



# 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.

