



Wings

A Weekly Newsletter for Families

July: Week 2
Reading/Literacy

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.” – Paul Sweeney

A Family Summer Reading List

Looking for books about summer for summer reading? Here are some suggestions collected from around the internet.

- “A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee,” by Chris Van Dusen
- “The House Takes A Vacation,” by Jacqueline Davies and Lee White
- “Camp Rex,” by Molly Idle
- “Half Magic,” by Edward Eager and N.M. Bodecker
- “Fireflies,” by Julie Brinckloe
- “Mama, Is It Summer Yet?,” by Nikki McClure
- “Summer is Here,” by Heidi Pross Gray
- “Harry by the Sea” (and other books from the Harry the Dirty Dog series), by Gene Zion
- “Fred and Ted Go Camping,” by Peter Eastman



•• INFANT Inspiration

Boost Your Baby’s Mental Development

Here are some easy ways to stimulate babies’ senses when they’re in the 6-9 month age range:

- Let your baby discover sounds like bells, rattles and drums.
- Put babies on a quilt and let them touch the different fabrics and patterns.
- Put objects made of different materials like plastic and wood in a box. Let your baby dump out the box and explore the contents.
- Partially hide an object under a blanket and ask your baby where it is. At this age, children can mentally recreate the whole object even if they only see part of it.
- Expose babies to differently textured clothes and linens, like smooth cotton sheets, nubby towels, leather and cloth belts, and rubber sandals and canvas sneakers.

•• TODDLER Tales

Eye Spy with My Little Eye – a Rhyme!

Early literacy skills are about listening and speaking – not reading and writing. Rhymes and rhyming stories teach listening, concentration and poetry skills, as well as awareness of speech sounds.

To help your toddler’s early literacy:

- Sing and tell rhymes, chants and songs during everyday activities like getting dressed, walking, eating and having a bath. Read nursery rhymes and poems.
- Use funny voices, simple actions and costumes to make storytelling come alive.
- Borrow or buy CDs and DVDs of nursery rhymes and listen to them in the car.
- Clap, stamp and pat along to music with a steady beat. Tap out the rhythm of a chant or book.

•• PRESCHOOL Power

The ABCs of Early Literacy

Playing with letters is a great start for learning the alphabet. Try these activities with your preschooler:

- Alphabet sensory bin. Place letters made of foam or plastic, letter beads and other objects in a bowl. Let the children explore and help them pick out specific letters.
- Alphabet sticker match. Print alphabet letters on a big piece of paper on the wall or floor. Ask kids to find the same letter on a sheet of alphabet stickers and stick them on the matching letter on the paper.
- Put magnetic alphabet letters on the refrigerator and let kids move them around. Help them for simple, high-frequency words like cat, the and you.

