

May 2026 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is Chelsea District's Library's easy way to engage in early literacy at home! Reading aloud to your baby or young child is the best way to build foundational skills for lifelong reading and learning. Earn prizes and free books just by reading together with your child! Check out this month's book list and literacy tips to get started.

Librarian Reads

Just a Worm by Marie Boyd

Bloom by Debrah Diesen

Planting a Rainbow by Louis Ehler

Yucky Worms by Vivian French

We Garden Together! by Jane S. Hirschi

The Digger and the Flower by Joseph Kuefler

Up to My Knees by Grace Lin

The Hidden Rainbow by Christie Matheson

Lola Plants a Garden by Anna McQuinn

Rhyme Time

Dig a Little Hole

Use your hands and fingers to act out each line.

Dig a little hole,
Plant a little seed,
Pour a little water,
Pull the little weeds.

Chase a little bug,
Heigh-ho, there he goes!
Give a little sunshine,
Grow a little rose!

Ready to Read

Create a culture of reading at home and get your child ready to read by building the 5 Practices of Early Literacy into your daily routines. It's easy and fun!

READ

Take advantage of warm spring days and head outside to your yard or a park to read with a blanket, snack, and stack of books.

WRITE

Dig into dirt or sand for a sensory experience. Squeeze the dirt and crumble it back up. Build the strength in those tiny hand and finger muscles needed to hold a pencil and write letters!

SING

Share flowers and a song with a neighbor for May Day, Mother's Day, or just because!



TALK

Have you planted a garden? Talk through the life cycle of a plant and what is needed to care for them through the spring and summer with your child.

PLAY

Give your child their very own garden patch or planter with easy-to-grow seedlings such as sunflowers, zinnias, or beans.

Daily Fun with Your Little One!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3 Stories Read half of a story to your child, then ask her to make up the ending.</p>	 <p>4 Reading Children's Book Week starts today. Celebrate by reading your child's favorite book together.</p>	<p>5 Play Hop, flutter, or wiggle! Have your child pretend to be a springtime animal. Ask him how he would move and what he would sound like.</p>	<p>6 Math Help your child create color patterns with blocks or paper strips: red, orange, yellow. What comes next? Let her design her own repeating pattern.</p>	 <p>7 Writing Pick a letter and have your child draw or list three things that start with that letter.</p>	<p>1 Rhymes Happy May Day! How many words can your child rhyme with the word "May"?</p>	<p>2 Writing Look at a map and see where you live. Have your child draw a picture of your home.</p>
<p>10 Sounds There are so many sounds of spring. Go on a listening walk. Ask your child about what she hears and to describe the sounds.</p>	<p>11 Writing What's the weather like outside? Have your child draw what he sees: sunshine, rain, rainbows, clouds, etc.</p>	<p>12 Rhymes Say: "I planted a cat in my garden!" Replace cat with rhyming words: <i>hat, bat, mat</i>. Giggles welcome.</p>	<p>13 Stories Read spring-themed stories to your child and ask her to share her thoughts.</p>	<p>14 Play For Dance Like a Chicken Day, play Chicken Dance and Freeze with your child! Flap and waddle to music, then freeze into a letter shape when the music stops.</p>	<p>15 Sounds Stomp out a simple beat. Invite your child to copy it. Try patterns like stomp-stomp-pause or stomp-pause-stomp. Switch roles and let your child lead.</p>	<p>16 Reading It's Love a Tree Day. Read <i>Trees Make Perfect Pets</i> by Paul Czajak and Cathy Gendron with your child. Or listen to the read-aloud on YouTube @ danareadsforliteracy.</p>
<p>17 Math Take a color or shape walk. Show your child pictures of a shape or color and then go on a hunt around your yard or neighborhood to find items that are that shape or color!</p>	<p>18 Play Pick a sunny day to head outside look at your shadows. Ask your child to make her shadow jump, wiggle, or stretch. Try stepping on each other's shadows for a game of shadow tag.</p>	<p>19 Songs Sing The Green Grass Grew All Around: "A bird in the egg, in the nest, on the branch, on the limb, on the tree, in the hole, in the ground." Can you remember the growing list?</p>	<p>20 Science For World Bee Day, head outside to spot bees. Talk about what the bees are doing, where they land, and how they move.</p>	<p>21 Rhymes It's Pet Month. Name pets like cat, dog, or fish. Ask your child to think of words that rhyme (cat-hat, dog-log, fish-wish). Silly words count!</p>	<p>22 Math Arrange the shoes from in your house from smallest to biggest.</p>	<p>23 Writing For World Turtle Day, draw a turtle and help your child label parts like the shell and legs.</p>
<p>24 Play It's Scavenger Hunt Day. Print out some pictures of bugs. Go outside with your child to find them.</p>	<p>25 Songs Sing a short line like, "Hello sunshine, warm and bright," and have your child echo it back.</p>	<p>26 Math Talk (and count) May numbers with your child: May is the fifth month of the year, the second month of spring, and has 31 days.</p>	<p>27 Reading It's World Otter Day. Talk about how otters move: <i>slide, splash, dive, float</i>. Have your child act out the words. Can he think of another movement word?</p>	<p>28 Sounds Say words and clap the syllables together: flow-er (2), gar-den (2), sun-shine (2), base-ball (2).</p>	<p>29 Science Let your child draw outside using sidewalk chalk. Give her a spray bottle to mist the chalk with water, making it like paint! Watch it dry in the sun!</p>	<p>30 Play Go outside for scarf toss fun! Gently toss lightweight scarves up into the air and watch them swirl and float like butterflies. Can your child catch one before it lands?</p>
<p>May 2026</p>						
						

© Demco, Inc.

Log Those Books!

Keep reading, and keep logging those books! Visit the 1000 Books page on the library's website at chelseadistrictlibrary.org/1000books or download the free Beanstack app to log.



**ENGAGE.
INSPIRE.
EQUIP.**