

Created by KairosPDX, with and for the African American community

Every Child. Every Day. **Read, Talk, Sing, Write, Play**



Dear Parent or Caregiver,

YOU are the most important part of your child's success in learning to read.

When you read, talk, sing, write, and play with your child from birth to six, you are providing the experiences that build brain connections your child needs for reading. These skills lay the foundation for what your child needs to know to be ready for kindergarten.

Children are learning all the time. That's why you can teach your child so much by simply talking about what you see and do together. The more language your child experiences, learns, and uses before school, the more easily she or he will learn to read.

This booklet provides fun activities to do together. Have fun!

Early Learning Multnomah would like to thank KairosPDX for developing this booklet.





Read

STORIES, STORIES, STORIES!

Tell “when I was little...” or “remember when...” stories to your child. Make up stories about things you see wherever you are.

RHYTHM AND RHYME!

Make a rhythm using objects around you (wooden spoon and pan, hands, etc.) and use the letters of your names, how many fingers you have, directions, etc. as the lyrics.

Book Lists

Homemade love – bell hooks
Life Doesn't Frighten Me – Maya Angelou
Our People – Angela Medearis
Shades of Black – Sandra Pinkney
Come Sunday – Nikki Grimes

Biography Bookmarks

Maya Angelou
Fredrick Douglas
Nelson Mandela
Mae Jemison
Fannie Lou Hamer
York
George Washington Carver
Rebecca Lee Crumpler





Read

Life Doesn't Frighten Me, by Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Bad dogs barking loud
Big ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all

Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Way they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight
All alone at night

Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.

That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
(Kissy little girls
With their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams.

I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all
Not at all
Not at all.

Life doesn't frighten me at all.



Talk

PLAY "I SPY..."

Describe an object that is visible. "I spy with my little eye something that is cold." After each clue, your child guesses. Give more clues until he or she guesses correctly. Switch roles. Allow your child to describe something he or she sees. Ask for hints.

TALK ABOUT FOOD

How do different foods taste, smell and feel? Where do they come from? Talk with your child about how you make these foods. Ask what their favorite foods are.

PLAY "GUESS MY..."

Hum the tune of a song and have your child guess the name of the song. Take turns humming. You could also have your child guess the type of animal you are thinking of. For example, you can say "I'm thinking of an animal with 2 wings" and then motion what it would be like to have wings as a bird. Or make the sounds a cat would make and have your child guess the animal.





Sing

MAKE UP YOUR OWN SONGS AND RHYMES!

Take a song you know and create a rhythm to it with your hands or feet. Or, change the words to a song you know to reflect you, your child or something you enjoy together.

Book reference

Hip Hop Speaks to Children
by Nikki Giovanni

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel - NO!

I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine,
Hide it under a bushel - NO!
I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.
Every day, every day, I'm
going to let my little light shine.





Sing

If You're Happy and You Know It

(Feel free to replace actions in this song [like clapping and stomping] to other actions like touching your head or waving your hands).

If you're happy and you know
it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know
it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it,
then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know
it, clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it,
stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it,
stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it,
then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it,
stomp your feet. (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know
it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)
If you're happy and you know
it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)
If you're happy and you know it,
then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know
it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!)

If you're happy and you know
it, do all three (clap-clap,
stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)
If you're happy and you know
it, do all three (clap-clap,
stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)
If you're happy and you know it,
then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know
it, do all three. (clap-clap,
stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!)



Write

WRITE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS

With your child, write lists, love notes, or draw. Scribbles count too!

“DRAW” LETTERS

Using your hand, draw letters on your child’s back so he/she can “feel” and guess the letters. Or, take a container in your kitchen and fill it with some rice. Draw letters in the rice with your fingers and have your child say or guess the letters with you.

LOOK FOR LETTERS!

If you are outside, look for letters in your child’s name on signs that you see. If you are inside, look for letters on items throughout the house. Have your child write or draw what he or she sees on the signs or items.

COUNT WHAT YOU SEE!

Go outside with your child and count how many you see of things around you. How many dogs do you see? How many signs? How many birds or squirrels? Write or draw the numbers or objects with your child.





Write

Together, draw a picture here of your family or of activities you both enjoy.

Crayola now makes multicultural crayons that come in a box of 8 shades of realistic skin tones.

These are available at many stores that sell school and office supplies.





Play

LAUGHING

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Tell your child “inside” jokes or funny memories you remember from when you were a child.

EXPLORING

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Wherever you are, explore what is around you. Ask questions to your child like “what is that?” and “how do you think it works?” You can also put a familiar object in a paper bag without your child seeing it. Ask her or him to reach inside to feel it, describe what she or he feels, and then guess what it is. Take turns hiding different objects and guessing.

PRETENDING

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Take turns pretending with your child – “what if I was a...” You can make up animals like rabbits, cats or birds. Make the game more silly by pretending to be still objects like a couch or fridge.

OTHER GAMES

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Play jump rope, hula hoops or hopscotch with your child. Use it as a way to practice counting how many times you jump or spin the hula hoop.

