



August 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

If We Were Dogs by Sophie Blackall

Biscuit Goes to School
by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Kindergarten Gets Ready by Naomi Danis

Dogs by Emily Gravett

Where's Spot by Eric Hill

Rosie Goes to Preschool by Karen Katz

Kindergarten Hat by Janet Lawler

The Pigeon Has to Go to School!
by Mo Willems

Rhyme Time

If I Were a Puppy

After my bath, I try, try, try,
To wipe myself till I'm dry, dry, dry.
(rub arms to "dry off")

Just think how much less time I'd take,
If I were a puppy and could shake,
shake, shake!
(shake whole body like a dog drying off)

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

Celebrate the Dog Days of Summer with a dog story! Check out the list above for picture books, or find a book about therapy dogs or pets in the nonfiction 600s.

WRITE

Dried beans or corn make for fun sensory play! Scoop, pour, or dig in with your hands. Try counting beans or using them to spell out your child's name.

SING

How many songs about dogs can you name? From "How Much is that Doggy in the Window" to "Who Let the Dogs Out," you're sure to find a tune that gets everyone's tails wagging.

TALK

Heading to preschool or kindergarten? Talk through your child's new routines and try a few practice runs-- especially for mornings!

PLAY

Ask your child what kind of dog (or other pet) they'd like to be, then play doggies! Will you be a big dog, or a little dog? Fetch sticks, or prefer naps?

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.

2 Writing Give your child crayons and paper and ask them to draw their favorite summer activity.	3 Math It's National Watermelon Day. Count the seeds in a slice of watermelon or count pretend seeds you draw together.	4 Science Fill a bowl with water and test which small toys or objects sink or float.	5 Rhymes How many words can you and your child think of that rhyme with "sun"?	6 Reading Read a book outside today. Ask your child to point out things in the story that they can also see around them.	7 Stories Ask your child to tell you a story about a tiny bug going on a big adventure.	8 Songs Sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" together and use your fingers to act it out.
9 Reading It's Book Lovers Day. Visit your local library and let your child choose a book to read together.	10 Play Pretend to run an ice cream shop. Take turns ordering, scooping, and naming favorite flavors.	11 Sounds Go on a listening walk. How many summer sounds can your child hear?	12 Science Look at leaves, flowers, or grass outside. Talk about the colors, shapes, and sizes you see.	13 Writing It's Left Handers Day. Try drawing with one hand, then the other. Which feels easier?	14 Math Count the steps from one room to another. Try again using giant steps or tiny steps.	15 Rhymes Ask your child to find something that rhymes with "hat," "bee," or "cake."
16 Stories Look at the clouds together. Ask your child to tell you what each cloud might be.	17 Songs Make up a silly song about sunshine, rain, or going to the library.	18 Reading Read a picture book together and ask your child to guess what might happen next.	19 Play Build a blanket fort and pretend it is a reading cave, castle, or camping tent.	20 Science Place an ice cube outside and watch it melt. Talk about what happens when it gets warm.	21 Writing Help your child make a simple "August list" of favorite foods, places, or things to do.	22 Rhymes Say a word like "fish" or "tree" and take turns making up real or silly rhyming words.
23 Stories Ask your child to tell a story about a backpack that can talk.	24 Math Sort toys, blocks, or snacks by color, shape, or size. Count how many are in each group.	25 Songs Clap along to a favorite song and listen for fast and slow parts.	26 Sounds It's National Dog Day. Practice making dog sounds, then name other animals and the sounds they make.	27 Reading Read signs, labels, or menus while you are out and about today.	28 Play Pretend to be different animals. Ask your child to move, sound, and talk like each one.	29 Writing Draw a picture postcard from summer. Ask your child what message they would send.
30 Rhymes Look around your home for rhyming pairs like chair/bear or sock/block.	31 Stories Say goodbye to August by asking your child to tell you about their favorite thing they did this month.					

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