand back from behind back)

Read with Your Toddler

It's no wonder that toddlers move so fast—now that they are walking they can go, go, go! Choose books that celebrate that wonderful energy and incorporate it into the story. Keep those active toddlers engaged with books that have rhymes, movement, rhythm, and singing.



APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 Visit the library and choose books your child is interested in. Borrow some to bring home!	2 Measure things using a block or other object. Find out how many "blocks" tall your couch is, for example.
3 Play "I Spy" with numbers or letters. Describe the shape of the letters and numbers you find.	4 Today is all about the number 4. See how many 4's you can find as you go about your day.	5 Find a calming place in your house. Encourage your child to visit this place when they need to calm themselves.	6 Do jumping jacks together and count aloud as you go. See how high you can count together!	7 H is the letter of the day. Draw an H together. Look for H's today.	8 Read a book about friendship and talk about how to be a good friend.	9 Cut out pictures of animals from a magazine and glue them on a piece of paper.
10 Talk about choices with your child. Make sure to give choices as often as you can.	11 Learn to say "please" and "thank you" in Spanish. "Por Favor" y "Gracias."	12 Go for a nature walk. When you get back draw a picture of how spring looks in your neighborhood.	13 A circle is the shape of the day. Count how many circles you can find today!	14 Think of 5 things that are heavy. Think of 5 things at the beach. Play this game with other vocabulary words.	15 Show your child what time of day it is at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Talk about which routines happen at which times.	16 Talk about the different shapes and parts of a car. Can you draw a car together?
17 Play restaurant with your child. Pretend play builds vocabulary!	18 Invent a new sandwich or snack together.	19 The color of the day is green! See how many green things you can find.	20 I is the letter of the day. Draw an I together. Look for I's today.	21 Make a picture or a card for a neighbor or friend and give it to them.	22 Sign up for KPL's "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. Read 1000 books with your child!	23 Get out the recycled materials (cardboard, plastic containers, etc.) and tape. Make something together today!
24 String noodles onto string!	25 Have your child draw around a cup, their fingers, round objects, blocks, etc. Great practice for writing!	26 Visit the library with your child sometime this week. Stay and read awhile.	27 Have your child find and circle all the numbers on a cereal box or other food packaging.	28 Write your child's name with dotted line letters. Help her connect the lines to form the letters.	29 Look for happy faces in books, then sad faces. Talk about feelings.	30 Make different faces in the mirror together. Talk about emotions.
1	2	3	<p>For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.</p> <p>Rhyme: Little Bo Peep Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep, And can't tell where to find them. Leave them alone and they'll come home, Wagging their tails behind them.</p>			



Play Outside

Kids of all ages need to get outside.

Babies benefit from stroller walks, where they hear outside noises, experience natural light and breezes, and become familiar with the feeling of moving outside. Toddlers love to watch vehicles go by, and walking and running on the uneven surfaces of grass or sand will let their muscles learn new ways to support their bodies. Preschoolers have fun with seeing all of the new things outside: birds and squirrels, clouds, sticks and stones. Make sure to include some outside time every day, even when it's snowy or rainy.

MAY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Make up a song that rhymes with your child's name.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Have your child help you with the laundry, matching socks and sorting piles.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Find 5 tiny things. Find 5 big things. Find 5 medium-sized things.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Explore a mirror together! Talk about each other's eyes, hair, etc. Can your child point to eyes, nose, etc.?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Today is all about the number 5. How many 5s can you find today? Count things in 5s if you can!</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Make a special date to go with your child to the library to attend a storytime. Stay and read awhile.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>When your child asks you a question, show them how you find the answer in a book or on a website.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Make a chart with different colored squares. Cut out magazine pictures that match the colors in the squares.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Find a big, bright picture. Cut it into 4 pieces (or more) and practice putting it back together.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>J is the letter of the day. Draw a J together. Look for J's today.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Visit www.kpl.gov and find a new book you'd like to read.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Watch KPL's storytime videos at www.kpl.gov. Sing the songs or rhymes together at home!</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Tell the story of The Three Little Pigs. Build a house out of blocks and see if you can blow it over together!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Go for a listening walk! Ask your child to listen and describe the sounds they hear!</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sort pasta or cereal by color and shape. Count the pieces.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Today is a pink day. See how many pink things you can find. Talk about which things are pink.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>K is the letter of the day. Draw a K together. Look for K's today.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Draw a tree and then cut and paste letters onto your letter tree like in <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Take a walk outside and collect treasures like pinecones, flowers, rocks, etc.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pretend to be a mirror: Have your child move their arms, legs, face and copy what they do with your body.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sit outside your house and count how many cars of each color you see.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Practice fine-motor skills by stringing pasta or beads onto a string! Tape the end of the string to make it stiff.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Visit the library with your child sometime this week. Stay and read awhile.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Learn a new word today. Try to use it as much as possible today.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Read familiar stories together. See if your child can tell you what happens next. Pretend you aren't sure!</p>	<p>26</p> <p>A diamond is the shape of the day. Count how many diamonds you can find today! </p>	<p>27</p> <p>Measure your child. Say "I wonder which is taller, you or this table." And then check!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pouring practice: Learn to pour liquids from a pitcher into a glass. Practice with dry rice or beans.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Expand your child's language. When she says "My shoes," you can say "Those are your shiny, red shoes."</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Make egg shakers out of empty plastic eggs and dried beans or rice. Shake yourselves silly with songs!</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Put on some music and move together!</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<div data-bbox="730 1312 1066 1502" data-label="Text"> <p>For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1171 1360 1837 1546" data-label="Text"> <p>Song: The Eentsy Weentsy Spider The eentsy weentsy spider climbed up the water spout Down came the rain and washed the spider out, Out came the sun and dried up all the rain and the Eentsy weentsy spider climbed up the spout again.</p> </div>			

Early Writing Practice

Learning to write starts long before children can hold a pencil properly. Give your child ample opportunities to develop their hand-eye coordination, gross-motor, and fine-motor skills. They'll need all of these skills to hold that pencil steady. Let them practice with pencils, markers, crayons, and safety scissors. Other activities that you can do are:

- Pinching small objects and picking them up.
- Sticking stickers to a sheet of paper.
- Drawing shapes in sand or a bin of rice.
- Threading beads or noodles on a string.
- Tearing paper and gluing it down.



JUNE 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 Sign up for KPL's Summer Reading Program. Earn prizes for reading 20 minutes daily together!	2 Write a thank you note to someone special.	3 L is the letter of the day. Draw an L together. Look for L's today.	4 Read a book together. Show your child the title and author/illustrator. Talk about what those words mean.
5 Talk about the first letter in your child's name. What other things start with that letter? Can you find that letter?	6 Today is all about the number 6. See how many 6's you can find as you go about your day.	7 Practice opposites together: Say a word like "hot" or "happy" and have your child tell you the opposite.	8 Talk a walk together and look for words and numbers.	9 Staple pages together like a book and write a letter on each. Draw together things that start with that letter.	10 Spell your child's name with cooked spaghetti.	11 Visit the library with your child sometime this week. Stay and read awhile.
12 M is the letter of the day. Draw an M together. Look for M's today.	13 Make a list together before going to the store. At the store, mark off the items when you put them in the cart.	14 Sing a rhyming song together.	15 Ask your child what their favorite book is. Then read it together if you have it. If not, retell the story.	16 Cut out different sized ovals out of paper or fabric. Which is largest? Which is softest?	17 Practice buttons and zippers on clothing or on dolls!	18 An oval is the shape of the day. Count how many ovals you can find today!
19 Find your state, county, and city on a map.	20 Make a structure out of toothpicks and marshmallows together. Talk as you build together!	21 Today is an orange day. See how many orange things you can find. Talk about which things are orange .	22 Teach your child how to say "I Love you" in other languages or in sign language.	23 Color a rainbow in ROYGBIV order. Talk about each color. Talk about what makes a rainbow.	24 Paint on the sidewalk with water.	25 Point to the front of a book. How do we know it's the front? Which way does the book go?
26 Count to 10 in English and then in Spanish or another language.	27 Find objects around the house (or anywhere) that start with each letter of the alphabet	28 Make an obstacle course together. Go over, under, around, and through!	29 Read a rhyming book. Talk to your child about rhyming and see if you can find rhymes for some words together.	30 Play "Simon Says."	1	2

3

Fingerplay: Beehive
(Clasp hands together to make a beehive.)
 Here is the beehive. / Where are the bees?
 Hidden away where nobody sees.
(Look closely at beehive)
 Soon they will all come out of the hive.

One, two, three, four, five!
(Hold out fingers in succession as you count.)
 Bzzzzzzzz! *(Separate hands; fly fingers around as if they are bees)*

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.



Play with Books

It's fun to play around with familiar books. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* is a wonderful story to read, but did you know you can also sing the words? Try using the familiar *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* melody with the Brown Bear words. It works! Let your child tell the Brown Bear story in their own words. Or have your child draw a picture to illustrate some of the scenes. Sharing picture books with our kids will help develop their speech and language skills...and it's fun to do something different with the books they already love.

JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1 Hide some "buried" treasure outside or inside. Draw a map to the treasure.	2 Make a birthday card for someone special.
3 Look at family photos together. Explain vocabulary like "family," "grandparents," "uncles" etc.	4 Today is the 4th of July. Count the stars and stripes on the flag. Talk about the colors.	5 Draw on the sidewalk with chalk. Make roads for toy cars to drive on.	6 N is the letter of the day. Draw an N together, trace it with your finger. Look for N's today.	7 Today is all about the number 7. See how many 7's you can find as you go about your day.	8 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	9 Make a ramp: prop up one end of a board or other large flat item. Experiment with how different items "roll" down the ramp.
10 Put on some music and dance with your child. Try different types of dances and get your bodies moving!	11 Form letters with rocks and sticks outside.	12 Keep your baby talking. When he says "goo goo," respond with: "Oh what a great idea!" or "What happens next?"	13 Write a thank you note to someone special.	14 Make play-dough at home: 1 cup flour + ½ cup salt + about a ½ cup of water. Mix together. Scent with spices or add food coloring.	15 Make pretend recipes outdoors. Say, "What should we put in that soup?" and hand your child a rock "potato."	16 Memorize the days of the week or the months of the year with a fun song.
17 Go for a walk outside and listen. Identify the sounds you hear.	18 Today is a yellow day. See how many yellow things you can find. Talk about which things are yellow .	19 Talk about opposites today. Big, small; short, tall; find examples of opposites wherever you go today!	20 O is the letter of the day. Draw an O together, trace it with your finger. Look for O's today.	21 Sign up for KPL's Summer Reading Program. Earn prizes for reading 20 minutes daily together!	22 Talk through your baby's features. Say, "Where are your eyes? Oh, here they are." Ask older kids to point to parts of their body.	23 Play ball with your baby or toddler. Sit on the ground facing each other and roll a ball back and forth.
24 A triangle is the shape of the day today. Count how many triangles you can find today! 	25 Identify places as you drive by them. Call out where you are going and what you are doing with your child.	26 Make an invitation for a friend to come over and play.	27 Make up silly words that rhyme. Make up pretend definitions too!	28 Cut different sized triangles out of paper or fabric. Which is largest? Which is softest?	29 Help your child type their name on a keyboard.	30 Trace letters in a magazine.
31 Look through a book with animals and practice animal sounds together. Sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."	<p style="text-align: center;">Song: Five Green and Speckled Frogs</p> <p>Five green and speckled frogs sat on a hollow log Eating some most delicious bugs. Yum, yum! One jumped into the pool where it was nice and cool</p> <p>Then there were four green and speckled frogs. (Repeat but with four frogs, then three, and so on.)</p>					

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

Moving to Easy Chapter Books

As your preschooler grows and is able to listen to longer stories, consider adding in some easy chapter books. While most of these are quite short, they will develop your child's cognitive ability to understand more complex stories.

Here are some favorites:

- *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
- *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant
- *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* by Sara Swan Miller
- *Ling and Ting Share a Birthday* by Grace Lin



AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 With your child, look at the pictures in a book and guess what happens. Then read it to see if you're right!	2 Play: Where is Thumbkin?	3 Draw a picture of a tree in each season: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. Talk about the changing seasons.	4 Read a book about animals. What's your favorite animal?	5 Sing: If You're Happy and You Know It! Make up extra verses!	6 Pretend to have a phone conversation with your child. Practice answering the phone and inviting someone over to play.
7 Do a puzzle or play a game together. Practice taking turns!	8 Today is all about the number 8. See how many 8's you can find as you go about your day.	9 Play Number Dash: write numbers on the sidewalk then call out numbers and dash to those numbers.	10 Practice cutting with scissors.	11 P is the letter of the day. Draw a P together, trace it with your finger. Look for P's today.	12 Make cloud dough together: 1/4 C of oil + 2 C flour. Let your child play with this sensory mess outside on the grass!	13 Balance walk on a line or tape or string.
14 Play: Red Light, Green Light	15 A square is the shape of the day. Count how many squares you can find today! 	16 Visit the library to choose books with your child. Help your child practice asking the librarian for suggestions or a specific item location.	17 Play with a dishpan of water and plastic cups, spoons, and bowls.	18 Have your child give you directions for getting dressed or making a snack. Make a mistake and let them correct you!	19 Write your child's name. Have them trace the letters with their finger and then with a pen.	20 Stretch together. Stand up tall and reach to the sky, bend to one side, then the other. Repeat. Stretch out your bodies!
21 Sign up for KPL's "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. Read 1000 books with your child!	22 Think of 5 things that are orange. Think of 5 things at the store. Think of 5 things that are soft.	23 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	24 Stamping with fruits and vegetables—apples, celery, kiwi, and many others—makes interesting prints when stamped in paint.	25 Q is the letter of the day. Draw a Q together, trace it with your finger. Look for Q's today.	26 Help your child learn their name, address, and phone number.	27 Talk about wind together. Which objects can blow away in the wind? Can you test your predictions with a fan?
28 Don't forget to come into any KPL location and claim your summer reading prizes!	29 Today is a brown day. See how many brown things you can find. Talk about which things are brown .	30 Blow bubbles together. How long before one pops? How high do they float?	31 R is the letter of the day. Draw an R together, trace it with your finger. Look for R's today.	1	2	3
4	5	 <p>For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Fingerplay: Five Plump Peas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Five plump peas in a pea pod pressed. (Hold one fist up) One grew, two grew, and so did all the rest. (Open fist—one finger at a time) They grew and they grew and they never stopped. (Starting with hands together, move them apart on each "grew") They grew so big that the pea pod popped! (Clap hands on "popped")</p>						

Learn Math Every Day

Sorting, matching, adding, subtracting, and problem solving are skills that even very young children can begin practicing. Math is not just about counting and numbers. There are hundreds of fun ways to include math in your child's everyday activities.

Doing laundry? Your child can learn sorting or matching.

Do you have 6 cookies left and 3 people? Help your child figure out how many cookies each person may have.

Your baseball team is down 5 to 3. How many points does your team need to tie?



SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 Make mud outside. What happens when you add water to dry dirt?	2 S is the letter of the day. Draw an S together, trace it with your finger. Look for S's today.	3 Use the computer at home or at the library. Practice pointing and clicking with the mouse.
4 A rectangle is the shape of the day today. Count how many rectangles you can find today! 	5 Wish on stars together at night. Tell each other your wishes.	6 Draw a map of your neighborhood together. Talk with your child about where things are.	7 Eat an apple. Count all the seeds.	8 Make an emotions book with folded paper. Draw faces showing different emotions. Label them as you discuss with your child.	9 Today is all about the number 9 . See how many 9 's you can find as you go about your day.	10 Lie down and close your eyes. Can you hear yourself breathing? Can you hear your heart beating?
11 Identify numbers on a phone or cell phone. Talk about your phone number and try to memorize. Make up a song.	12 Discuss a plant's life cycle: seed, sprout, tree. Draw each stage on an index card. Help your child put them in the correct order.	13 Practice using simple household tools: stapler, pliers, scissors, etc.	14 Today is a black day. See how many black things you can find today. Talk about which things are black .	15 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	16 Cut apart paint sample cards. Can your child put all the pinks together, all the blues? Or put them in order from light to dark.	17 Encourage your child to tell a story. Write down what they say and then read the story to them at bedtime.
18 Find 10 different kinds of leaves. Go to the library to get a book to help you identify the trees those leaves came from.	19 Make a Cheerios® bracelet with a pipecleaner. Fine motor practice gets your child ready to write!	20 Take a walk outside and count how many squirrels you see.	21 T is the letter of the day. Draw a T together, trace it with your finger. Look for T's today.	22 Sing the ABC song in funny voices—robots, dinosaurs, etc.	23 Fold a paper airplane and fly it together.	24 Talk about the moon. Draw a picture of the moon. What shape is the moon?
25 Predict what will sink or float in the bathtub or sink.	26 Pretend you are a photographer and take pictures.	27 Practice saying "please" and "thank you."	28 Paint with fingers or brushes. Put some music on and encourage your child to paint how the music feels.	29 Count berries or other snacks as you eat them.	30 Find some objects you can trace around. Let your child trace around them and then try to match up the object with its outline.	1

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

Song: Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All around the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
The driver on the bus says "move on back"...
The people on the bus go up and down...
The babies on the bus go "wah, wah, wah"...
The parents on the bus say "I love you, I love you,
I love you"...

Learn Science Every Day

Science is everywhere—from health and nutrition, animals, plants and the natural world, to tools and machines, and more! Children are naturally curious about their world and science encourages their love of exploration. Adults can encourage curiosity by asking questions and allowing children to investigate many different possibilities. Trial and error is an important part of the scientific process. Some science questions for everyday life:

- *How do we know the seasons are changing?*
- *Why do you think giraffes have long necks?*
- *What tool would help us do this job?*
- *What will happen to this ice cube when we put it in hot tea?*
- *How can we use all the blocks?*
- *What might we see if we mix the red and the blue?*



OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Draw pictures together. Focus on the process and the fun of drawing, not on the product.
2 Experiment to see which toys or things will float or sink in the bath.	3 Read to your child while they take a bath. You have a captive audience and they get a fun surprise!	4 Make your own greeting cards. Create a stash so you have one ready when an event comes up!	5 U is the letter of the day. Draw a U together, trace it with your finger. Look for U's today.	6 Count how many pumpkins you see today. Sing "Five Little Pumpkins" together.	7 The shape of the day is a circle . Count how many circles you see today!	8 Write in shaving cream on a baking sheet or in the bath. Practice writing their name, letters, their age, and numbers.
9 Read a book about family. Talk about your family.	10 Today is all about the number 10 . How many 10 's you can find today? Count things in 10 's if you can!	11 Crumple dried leaves outside. What sound do they make? How do they smell or feel?	12 Take a walk and count how many acorns you find.	13 Leaf rubbings: collect leaves, put them under a sheet of paper, and rub a crayon over the paper. Fun textures and shapes!	14 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	15 Read a childhood favorite book to your child.
16 Let your child help you rake leaves. Jump, run, toss leaves, and play together!	17 Carve a pumpkin or prepare squash. Let your child squish the seedy insides with their hands and count the seeds together!	18 Read an informational book about Fall today. Talk about why the leaves change and what kinds of events we enjoy in the fall season.	19 Read a book about animals today. What do the animals around your house do in the Fall?	20 Pretend to be the child and let your child be the parent. Let them have fun taking care of you!	21 V is the letter of the day. Draw a V together, trace it with your finger. Look for V's today.	22 Today is a white day. See how many white things you can find. Talk about which things are white .
23 Camp out with books! Make a fort with chairs and blankets. Read some books together in the fort.	24 Collect leaves outside and iron them in waxed paper. Cut around them with (safety) scissors and decorate for fall.	25 Think of 5 things that are small. Think of 5 things that are purple. Think of 5 animals.	26 Put stickers on paper. The stickers can be of anything. Kids love to develop their fine-motor muscles with stickers!	27 Have your child give their baby doll a bath. Talk about each step of the process.	28 Make a spider web with masking tape on the floor. Pretend you are a spider!	29 Gather 10 rocks. How are they similar? How are they different?
30 Take a walk. Collect natural items from the ground. Use your collection to make leaf art. Read: <i>Leaf Man</i> by Lois Ehlert.	31 Check out a CD from the library and learn a new song together.	1	<p style="text-align: center;">Song: Clap Your Hands</p> <p>Clap your hands, clap your hands, clap them just like me. Touch your ears, touch your ears, touch them just like me. Tap your feet, tap your feet, tap them just like me. Pat your head, pat your head, pat it just like me.</p>			

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.



Music Is for Everyone

Music builds literacy skills: songs, rhymes, and rhythms help young children recognize individual sounds and learn to keep a steady rhythm, important pre-reading skills.

Music encourages creativity and curiosity: Music is a wonderful way to express oneself. There is no right or wrong.

Music and movement work together: Children naturally respond to music by moving and being active. By moving, children strengthen their large muscles and learn coordination.

Music makes kids feel good: Songs, finger-plays, and dancing are soothing and fun, creating a feeling of safety and relieving stress.

Music really is for everyone! Your child will love to hear you sing, no matter your skill level.

NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 Switch places: Pretend to be the baby while your child takes care of you.	2 Talk about family traditions. What are they and why are they important? You can even make a new tradition today—together.	3 W is the letter of the day. Draw a W together, trace it with your finger. Look for W 's today.	4 Talk about how we're all unique and special. Have your child name some special things about themselves.	5 Play with rice or beans in a deep pan or on a blanket. Drive cars through it, scoop it, pour it.
6 Count the number of stairs as you walk up or down.	7 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	8 Play the opposite game. Say a word and have your child tell you the opposite.	9 Help your child set the table. Decide where each person will sit. You can even make name cards for each place.	10 Make up a story together. Take turns adding more to the story. Write it down.	11 Today is Veteran's Day. Talk about what the word "veteran" means.	12 Pasta shape collages: give your child dried pasta and glue and let them make a collage picture on a piece of paper.
13 The shape of the day is an oval . Count how many ovals you can find today!	14 Sing: "Clap your hands 1, 2, 3. Clap your hands just like me." (Then roll, wave, etc.)	15 Choose a number for the day. See how many things you can find that come in that number. See if you can find that number in print.	16 Draw self-portraits with your child. Talk about them together.	17 Make binoculars out of cardboard tubes taped together. Play "I Spy" or be explorers!	18 Teach your child the correct way to wash their hands. Make up a song to help them keep washing for the right length of time.	19 Sign up for KPL's "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. Read 1000 books with your child!
20 Have your child help you make a list of their favorite books, songs, friends, etc. Save the list to look at again when they're older.	21 Talk about family today. What does it mean to you? Who's in your family? Draw a picture or write a story.	22 Write a letter to a family member today.	23 Make a thankful list together. Have each member of your family name something they are thankful for.	24 Can you make a turkey out of your hand? Trace around your hand and then decorate with crayons or paint.	25 Draw a pie on a plate. Then cut it into halves and quarters.	26 Have a family storytime today. Have each member of your family pick a favorite and read them together!
27 Trace your child's foot and cut it out together. Measure things around the house in "feet." How many "feet" tall is your child?	28 X is the letter of the day. Draw an X together, trace it with your finger. Look for X 's today.	29 Make puppets out of brown paper lunch bags. Together, tell a story with your puppets.	30 Today's color is gray . See how many gray things you can find today. Talk about which things are gray .	1	2	3

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

Rhyme: From Wibbleton to Wobbleton
 From Wibbleton to Wobbleton is fifteen miles,
 From Wobbleton to Wibbleton is fifteen miles,
 From Wibbleton to Wobbleton, from Wobbleton to Wibbleton,
 From Wibbleton to Wobbleton is fifteen miles.

Read with Your Preschooler

Preschoolers are ready to listen to longer stories, but don't forget to make it fun and interactive! Songs and rhymes are perfect for this age. Look for books with rich language to build their vocabulary and their understanding of new concepts. Concept books—shapes, colors, numbers, letters—are great practice for school. Talk about the story and ask questions as you read books together.



DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 Visit the library with your child this week. Pick out books or stay and read a while. Check out programs: www.kpl.gov/calendar .	2 Look for patterns in your environment today (carpet, buildings, etc.). Talk about them together.	3 Draw a snowman together. Talk about accessories for your snowman. What color hat should they have?
4 Y is the letter of the day. Draw a Y together, trace it with your finger. Look for Y 's today.	5 Write the numbers 1-5 on paper. Next to each number draw items to look for. 1-ball, 2-socks, 3-blocks, etc.	6 Paper tearing: Let your child develop their fine-motor muscles by tearing paper. Glue that paper into a collage.	7 Play "Mother May I?" together today.	8 Talk about friends today. What does it mean to be a good friend?	9 Talk about your day. What did you do? How was it? Who did you see? What did you have for lunch?	10 Talk about your favorite colors. Look for those colors everywhere today!
11 Make a pattern together. Alternate different colors or noodles. What comes next in the pattern?	12 Look for pictures of bears (or other things) in a book together. Count how many you find.	13 Talk about gift-giving today. Make a homemade gift for someone you love.	14 Let your child dictate a letter for you to write. Show them their words and help them get the letter to someone special.	15 Draw a picture for a family member today.	16 The shape of the day is a diamond . Count how many diamonds you can find today! 	17 Trace the hands or feet of each family member. Label them with each person's name. Which are largest? Smallest?
18 Play follow the leader.	19 Play the rhyming game! Say a word and then encourage your child to say a word that rhymes with it.	20 Draw pictures together, focusing on the process, not the product. Talk about what each of you are drawing.	21 Play the guessing game: describe an object and see if you can guess what it is. Then let your child describe something.	22 Pretend to be snowflakes, then snowballs, then a snowman, and then melt together.	23 Collect objects from around your house. Sort them by size: small, medium, large, tiny, etc.	24 Talk about what animals do in winter.
25 Talk about winter in Michigan and around the world today. Is it cold everywhere?	26 Play I Spy: Say, "I Spy something round and yellow." See if your child can guess what it is.	27 Z is the letter of the day. Draw a Z together, trace it with your finger. Look for Z 's today.	28 Play music or clap and then stop and "freeze." This is good listening and balance practice!	29 Pretend to talk on the phone with your child. Talking develops vocabulary which helps kids become ready to read!	30 A new year is almost here! Make resolutions together. Silly ones are okay!	31 It's New Year's Eve! Practice counting backwards from 10.

Song: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,

Like a diamond in the sky,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are.

For more rhymes and songs, visit the library or go to www.kpl.gov/kids.

PARTNERS

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

KSO Education and Community Programs provide skills, access, and experience needed to foster a lifelong interest in orchestral music as performers and/or listeners.

At the KSO, we believe that music enhances even the youngest lives! Musical Story books, the KSO Family Fun Chamber Series, and the Instrument Petting Zoo are all fun activities you can find offered throughout the Kalamazoo community for young children for free because we have collaborated with other organizations and sponsors that support the work we do.

For more information:

www.kalamazoosymphony.org
269-349-7759



Raymond Harvey - Music Director

KC Ready 4s

Kalamazoo County Ready 4s is a community-designed organization focused on helping local public and private pre-kindergarten programs reach high quality; offering tuition assistance to qualifying families so they can afford to enroll their 4-year-olds in high-quality pre-kindergarten programs; and building a sustainable pre-kindergarten program for all 4-year-olds in Kalamazoo County. Our goal is to ensure that every 4-year-old, without exception, has the opportunity to attend a high-quality pre-kindergarten program. The impact of this initiative on our community is profound: Pre-kindergarten is essential to success in school—and life.

For more information:

www.kcready4s.org
(269) 366-9140



Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition

Check out the Kalamazoo County Great Start Parent Coalition on Facebook. Get ideas for being a Parent Leader and find out about upcoming events.

Attend a Kalamazoo County Great Start Parent Coalition meeting on the third Monday of each month. Log on to the website for meeting times and locations.

For more information:

www.kalamazoo greatstart collaborative.org
Angela Johnson, Parent Liaison
(269) 250-0010



Child Care Resource

Child Care Resource works with parents, child care providers, businesses and the community to improve access to quality child care and early education so that every child enjoys safe, nurturing and inspiring care.

For more information:

www.ccr4kids.org
(269) 349-3296



Southwest Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children

SwMiAEYC is a non-profit group made up of parents, infant/toddler teachers, preschool teachers, childcare center administrators, and home care providers. We support these professionals as they increase the quality of their programs through training, NAEYC accreditation support, networking with other professionals across the state and country, and advocating for policies to benefit young children and their families.

For more information, email:

swmiaeyc@gmail.com



Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Check out art classes for kids and adults, our interactive gallery, great exhibitions, and programs at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts!



Join Arty's Art Detectives for 4- to 8-year-olds! Second Saturdays (Sept–May) / KIA Library / 11:15 am / FREE!

For more information:

www.kiarts.org
(269) 349-7775



The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency

KRESA provides innovative and responsive educational services to educators and learners through leadership, collaboration and support.

For more information:

www.kresa.org
(269) 250-9200



Lift Up Through Literacy

The Lift Up Through Literacy Program offers fun hands-on literacy opportunities for family members once a week for 1½ hours. We provide free books, a meal, child care, door prizes, field trips, and an end-of-session incentive. Join us and learn more!

For more information:

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com
(269) 337-0833



McGinnis Reading Center

The McGinnis Reading Center at Western Michigan University offers opportunities that will extend students' knowledge and expertise in reading, writing, and critical literacy skills with various kinds of texts.

For more information:

ww.wmich.edu/readingcenter

Deanna Roland, Director
(269) 387-3470



College of Education and Human Development
Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic

KPL Services for Preschoolers and Caregivers

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Books, books, and more books! We have a wide variety of books for young children including both board books and picture books. Our collections are added to daily and our librarians are ready to help you find some great selections. For book and resource recommendations for kids and parents, visit www.kpl.gov/kids.

Storytimes and other literacy building programs for young children are a great way to spend time together. Check out our LINK newsletter or visit our website (www.kpl.gov/calendar) to find details on programs like storytimes, Toddler Talk, Baby Talk, and other fun events.

Our five locations are a great place to stay and play. Convenient hours, comfortable reading spaces, and play areas with high-quality toys make your neighborhood branch a destination!

Our AWE computers are a fun way to build digital literacy skills with your child as you play games on the computer together.

Our audiobook and ebook collections include titles for our youngest patrons accessible from www.kpl.gov/download on your computer.

Our Hoopla service offers music and movies for everyone, including preschoolers. Accessible from your computer or mobile device.



Kalamazoo
Public Library

kpl.gov

Central Library
315 S. Rose St.
553-7800

Eastwood
1112 Gayle Ave.
553-7810

Oshtemo
7265 W. Main St.
553-7980

Alma Powell
1000 W. Paterson St.
553-7960

Washington Square
1244 Portage St.
553-7970
