

July 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

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

Bubbles... Up! by Jacqueline Davies

Blueberry Cake by Sarah Dillard

Circle, Sphere! by Grace Lin

Swim, Duck Swim! by Jane Susan Lurie

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Summer is Here by Renee Watson

Scaredy Squirrel Goes Camping
by Melanie Watt

Natsumi's Song of Summer by Robert Weston

Rhyme Time

If You're Going to the Pool

Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It"
Pretend to put on each item as you sing about it.

If you're going to the pool, wear your suit.

If you're going to the pool, wear your suit.

If you're going to the pool, then your suit
will keep you cool...

If you're going to the pool wear your suit.

(Repeat with hat, flip flops, sunglasses)

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

Michigan's bounty of produce shines in July. Check out a book about fruits or veggies and then head to the farmer's market to taste what you read!

WRITE

Use the outdoors as a giant sensory play table! Try drawing or writing in sand at the beach, dirt in the garden, or pebbles by the pond.

SING

America's 250th anniversary is a great time to teach your child some traditional American folk tunes. Check out a book from the 700s in the nonfiction collection and sing together.

TALK

It's HOT! With heat waves and sudden storms, summer weather can be an exciting topic. Talk about playing safely outdoors with your child.

PLAY

Let's have a parade! Decorate bikes, scooters, and strollers for a trip around the neighborhood, or use cardboard boxes as floats for stuffies at an indoor parade down the hallway.



Daily Fun with Your Little One!

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Help your child get ready to learn to read! Each day features a fun activity that will help your child build pre-reading skills. Activities are color-coded by skill. Ask your children's librarian for more ideas on how to promote early literacy skills with daily activities at home.

5 Rhymes

Find different items around the house that rhyme like "pan" and "fan."

6 Stories

It's Anti-Boredom Month. Ask your child what they do when they feel bored.

7 Draw

Ask your child to draw the sun. Make sure to add some sunglasses!

8 Play

July is Wild About Wildlife Month. Create an animal's face using paper plates, construction paper, cotton balls, googly eyes, and pipe cleaners.

9 Sounds

Visit the zoo and listen to the different animal sounds. Can you both recreate the roars and oinks?

10 Math

Make s'mores and break graham crackers in half. How many pieces are there? What if the crackers are broken again?

11 Reading

Take a trip to the library and check out the "new releases" section. Pick out a book to take home!

12 Science

It's Different Colored Eyes Day. Create a simple Punnett Square and explain why people have different colored eyes.

13 Songs

Make up a song about the things that make summer fun!

14 Math

Write simple addition and subtraction problems in the sand and ask your child to solve each one.

15 Rhymes

Read a book together and search for words that rhyme on each page.

16 Reading

Take a trip to the library and find a comfy reading spot for the afternoon.

17 Play

It's Emoji Day. Practice making different faces with each other!

18 Writing

Help your child write or draw their favorite things about July.

19 Science

It's Ice Cream Day! See what happens when ice cream sits out in the sun. Ask your child why they think it melts.

20 Draw

Draw self-portraits of yourselves, but don't show each other until you're both done!

21 Stories

Ask your child to tell you a story about visiting another country. Where would they go? What would they see?

22 Sounds

Take a walk outside and listen to the different sounds. What do you both hear?

23 Songs

Sing a song about going to the beach. What will you both find?

24 Math

Celebrate Amelia Earhart's birthday today by creating paper airplanes and measuring the distance each one travels.

25 Play

Cool off and take a trip to the local pool or beach.

26 Reading

Ask your child to pick out their favorite book for storytime and read it together.

27 Science

Put a plant in the sun and another plant in the shade. Help your child record each plant's height at the start of the week and again at the end of the week.

28 Writing

Ask your child to write the first letter of their name. Can they name three other things that start with that same letter?

29 Draw

Help your child draw fish swimming in the ocean. Encourage them to use different colors and shapes with each one.

30 Stories

Read summer-themed stories to your child and ask them to share which one they liked best.

31 Rhymes

Happy last day of July! Keep the summer fun going by thinking of words that rhyme with "fun."



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