As the only organization of its kind in the country, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) works to deliver and support early literacy services statewide. Since forming in 2008, CLEL has grown into an organization with over 550 members nationwide. Its work includes supporting StoryBlocks.org, a free website with over 60 short videos in many languages that demonstrate rhymes and songs to use with birth – 5 year old children. CLEL also annually announces the CLEL Bell Book Award winners, which recognize five high-quality books that provide excellent support of early literacy. Both CLEL Bell Award winners/shortlisted titles and StoryBlock videos have been included in each month’s suggested reading lists.

This calendar was produced by the Colorado State Library, a unit of the Colorado Department of Education, 2017.
We hope that you will find this beautiful calendar useful on your child’s learning journey. Each day there is a unique suggestion to help facilitate an opportunity to read and explore. Getting kids ready for school happens with fun activities such as reading, singing, playing, writing, and talking. You play an important role in helping children foster a love of reading and learning. We hope you enjoy this calendar!

Nicole Davis, Assistant Commissioner, State Librarian
Colorado Department of Education

Children love to learn, and you are always their favorite teacher. Right from birth, children are constantly discovering and developing new abilities. The time you spend talking, singing, reading, playing and writing with your child builds literacy skills that will last a lifetime. It’s never too early or too late to start these activities everyday – children learn at every age.

Katy Anthes, Commissioner of Education, Colorado Department of Education

Growing Readers Together
Growing Readers Together is a project of the Colorado State Library and public libraries, funded by the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation. Its goal is to support the development of early literacy skills in young children whose child care is routinely provided by extended family members, friends or neighbors (FFN). Growing Readers Together libraries identify and establish relationships with FFN through outreach, partnerships, specially-crafted programs, and the provision of early literacy materials.

Find & Visit Your Local Library!
Did you know there are over 250 public libraries all across Colorado; and that they are visited more than 31 million times annually? Last year, our public libraries offered over 78,000 children’s programs! Get in on the fun—find your local public library by visiting https://find.colorado.gov/library/maps.

Illustrations by Colorado artist, Mary Bills.
Mary is a professional illustrator and portrait artist who discovered her love of art early in life through children’s books. She currently shares her love of art and design by teaching drawing and painting classes.
You can view more of her work by visiting: www.etsy.com/shop/MaryWeaverArt and www.maryweaverart.com.

How to Grow Readers Every Day!

About this Calendar
• Each day has an activity to do together. These are suggestions—feel free to change, or make up something new, to better suit your child/children.
• Every month includes a list of books, which is a starting point for you. Choose books together with your child/children that you will both enjoy.
• If a book or activity is not interesting to your child, stop and try something else. The goal is to make learning fun.
• Encourage experimentation and discovery rather than doing it “right” to increase learning through play.
• Some activities use real dough or homemade play dough. Easy recipes for both are in the “Arts & Crafts” section at the back of this calendar.
• Every child learns at his/her own pace. If you are doing these activities with more than one child, focus on each child’s effort without comparing them to each other.

Tips for Reading Out Loud
• Reading out loud and talking about books is one of the most important ways to get your child ready to read and start school.
• Set the Mood: Make yourself and your child comfortable. Sit next to each other with your child on your lap.
• Schedule: Develop a routine of when you might read together, like before bedtime. Also bring books with you on outings to the store, doctor’s office, etc.
• Preparation: Look over the book before reading it together to make sure you are comfortable with it. Hold the book in the child’s hands.
• Expressions: Change your voice for different characters; make your voice soft and loud. Put life and energy into your reading!
• Pantomime: Take time to answer your child’s questions. Their curiosity means they are engaged in the story. It’s ok if your young child can’t sit still or through the story. A child who moves around or plays with a quiet toy may still be learning.
• Participation: Let them repeat phrases with you or leave out a word here and there; see if they can fill in the blank. Look at the pictures to help tell the story; ask your child what is happening or what happens next.
• Pace: Don’t rush while reading. Take your time.
• Read It Again: Children love to read the same books over and over. This gives them assurance and confidence. Read a book in many times as a child wants.

Tips for Using the Library
• It’s Free: The library is open for all and does not charge to attend programs, check out books, music, etc., and get a library card.
• Your Librarian: Your local librarians love to connect with your family, encourage your child, and support you in your interests and needs. Stop by and say hello.
• Visit Often: Your public library always has new books, music, and other resources for you and your child to enjoy.
• Local Events: Your public library offers free programs for young children, such as story times, puppet shows and summer learning programs.
• Go Online: You can access the Internet for free and find out information on health and wellness, child safety and school readiness while at the library.

Every child learns at his/her own pace; these are common milestones to guide you.

Babies (Birth to 18 months)
• Prefer the sound of the human voice over any other type of stimulation, so talk, read, and sing to your baby.
• Like to explore books (even by chewing on them) and show interest in looking at pictures with you, especially human faces.
• Can participate in back-and-forth communication and games by imitating simple sounds and motions.
• Begin to understand words, and can follow simple requests like going to the sink when their grandparent says that it’s time to wash hands.

Toddlers (18 months- 2 years)
• Demonstrate their understanding of words by responding with action, such as looking for a stuffed bear when their mother asks, “Where’s your bear?”
• Combine words to form simple sentences.
• Engage in back-and-forth interactions by asking and/or answering simple questions like, “What’s that?”
• Show an interest in printed words by making scribbles on paper and then “reading” what is written.

Preschoolers (3-5 years)
• Demonstrate enthusiasm to participate in songs, rhymes, and stories.
• Recognize how books are read, such as front-to-back and one page at a time, and recognize basic characteristics, such as title, author, and illustrator.
• Recognize print in everyday life, such as numbers, letters, one’s name, words, and familiar logos and signs.
• Understand and respond to increasingly complex vocabulary, such as “Which stick is the longest?” and “Why do you think the caterpillar is hungry?”

The list below was drawn from Colorado’s Early Learning & Development Guidelines and only includes a few of the developmental milestones related to literacy. For a complete set of the guidelines, visit https://earlylearningco.org/. Please note: each child develops at his/her own pace; there are common milestones to guide you.

All Parents are Teachers
All Children are Learners;
**January: Health & Safety**

**Featured: Yellow-bellied Marmot**

By placing some in a paper plate and talking about them, you are creating a healthy meal tradition.

**Books to Read:**
- *Little Bear's First Book of Yoga* by Rebecca Whitford
- *My Trip to the Hospital* by Pat Smedley
- *Clarabella's Teeth* by Ann Vrombaunt
- *The Things I Can Do* by Mercer Mayer
- *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* by Jane Yolen
- *Little Yoga: A Toddler's First Book of Yoga* by Rebecca Whitford
- *I.Q gets fit* by Maty Ann Fraser
- *Please, Baby, Please* by Jane Yolen
- *I Like Berries, Do You?* by Pat Marjorie Pitzer
- *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes* by Mother Goose
- *I Like to Ate, Ate, Ate Apples* by Sandra Boynton
- *Exercise by giving the children a sequence of sugary foods you eat.*

**Eating Healthy**

**MyPlate illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet using a familiar image—a plate setting for a meal.**

**Everyday Fun With Books**

Many of the daily activities included in this calendar can be adapted for you and your baby. Feel free to change them to better suit you and your little one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit a state park!</td>
<td>Learn Your First Day, Colorado State Parks; &quot;What Day Hikes.&quot; Check out a park close to your local library and take the tour with a healthy meal tradition.</td>
<td>Talk about the physical benefits of foods you eat. Have a &quot;No Sugar&quot; day.</td>
<td>Exercise by giving the children a sequence of sugary foods you eat.</td>
<td>Practice Dog Safety!</td>
<td>Talk about when to eat your snacks. Talk about the importance of healthy foods. Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
<td>Visit Your Library!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are some important things to eat in your area? Make your own! If you don't have enough ingredients, draw all of them. Have a &quot;No Sugar&quot; day.</td>
<td>Practice Dog Safety! * Talk about when to eat your snacks. Talk about the importance of healthy foods. Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
<td>Find out your child's favorite vegetables and race a meal that includes it.</td>
<td>Science Day!</td>
<td>Make an evacuation plan in case of a fire. Get your child's favorite fruits and veggies and save them for tomorrow's activity.</td>
<td>Some of your child's favorite foods and vegetables you've made.</td>
<td>Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a Nutrition Train!</td>
<td>Help your child make a cardboard out of your cup or bowl. Help them play with a box, cutouts, or make a meal using our recipe on this page.</td>
<td>Talk about the physical benefits of foods you eat. Have a &quot;No Sugar&quot; day.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time!</td>
<td>Concentrate on how to brush the children's teeth well. Learn the tongue twister rhyme. I have a little teething baby, I brush her teeth very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, Very</td>
<td>Talk about when to eat your snacks. Talk about the importance of healthy foods. Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
<td>Visit Your Library!</td>
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<td>Take the pictures your child made and put at your local library. Search for a magazine article to read about the ants. Have a &quot;No Sugar&quot; day.</td>
<td>Mother Goose Time!</td>
<td>Concentrate on how to brush the children's teeth well. Learn the tongue twister rhyme. I have a little teething baby, I brush her teeth very, very, very, very, very, very, very,</td>
<td>Some of your child's favorite foods and vegetables you've made.</td>
<td>Choose books about good health and eating well.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make an evacuation plan in case of a fire. Get your child's favorite fruits and veggies and save them for tomorrow's activity.</td>
<td>Take the pictures your child made and put at your local library. Search for a magazine article to read about the ants. Have a &quot;No Sugar&quot; day.</td>
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<td>Some of your child's favorite foods and vegetables you've made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEBRUARY: Colors

**BOOKS TO READ:**

- *Mouse Paint* by David McKee
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *A Pet Banana* by Leo Lionni
- *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss
- *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont
- *Elmer* by David McKee
- *A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni

**Visit Your Library!**

- Check out some books from your local library. If you can’t find a library in your area, try searching online.
- Some books are illustrated in the colors that are featured this month. Look through your books to find ones that use the colors of the week. Can you count a red rabbit? Almost Every Full Moon. Ask your child to talk to you about the story.

**FEBRUARY 1: Colors in words**

- Do you know the name for the colors of the rainbow?
  - R - Red
  - O - Orange
  - Y - Yellow
  - G - Green
  - B - Blue
  - I - Indigo
  - V - Violet

- Also known as the Color Spectrum! Draw rainbow using these colors.

**FEBRUARY 2: Colors**

- Today’s color is red.
  - Today’s color is red. Today is Valentine’s Day! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.
  - Today is red. Today is the color of the heart. Make a giant heart today and hang it up!

- Today’s color is pink.
  - Pink is a favorite color of many girls.
  - Today’s color is pink. Make Valentine cards that your child can name a color for every letter! Make a name plate.

**FEBRUARY 3: Colors**

- Today’s color is blue.
  - Today’s color is blue like the sky. Make bubbles with dish soap and water.
  - Today’s color is blue. Blue is beautiful.

**FEBRUARY 4: Colors**

- Today’s color is green.
  - Today’s color is green. Today’s story is *A Cat’s First Full Moon*. Talk about the colors that are your favorite.
  - Today’s color is green. Today is lime green. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using green paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 5: Colors**

- Today’s color is purple.
  - Today’s color is purple. Today is Purple Paint Day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?
  - Today’s color is purple. Today is purple paint day. If one doesn’t come to mind, try painting the sea.

**FEBRUARY 6: Colors**

- Today’s color is gold.
  - Today’s color is gold. Today’s story is *Black Crow*. The bottom of the deep blue sea is red.
  - Today’s color is gold. Today’s story is *Kitten’s First Full Moon*. Talk about the colors that are your favorite.

**FEBRUARY 7: Colors**

- Today’s color is gray.
  - Today’s color is gray. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. What is the bottom of the deep blue sea?
  - Today’s color is gray. Today is gray. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using purple paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 8: Colors**

- Make a giant heart today and hang it up.
  - Make a giant heart today and hang it up! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.
  - Make a giant heart today and hang it up!

**FEBRUARY 9: Colors**

- Today’s color is brown.
  - Today’s color is brown. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is brown. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 10: Colors**

- Today’s color is tan.
  - Today’s color is tan. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is tan. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 11: Colors**

- Today’s color is silver.
  - Today’s color is silver. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is silver. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 12: Colors**

- Today’s color is white.
  - Today’s color is white. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is white. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 13: Colors**

- Today’s color is navy blue.
  - Today’s color is navy blue. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is navy blue. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 14: Colors**

- Today’s color is black.
  - Today’s color is black. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is black. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green? Today is your color. Help your child write their name using brown paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 15: Colors**

- Today’s color is red.
  - Today’s color is red. Today is Valentine’s Day! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.
  - Today’s color is red. Today is Valentine’s Day! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.

**FEBRUARY 16: Colors**

- Today’s color is pink.
  - Today’s color is pink. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?
  - Today’s color is pink. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?

**FEBRUARY 17: Colors**

- Today’s color is blue.
  - Today’s color is blue like the sky. Make bubbles with dish soap and water.
  - Today’s color is blue. Blue is beautiful.

**FEBRUARY 18: Colors**

- Today’s color is green.
  - Today’s color is green. Today is lime green. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using green paint and then paint a heart for their color.
  - Today’s color is green. Today is lime green. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using green paint and then paint a heart for their color.

**FEBRUARY 19: Colors**

- Today’s color is purple.
  - Today’s color is purple. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?
  - Today’s color is purple. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?

**FEBRUARY 20: Colors**

- Today’s color is gold.
  - Today’s color is gold. Today’s story is *Black Crow*. The bottom of the deep blue sea is red.
  - Today’s color is gold. Today’s story is *Black Crow*. The bottom of the deep blue sea is red.

**FEBRUARY 21: Colors**

- Today’s color is gray.
  - Today’s color is gray. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is gray. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 22: Colors**

- Today’s color is brown.
  - Today’s color is brown. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is brown. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 23: Colors**

- Today’s color is tan.
  - Today’s color is tan. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is tan. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 24: Colors**

- Today’s color is silver.
  - Today’s color is silver. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is silver. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 25: Colors**

- Today’s color is white.
  - Today’s color is white. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is white. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 26: Colors**

- Today’s color is navy blue.
  - Today’s color is navy blue. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is navy blue. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 27: Colors**

- Today’s color is black.
  - Today’s color is black. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?
  - Today’s color is black. Today’s story is *Little Jack Horner*. How many are lime green?

**FEBRUARY 28: Colors**

- Today’s color is red.
  - Today’s color is red. Today is Valentine’s Day! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.
  - Today’s color is red. Today is Valentine’s Day! Make valentines for your family or to your friends.

**FEBRUARY 29: Colors**

- Today’s color is pink.
  - Today’s color is pink. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?
  - Today’s color is pink. Today is purple paint day. Can you think of an animal that has many colors? Can you think of an animal that makes the color blue?

**FEBRUARY 30: Colors**

- Today’s color is blue.
  - Today’s color is blue like the sky. Make bubbles with dish soap and water.
  - Today’s color is blue. Blue is beautiful.

**FEBRUARY 31: Colors**

- Today’s color is green.
  - Today’s color is green. Today is lime green. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using green paint and then paint a heart for their color.
  - Today’s color is green. Today is lime green. Today is your color. Help your child write their name using green paint and then paint a heart for their color.
**MARCH: Seasons**

**Sunday**
- **Science Day!** Teach your child about weather, why the seasons change. Help them notice the changes in nature and how it affects animals and their behavior.

**Monday**
- **Talk about how the weather changes with the seasons.**
- **Take a Walk Outside!** See what you can find to compost sticks, petals of flowers that have fallen, birds, animals. Can you see any signs of spring?!?

**Tuesday**
- **Make a picture of your favorite bird and what you can do outside this summer.** Don't forget, color, cut out pictures from magazines.

**Wednesday**
- **Read Daily with your child, and talk together about what you are reading.**
- **Spend some time talking about healthy foods.** What is your favorite seasonal food?

**Thursday**
- **Practice jumping and hopping on one foot.** Practice jumping and hopping on one foot.
- **Make a picture of a tree you see growing through all four seasons.** Draw a tree and use an umbrella. Practice talking about healthy foods.

**Friday**
- **Use an umbrella.** Why do you think a kite works? If you think a kite works, can you make one? Can you make a kite work? If you think a kite works, can you make one?

**Saturday**
- **Tell your child about how the weather changes with the seasons.**
- **Create a collage with them.** Use pictures from magazines.

**Get Ready for Kindergarten!**
- **Read daily with your child, and talk together about what you are reading.**
- **Encourage your child to tell stories with words and pictures.**
- **Encourage make-believe play.**

**B U O K S  T O  R E A D !**
- **Sunshine Makes the Seasons** by Franklin R. Sport (3) 12200
- **The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats
- **What Will Grow?** by Jennifer Ward
- **The Tiny Seed** by Eric Carle

**StoryBlocks: Songs and Rhymes that Build Readers**
- **Apples and Pumpkins** by Anne Rockwell
- **Birds returning from the south, Bees are buzzing all everywhere.**
- **Sing a Song**
- **Make a picture of your favorite bird and what you can do outside this summer.** Don't forget, color, cut out pictures from magazines.

**Visit Your Library!**
- **Pick out some books about the four seasons.** Spring, summer, fall, winter. If possible, get an after.

**Library Books to Read!**
- **Apples and Pumpkins**
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- **Pick out some books about the four seasons.** Spring, summer, fall, winter. If possible, get an after.
APRIL: Reading

Sunday
Point out the same word in the alphabet track. Talk about what each person does.

Mother Goose Time
Talk about the book and the people in it. The cat and the dog. The fish and the bird. The bird dog laughed to see it up high. And the duck can stay with its own groups.

Wednesday
Can you work on writing your own verse? You can add to it every day this month.

Mother Goose Time
Tell a story about someone who plays a trick on you. Tell a story about someone who plays a trick on you.

Friday
What are the different jobs people have? If you have a job, tell me what you do. If you have a job, tell me what you do.

Read two books in a row before bedtime. Ask your child about their favorite part of each book.

Mother Goose Time
Tell a story about someone who plays a trick on you. Tell a story about someone who plays a trick on you.

Monday
Talk about the different jobs people have. If you have a job, tell me what you do. If you have a job, tell me what you do.

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**MAY: Animals**

**Sunday**
- **Make an Animal Collage**
  - Cut out pictures of animals to make a collage on a big piece of paper.
  - Paste them on a big piece of construction paper.
  - Make an animal collage for an animal to live in.

**Monday**
- **Song Day!**
  - Sing Old MacDonald had a Farm: sing as many animals as you can think of.

**Tuesday**
- **Listen for facts!**
  - Learn facts about an animal. Write down what your favorite animal is.

**Wednesday**
- **Make up a story!**
  - Make up a story about an animal. Where does it live? What does it do for fun? What kinds of animals do they have? Do these animals walk, swim, or fly? Draw pictures to go along with your story.

**Thursday**
- **Talk about animals!**
  - Talk about the names of different animals. You can include grandmothers, or friends’ mothers.

**Friday**
- **Play!**
  - Play Animal Simon Says.

**Saturday**
- **Visit Your Library!**
  - Check out some books from the library list. If possible, get a book about the Lion & the Mouse and The Lion Sleeps Tonight.

**Featured Books**
- *The Bighorn Sheep is Colorado’s State Mammal!*
- *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems
- *Bark, George!* by Jules Feiffer
- *Moo!* by Dev Petty
- *I Don’t Want to Be a Frog!* by Frann Preston-Gannon
- *Sloth Slept On*

**Talk about what kinds of animals live in Colorado!**
- How many animals can you find in this calendar?

**Make an Animal Collage**
- Cut out pictures of animals and paste them on a big piece of paper.

**Song Day!**
- Sing Old MacDonald had a Farm: sing as many animals as you can think of.

**Listen for facts!**
- Learn facts about an animal. Write down what your favorite animal is.

**Make up a story!**
- Make up a story about an animal. Where does it live? What does it do for fun? What kinds of animals do they have? Do these animals walk, swim, or fly? Draw pictures to go along with your story.

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**JUNE: Imagination**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talk about what the word “imagination” means.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a book and ask your child to imagine.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have your child make up a self-portrait of themselves as a character from a book.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make up a recipe together. Have your child use it to mold or play dough and have them describe what their imaginary animal is and what it is called.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Write a poem or any book about pets!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Imagination.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a book and ask your child to imagine.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Imagine something amazing and then draw a picture of it.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a book together. Have your child imagine what happens after the book ends.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Look for shapes in the bubbles that float by.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Imagine what seeds need to grow and then grow into a flower.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Imagine that a Laundry Basket is a car. Ask your child what kind of pet they would wear around their house.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a book together. Have your child imagine what happens after the book ends.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ask your child what type of animal they would have if they could live on the moon. Have them describe what their imaginary animal is and what it is called.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ask your child what type of animal they would have if they could live in the water.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Talk about how your child can use imagination.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about what the clouds might be like to live on.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have your child make up their own story.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use salt dough and play I Spy Outside!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Write a poem or any book about healthy foods.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Read a book and ask your child to imagine.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ask your child what new foods they would try.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Have your child describe a self-portrait of themselves as an adult.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Use a broom or stick to brush your child’s hair.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Give your child dinner or breakfast.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Have your child imagine what they would do if they went to the moon.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ask your child what new foods they would try.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paint on the sidewalk or on anything with you.</strong></td>
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**BOOKS TO READ:**
- *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer
- *The Mouse and the Magician* by Andrew Dew
- *The Japanes* by Andrew Dew
- *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer
- *The Spliff* by Carole Lexa Schaefer
- *Beautiful Oops!*, by Barney Salzberg
- *Elizabeti’s Doll*, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
- *I’m a Dog!, by Min Flyte
- *Tickle Monster*, by Édouard Manceau
- *The Squiggle* by Carole Lexa Schaefer
- *The Spliff* by Carole Lexa Schaefer

*Featured: Red Fox*
### JULY: Music

#### BOOKS TO READ!
- Rock-A-Bye Bump, by Linda Ashman
- Jazz Baby, by Lisa Wheeler
- Tanka Tanka Skunk! by Steve Webb
- Baby Dance, by Ann Taylor
- Get the Rhythm, by Connie Schofield
- Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes by Annie Brown

### Music for All Ages

Many local libraries have children’s music that you can check out and bring home. Make sure to ask a librarian about what kind of music would be perfect for you and your child.

#### Sunday
- Go outside together and jump up and down as you jump. Sing songs as you jump.
- Put on some music and have the children dance. Pretend to play instruments like the piano, violin, guitar or drums.
- Read a book together and point out unusual words. Talk about what they mean.
- Talk about the rules to Change the rules to Play musical chairs.

#### Monday
- Mother Goose Time!
  - Little Miss Muffet, some bloke comes.
  - Does he go in the nursery?
  - This is the nursery.
  - Where is that bloke when he looks after the sheep?
- Sing a patriotic song such as "The Star-Spangled Banner." Read a book and stop halfway through.
- Have your child guess what will happen before you read the rest of the book.
- Talk about what makes the song different. What in your house do you make sound high and low? Make rhythm sticks by filling paper towel rolls or toilet paper ends closed and shake.

#### Tuesday
- Sing a rhythmic song such as "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.
- Practice clapping to the beat.
- Put on your favorite music and dance to your music.
- Sing a lullaby together at bedtime.
- Find a new book. Visit StoryBlocks.org or the Bus.

#### Wednesday
- Play musical chairs. Change the rules to fit how many players you have.
- Mother Goose Time!
  - Snapping, clapping, and stomping.
  - Make music with the parts of the book.
- Sang a song to your favorite animal using this song: "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." Make finger actions for the parts of the book.

#### Thursday
- Sing and do the finger actions for "Row, Row, Row Your Boat.
- Talk about how to play in "a round." Try singing in "a round.
- Sing along to it. Make rhythm sticks using your favorite music.
- Play some classical music and try to copy the flippers like Flora does.

#### Friday
- Science Day!
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  - Science Day!
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  - Science Day!

#### Saturday
- Mother Goose Time!
- Talk about what makes the song different. Make rhythm sticks using this song: "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." Make finger actions for the parts of the book.
- What in your house can become a musical instrument? Look around and make some music.

#### Sunday
- Go outside together and jump up and down as you jump. Sing songs as you jump.
- Put on some music and have the children dance. Pretend to play instruments like the piano, violin, guitar or drums.
- Read a book together and point out unusual words. Talk about what they mean.
- Talk about the parts of the book.
- Use the parts of the book to make music. Talk about the variety of sounds different instruments make. Draw a picture of animals that sing.
- Make rhythm sticks using your favorite music.
- Play some classical music and try to copy the flippers like Flora does.
- Sing a patriotic song such as "The Star-Spangled Banner." Read a book and stop halfway through.

#### Monday
- Mother Goose Time!
  - Snapping, clapping, and stomping.
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**BOOKS TO READ!**

- Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola
- Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
- Mouse Mess by Ruth Krauss
- The Carrot Seed by Eric Carle
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Dr. Seuss
- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
- Ice Cream & Pudding on the Plate by Rosemary Wells
- Bunny Cakes, by Rosemary Wells
- Groovy Joe: Science Day! by Jeff Brown
- Groovy Joe: Library! by Jeff Brown
- Groovy Joe: Food Day! by Jeff Brown
- The farmer in the dell by Mother Goose
- Hi-ho, the derry-o by Mother Goose

**Aug 1: Food**

- **Practice measuring:**
  - a Mouse a Cookie.
  - gave a mouse a cookie. If you can’t bake, pretend!
- **Mix the Batter:**
  - (StoryBlocks)
- **Ice Cream & Pudding on the Plate:**
  - (StoryBlocks)

- **Visit a park.** Talk to eat something red, and blue today! Try making ants on a log. If you have a copy, read If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.
- **Talk about taste buds.** Play with your food!
- **Talk about yesterday’s foods.** Describe some of the foods you ate. What different colors did you eat and what shapes? Go outside and make mud pies. Count on, count, then eat them!
- **Talk about counting.** Find out shapes to “make” the letter. Talk about why you eat them.
- **Talk about hot and cold:** Play with your food!
- **Make music with your food:** Make music with your food!
- **Talk about taste buds:** Play with your food!
- **Find a can or box in your kitchen:** Find an item around your house and use it as the Raisinsauce Cup.
- **Make a card for a friend:** Find a package of dried beans. Use them as the raisinsauce cup.
- **Visit Your Library:** Visit a local farm or farmer’s market today to see what foods are growing locally. Have you eaten any of them before?
- **Eat a rainbow!** Try to cut something red, orange, yellow, green, and blue today!
- **Go outside and make water!** Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Take a look at your garden and tap the table. What different sounds each glass makes?
- **Play with your food:** Make music with your food! Make music with your food! Make music with your food!
- **Take a look at your garden:** Take a look at your garden.
- **Play with your food:** Make music with your food! Make music with your food!
- **Add food coloring:** Plant some seeds. You can make apple sauce, ice cream and popsicles.
- **Make music with your food:** Use a paper plate and draw the pizza. Use a paper plate and draw the pizza. Use a paper plate and draw the pizza.
- **Talk about taste buds:** Play with your food!
- **Talk about how plants need water:** Talk about how plants need water. How are they different? How many have you eaten before? Talk about yesterday’s foods. Describe some of the foods you ate. What different colors did you eat and what shapes? Talk about how plants need water. How are they different? How many have you eaten before?
- **Make music with your food:** Use a paper plate and draw the pizza.
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# September: Letters

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<tr>
<td>Make an ABC Book. Make a 26-page booklet from black paper. Together, write each letter on the top of each page. Fill in the bottom with drawings that represent each letter. Premiere all around long.</td>
<td>A is for Apple. Eat an apple and count the seeds.</td>
<td>B is for Bear. With your hand in a big bag, like a bear, see what comes out. Wash and count them some more. 1,2,3,4,5… BEEZ!</td>
<td>C is for Cup. Make a tower using empty plastic cups. How high can you go?</td>
<td>D is for Dog. Take a small animal that has fur and hides it. How can your child dig for it?</td>
<td>E is for Exercise. Touch your toes, do some jumping jacks, and maybe do a twist; if you know how, do a square dance!</td>
<td>F is for Friday. Visit Your Library! Check out some alphabet books. If possible, get a copy of the American Sign Language Alphabet by Judy Girma.</td>
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<td>Lunch for Letters. Hold up a letter and have the child find letters in the words of the book.</td>
<td>G is for Grandparents. Tell your child a story about how grandparents have a grandmother to tell a story themselves.</td>
<td>H is for Honey. Look for honey in National Honey Month. Have some honey and talk about where it comes from.</td>
<td>I is for Ice. Melt ice cubes and talk about coldness. Have some ice cream and things that are cold.</td>
<td>J is for Jack and Jill. Jack and Jill went up the hill. jack fell down and broke his crown, and Jill came tumbling after.</td>
<td>K is for King. Jack and Jill went up the hill.</td>
<td>L is for Letters Ahoy!</td>
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<td>Dough Spelling! Make salt dough or dough dough and use it to spell your name.</td>
<td>L is for Letters. Write out your name in dough dough and practice spelling your name!</td>
<td>M is for Music. Sing the alphabet song. Make sure to do all the American Sign Language letters above.</td>
<td>N is for Noodle. Help your child spell their name or make the alphabet using spaghetti noodles.</td>
<td>O is for Origami. Origami is the Japanese art of making figures by folding paper. Help your child fold a paper airplane.</td>
<td>P is for Pat-a-cake. Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker’s man, bake me a cake for baby and me!</td>
<td>Q is for Quinn. Take a walk outside and look for leaves. Try to find different kinds of leaves.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Spy Letters. Form the letters you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</td>
<td>R is for Ring Around the Rosie. Ring around the roses. Sing along with the American Sign Language song above.</td>
<td>S is for Sign Language. Explore the idea of sign language. Teach them to sign “I love you with their hands.”</td>
<td>T is for Treasure Hunt. Find objects around the house that start with each letter of the alphabet.</td>
<td>U is for Unicorns. A Unicorns and Rainbows book list.</td>
<td>V is for Vegetable. Name a vegetable that starts with each letter of the alphabet.</td>
<td>W is for Wash. Take a walk through the alphabet. Share some fruit salad together.</td>
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<td>Take a Weather Walk. Go for a walk with your children and see if they can find things to notice that look like letters, or you may see at the zoo.</td>
<td>X is for X-Marks-the-Spot. Fill a small container with dirt or rice and hide objects in it. Have your child look for treasure!</td>
<td>Y is for Yellow. Find some yellow flowers you see throughout the day.</td>
<td>Z is for Zoo. Visit one of your favorite zoos or an animal that you really love.</td>
<td>Make an ABC Book. Make a 26-page booklet from black paper. Together, write each letter on the top of each page. Fill in the bottom with drawings that represent each letter. Premiere all around long.</td>
<td>AlphaOops! The Day Z Went First.</td>
<td>Books to Read!</td>
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**OCTOBER: Numbers**

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Help your child write out the numbers 1-10.</strong> Use this sheet throughout the month to practice counting.</td>
<td><strong>Find patterns! If you have a copy, read Press Here, by Herve Tullet.</strong> Talk about other things that come in pairs.</td>
<td><strong>Make salt dough or play dough and use it to mold the numbers 1 to 10.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explain what a dozen means. Count the number of eggs in a dozen.</strong></td>
<td><strong>How many pieces you eat.</strong> Count forwards and backwards.</td>
<td><strong>Check out some number books. If possible get Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed and Ten Black Dots from this month’s book list.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Here are everyone’s favorite books! Count up the votes and see which book is the winner.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Point out the different arrangements in the recipe.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about size and which is larger.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a picture book about size.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sing songs with numbers such as Five Little Pumpkins on Five Little Ducks.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bring out a picture book and then count the pages together.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Make salt dough or play dough and use it to mold the numbers 1 to 10.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Read a picture book and then count the pages together.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count your child’s birthday and those of family members on a calendar. Talk about how many people live with you.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Look for the number 5 day in Colorado. Count 5 owls.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Draw a picture of the family members who live with you. Count how many people.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a picture book and then count the pages together.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Did you grow taller? Measure each family member again and see if anyone grew.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Point out the numbers you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>With your child count how many books your child reads. Have you almost a free book favorrite to read aloud?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk about how much a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter are worth.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have everyone in your family vote on their favorite book. Count how many people.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take a walk outside and look for patterns. Count how many you see.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have your child tell a story about something that came to life.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Four days a week should be considered a special day.</strong> You can: 1. Read, 2. Bake, 3. Build, 4. Play.</td>
<td><strong>How many people.</strong> Help your child write their fingers and toes. Help your child sort their own things.</td>
<td><strong>Weigh the number away with water.</strong> Show your child a clock and count the numbers away with water.</td>
<td><strong>Have a story about something that came to life.</strong>** Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.**</td>
<td><strong>Local department to check.</strong> Many fire departments offer free smoke detectors so contact your local department to check.</td>
<td><strong>Number 5 Day!</strong> Talk for the number 5 today. Explain why a sevth is like a sixth.</td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Revised from I Spy Numbers by Bill Martin Jr and Elinor J. Pinczes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explore what today’s routine will be.</strong> Talk about the size of the room and how many of each are in it.</td>
<td><strong>Point out the pairs of socks your child has.</strong> Explain the difference between “more” and “less.”</td>
<td><strong>Talk about how much a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter are worth.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count how many people.</strong> Count from 1 to 64 together.</td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>I Spy Numbers Point out the numbers you recognize in signs, labels and billboards throughout the day.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Read a picture book about size.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Help your child sort their own things.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count the pairs of socks your child has.</strong> Explain the difference between “more” and “less.”</td>
<td><strong>Count how many people.</strong> Count from 1 to 64 together.</td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Five potato, more! Five potato, six potato, seven potato, more!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Number 5 Day!</strong> Talk for the number 5 today. Explain why a seventh is like a sixth.</td>
<td><strong>Look for the number 5 day in Colorado. Count 5 owls.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have everyone in your family vote on their favorite book. Count how many people.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Count to ten aloud.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count forward and backwards.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Check out some number books. If possible get Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed and Ten Black Dots from this month’s book list.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Here are everyone’s favorite books! Count up the votes and see which book is the winner.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>One, two, buckle my shoe, Three, four, open the door, Five, six, pick up sticks, Seven, eight, lay them straight, Nine, nine, put them away, Ten, ten, make a toy.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count to ten in Spanish: 1. uno 2. dos 3. tres 4. cuatro 5. cinco 6. seis 7. siete 8. ocho 9. nueve 10. diez</strong></td>
<td><strong>Visit Your Library!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Choose a new recipe to make together.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bring a set of measuring cups or spoons into the bathtub. Practice measuring cups or spoons into the bathtub. Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice counting.</strong> Throughout the month to practice counting.</td>
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Native American Heritage Month
November is the month set aside to highlight the significant contributions the peoples living in the land we now call America made to the establishment and growth of the United States. Originally, the area that is now Colorado included members of the Apache, Assiniboine, Bannock, Cheyenne, Comanche, Jicarilla, Kiowa, Kiowat Apache, Navajo, Pueblo, Shoshoni, and Ute tribes. There are two federally recognized Indian tribes in Colorado today: the Southern Ute Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, both in the southwestern area of our state.

How to Share Books with Your Child
Repetition is important when sharing books with your child. If they have a favorite, read it frequently. Use different voices and make noises mentioned in the book. Point out words as you read them so your child makes noises mentioned in the book. Point out words as you read them so your child makes noises mentioned in the book.

Monday
Write a poem about the land you live in.

Tuesday
Tell a story about a special day they spent with another family member.

Wednesday
Talk about how animals also have families. While you are there, if you see any animals, talk about how animals also have families.

Thursday
Have each family member write a letter to a veteran in their family. If you have any veterans in your family, talk about what veterans do.

Friday
Create a new one. Help them re-tell one of their favorite stories from a grandparent.

Saturday
Have all family members recount a special day they spent with another family member.

NOVEMBER: Family

Featured: American Goldfinch - Males are bright yellow with black and white markings. Females have more muted feathers.
DECEMBER: Friends

Sunday
Talk about how friends can be important.

Monday
Make up a rhyme about friends and share it with the class.

Tuesday
Read the story One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo and Laurie Isop.

Wednesday
Ask your child what animal they would like to bring home from the zoo if they were their age.
Have your child try to name their pet. Point out which pets are more likely to be friends and which ones might not be.

Thursday
Science Day!
Have your child make a model of a snowman. Snowflakes, snowballs and snowmen can be our friends too.

Friday
Talk about how friends are like pets. Talk about how they can be a good friend and how they can be a bad friend.

Saturday
Visit Your Library!
Check out some books about friends. If possible get them a special card from the library and let them bring it home!

Talk about how friends can help each other. If you have a special friend that is special to your child.

Talk about how friends can share. How your friends shared with you. How you shared with your friends.

Talk about how friends can play. What your friends play with you. How your friends like to play.

Talk about how friends can help each other. How your friends help you. How you help your friends.

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Play Dough

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:
- In a saucepan, mix flour, cream of tartar and salt. Add water and vegetable oil. Turn burner on medium-low and stir. Before it thickens, add food coloring and stir. Continue stirring until it separates from pan and no longer sticks to a spoon. Let it cool. Knead dough and store in plastic bag.

Bubble Blowing Solution

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup liquid dish detergent
- 1 Tbs. sugar

Instructions:
- Combine ingredients well. Dip bubble wand in and blow. To make a bubble wand, you can brand a pipe cleaner, wire in wine hanger into shape. For colored solution, add food coloring.

Salt Dough

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:
- In a large bowl, combine the salt and flour. Make a well in the salt/flour mixture and add the water. Knead until smooth and shape into a ball. When not in use, wrap in plastic or store in an airtight container.

HINT: To get a softer dough you can add more flour and mix. To get more texture, add food coloring or paint. Knead to get an even color.

Craft Books to Check Out!

- Around the World Art & Activities by Judy Press
- Art Lab for Little Kids: 52 Playful Projects for Preschoolers by Susan Schwake
- The Arts and Crafts Busy Book by Elisa Szeffer
- Easy Origami by John Montroll
- Ed Emberley’s Complete Funprint Drawing Book by Ed Emberley
- First Art for Toddlers and Twos by MaryAnn F. Kohl
- Little Kid Paper Plate Crafts by Chris Yates
- Preschool Art: It’s the Process Not the Product! by MaryAnn F. Kohl
- Science Arts: Discovering Science Through Art Experiences by MaryAnn F. Kohl
- Show Me a Story - 40 Craft Projects and Activities to Spark Children’s Storytelling by Emily K. Housberg

Books About Art to Read Aloud!

- Art & Play by David Wiesner
- The Art Lesson by Tomie dePaola
- Beautiful Disaster! by Barney Saltzberg
- Dave the Potter by Laban Carrick Hill
- The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds
- Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni
- Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- The Museum by Susan Verde
- Museum Shapes by the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Too Much Glue by Jason Lefebvre

Sock Puppet

- 1 old, mismatched light colored sock
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Assorted beads
- 1 pipe cleaner

Instructions:
- Have your child put the sock on their hand to see how it would work as a puppet. Help them decide what kind of puppet they would like to make. Using glue, paper, markers, yarn and any other craft supplies you might have, create a face and hair for the puppet. Once it is finished, your child can put their own sock puppet a name and use it to tell a story.

Salt Dough

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:
- In a saucepan, mix flour, cream of tartar and salt. Add water and vegetable oil. Turn burner on medium-low and stir. Before it thickens, add food coloring and stir. Continue stirring until it separates from pan and no longer sticks to a spoon. Let it cool. Knead dough and store in plastic bag.

Soda Dough

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:
- In a large bowl, combine the salt and flour. Make a well in the salt/flour mixture and add the water. Knead until smooth and shape into a ball. When not in use, wrap in plastic or store in an airtight container.

HINT: To get a softer dough you can add more flour and mix. To get more texture, add food coloring or paint. Knead to get an even color.

Beaded Bracelet

- 1 pipe cleaner
- Assorted beads

Instructions:
- Bend the end of the pipe cleaner so that the beads will not fall off. Show your child how to thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. Encourage them to make a color pattern. Once it is complete, have your child thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. Once the pipe cleaner is almost full, bend the two ends together to make a bracelet.

Paper Plate Mask

- Paper plates
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- String
- Glue

Instructions:
- Cut two circles out of the paper plate for your eyes. Decorate the paper plate with crayons, markers, colored pencils, or even cut outs from magazines. Use construction paper to cut out shapes for ears, trunk, and nose. Using scissors or a hole punch, make two small holes near the side of the plate to attach string. Pull the string and make a knot, then take both pieces to tie around the back of your child’s head. Be creative with what you have to decorate the mask. Stickers, pieces of fabric, feathers, or other items make great decorations.

Beaded Bracelet

- 1 pipe cleaner
- Assorted beads

Instructions:
- Bend the end of the pipe cleaner so that the beads will not fall off. Show your child how to thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. Encourage them to make a color pattern. Once it is complete, have your child thread the beads onto the pipe cleaner. Once the pipe cleaner is almost full, bend the two ends together to make a bracelet.

Bubble Blowing Solution

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup liquid dish detergent
- 1 Tbs. sugar

Instructions:
- Combine ingredients well. Dip bubble wand in and blow. To make a bubble wand, you can brand a pipe cleaner, wire in wine hanger into shape. For colored solution, add food coloring.

Salt Dough

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/3 cup salt
- 1 Tb. vegetable oil
- food coloring

Instructions:
- In a saucepan, mix flour, cream of tartar and salt. Add water and vegetable oil. Turn burner on medium-low and stir. Before it thickens, add food coloring and stir. Continue stirring until it separates from pan and no longer sticks to a spoon. Let it cool. Knead dough and store in plastic bag.

HINT: To get a softer dough you can add more flour and mix. To get more texture, add food coloring or paint. Knead to get an even color.

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Paper Plate Mask

- Paper plates
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- String
- Glue

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The Colorado State Library gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the South Carolina State Library in sharing their “Day by Day Family Literacy Calendar,” upon which the Colorado version has been modeled. The original South Carolina calendar and the Colorado version are made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Colorado calendar also has been funded by grants from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy.