



September 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

Now I See Fall by Mac Barnett

Biscuit and the Great Fall Day
by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Apples by Gail Gibbons

The Apple Pie Tree by Zoe Hall

What Will Fit? by Grace Lin

Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson

Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn
by Kenard Pak

Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell

Rhyme Time

Ten Red Apples

Use your hands and fingers to represent the apples in this rhyme.

Ten red apples grow on a tree,
Five for you and five for me.
Let's shake the tree just so...
And ten red apples fall below!
Come on! Let's count them again...
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10!

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

Starting daycare or preschool means new routines and less time together. Carve out time to read in unusual places: at the breakfast table, in line at the store, or even on the potty!

WRITE

Draw out lines, curves, angles, waves, and loops for your child to trace as a precursor to writing out actual letters and numbers.

SING

The next KinderConcert is Saturday, Sep. 12. We'll be outside in the Reading Garden for this fun musical experience with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.

TALK

The first day of Fall is Sep. 22. Plan a nature walk and talk about the changing seasons. What do you see, smell, feel, and hear that's different than summer?

PLAY

Slice up an apple and practice counting, stacking, or grouping the slices before eating them. How many seeds are in your apple? Is it sweet or tart?

Daily Fun with Your Little One!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 Reading It's Read a Book Day. Grab a favorite story, a blanket, and enjoy a book picnic outside or on the living room floor.	7 Songs It's Labor Day. Ask your child what they want to be when they grow up and why. Sing along to the Super Simple Songs video "When I Grow Up."	8 Rhymes Poet Jack Prelutsky was born on this day. Read his most famous poem <i>Be Glad Your Nose Is on Your Face</i> and point out the rhyming words.	9 Writing Create fall word cards. Write simple words like leaf, apple, tree, and pumpkin. Have your child trace the words.	10 Play Be a chef with your child! Use leaves, acorns, and pinecones as ingredients to create pretend dishes. Give each one a fun name.	11 Science Have your child test the wind! Toss a leaf into the air and observe how the wind moves it. Which direction does it travel?	12 Stories Ask your child to make up a story about a squirrel family prepping for winter.
13 Math Mix up pairs of colorful gloves and mittens. Ask your child to count and match them.	14 Sounds On this day in 1959, the first spacecraft reached the moon. Say "moon" and "rocket." Ask your child what sound they hear at the beginning of each word.	15 Songs Sing the ABCs together. Then sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Ask your child to pay attention to how the tunes are similar.	16 Science It's Collect Rocks Day. Ask your child to find some rocks and talk about how they're similar or different.	17 Stories Tell your child a story about your first day of school.	18 Play It's Yoga Awareness Month. Try rainbow breathing with your child. Reach your arms overhead to "draw" a rainbow. Take a deep breath in. Lower your arms slowly while breathing out.	19 Reading Read <i>Breathe Like a Bear</i> by Kira Wiley with your child or watch the author read it aloud on YouTube (@BrightlyStorytime).
20 Rhymes Point to an object and ask your child to name that object and a word that rhymes with it.	21 Writing Help your child draw fall foods like apples, pumpkins, and pears.	22 Sounds Talk about the sounds of the season: crunching leaves, chattering squirrels, gusting wind, and more.	23 Math Autumn begins! Ask your child to gather fall treasures. Find one acorn, two pinecones, and three leaves. Count them together.	24 Reading On Punctuation Day, share the book <i>Punctuation Celebration</i> by Elsa Bruno and Jenny Whitehead.	25 Songs It's Dog Week. Bark along with your child to the tune of their favorite song.	26 Play The Harvest Moon peaks today! Go on an astronaut moon walk with your child, taking slow, giant steps across the backyard or living room.
27 Rhymes Leaves are falling. Ask your child to name words that rhyme with "rake."	28 Writing Have your child practice writing the letter "S" for September. Together, think of words that begin with "S."	29 Sounds For World Heart Day, have your child listen to your heartbeat. Can she hear the thump-thump or the lub-dub?	30 Math It's getting colder. Look up today's temperature with your child. Was it higher or lower than yesterday? By how much?	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.		



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