

FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Dear Families,

As your child begins his/her school experience, we hope they will experience the joy of words, develop a love of reading, and strengthen early literacy skills. Provided are alphabet letter cards, nursery rhymes and songs to read with/to your child, and a rhyming game. Please enjoy the activities and have fun with your child!

Suggestions for using the letters (cut apart for these activities):

- Letter flashcards-See how many letters your child can identify, then have him/her practice identifying letters as you flash the cards and have him/her name the letters.
- ABC order-sing the alphabet song with your child and as you sing, help your child put the letter cards in order to make an “alphabet train” of letters.
- Show your child the difference between upper case and lower case letters and practice identifying each type.
- Have your child place the letters of his/her first name in the correct order.
- Play “I Spy a Letter”: Line up five letter cards. Take turns describing a letter. For example, “I spy a tall letter. It has one line that goes down and one line that goes across.” (L) the guesser must name the letter to take the card. Replace the card that is taken with another letter, so that the “guessing pool” is kept constant. At the end of the game, have each player count his or her cards.
- Go on a letter hunt-Your child chooses a letter card. He/she hunts through books, newspapers, magazines or other print materials to find that letter, and may even highlight, underline, or circle the letter when it is found.
- “Magic Salt” tray-fill a plastic container that is at least sandwich-size with about a half inch of salt poured in the bottom. Have your child choose a letter card, trace it with his/her finger, then have him/her “write” the letter in the salt. All letters should start at the top!

Suggestions for sharing the nursery rhymes, songs, and poems:

- Read the rhymes, songs, and poems aloud using expression and modeling enjoyment of reading. Your child will hear the rhythm and patterns in the language and will be able to join in.
- Explain that rhyming words sound the same at the end. Look/listen for words that rhyme on the pages and in your reading/singing.
- Encourage your child to listen for the beginning (initial) sounds in words, and listen for words that have the same beginning sounds. Many of the rhymes, poems, and songs are rich with alliteration and can be fun to sing!
- As your child develops awareness of beginning sounds, try changing the beginning sounds of some of the words to new words (i.e. instead of “Hey Diddle, Diddle” try “Hey Fiddle, Fiddle” or Hey Piddle Piddle”).
- Have your child draw a picture that shows something that is written about in one of the rhymes. This will encourage him/her to think about word meanings and concepts they are familiar with.

Suggestions for reading the We Like School book with your child:

- Have your child guess the kinds of activities children do at school. Then, have him/her take a “picture walk” through the book (turn each page and look at the picture and the words). Ask him/her if the children in the pictures are doing the same activities that he/she guessed.
- Show your child the word “I” on the first page of the book. Have him/her look for that same letter/word on the rest of the pages.
- Show your child how many words are on the first page, and have him/her count how many words are on all the other pages.
- Read the book to/with your child, pointing to each word as you read. Ask your child if the pictures match what the words say on the pages.
- Have your child “echo read” words on each page (you say the words, then your child says the words).
- After reading, ask your child what he/she is most excited about doing when he/she gets to school.

My Book of
Nursery Rhymes,
Songs,
And Poems

Name_____

**Diddle, diddle, dumpling
My son, John,
Went to bed
With his trousers on.
One shoe off
And one shoe on
Diddle, diddle, dumpling,
My son, John**

**Eeny, meeny, miny, moe
Catch a tiger by the toe
If he hollers let him go,
Eeny, meeny, miny, moe**

**My mother told me
To pick the very best one
And you are it.**

**Five little ducks went out to play
Over the hill and far away
The mother duck said Quack, Quack come back!**

**Four little ducks came running back
Four little ducks went out to play
Over the hill and far away
The mother duck said Quack, Quack come back!**

**Three little ducks came running back
Three little ducks went out to play
Over the hill and far away
The mother duck said Quack, Quack come back!**

**Two little ducks came running back
Two little ducks went out to play
Over the hill and far away
The mother duck said Quack, Quack come back!**

**One little duck came running back
One little duck went out to play
Over the hill and far away
The mother duck said Quack, Quack come back!**

**No little ducks came running back
Sad mother duck went out one day
Over the hill and far away
The daddy duck said QUACK, QUACK come back!**

Five little ducks came running back!

**Hickory, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down
Hickory, dickory dock.**

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 right out the door!

It rolled in a garden
And under a bush
Now my poor meatball
Was nothing but mush

The mush was as tasty
As tasty could be
Early next summer
It grew into a tree

The tree was all covered
With beautiful moss
It grew lovely meatballs
In a tomato sauce

So if you like spaghetti
All covered with cheese
Hold on to your meatballs
And DON'T EVER SNEEZE!

A-A-A-CHOO!