To Librarians:

This calendar is intended to encourage parents to follow through with the“1000 books before Kindergarten” program.

The calendar includes early literacy tips for parents of children 2-5 years old.

Offer stickers to parents to mark their progress. Add books to the calendar that your library carries around holiday times. Have parents mark their child’s birthday and any special occasion they celebrate as a family, and encourage them to find books in your library that cater to those special days!

Offer small incentives like pizza parties or ice cream socials when parents reach a reading goal.

You can collect the reading log at the end of each month or year. Use this Calendar as a tool in your individual program!

Don’t forget to add any programs that your library runs like weekly story times or the Summer Reading Program. You can impact the progression of this program by interacting with parents and their children! Get to know them, encourage them, and remind them they are taking steps in making their children life-long learners!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Book log and Monthly Calendar

[insert your library logo here]

Place a sticker or a check mark in the date box for every book you read with your child!

**January 2014**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Get up and move! Movement stimulates the brain. Combine language with movement by singing and dancing. The Hokey Pokey is always a favorite!

It’s a brand new year! **Head to the Library** and ask the staff what their favorite books were in last year. Don’t forget to grab a book for yourself!

**February**

 **Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Children learn to **love** reading and books when their caregivers read to them often. Engage yourself in the books you read to your child, use different voices, add songs, and just have fun!

**Did you know:** In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14th the holiday of St. Valentine's Day?

**Here are some titles** to help celebrate this **love** filled holiday with your child:

**March**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Creating art projects can be more than just a fun way to spend an afternoon. Encourage communication skills by having your child explain what she’s created. Next, display it! This helps build confidence in writing skills!

**Did you know:** March is National Craft Month, all the more reason to bring out those crayons, markers and paints!

**April**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Help your child see the connection between words by rhyming together. Hat, Bat, Mat, Cat! Make up stories and songs with the rhymes you come up with!

**Did you know:** April is National Poetry Month?

**Here are some titles** to get you started with rhyming and creating your own poetry:

**May**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Some studies show a correlation between early music training and some cognitive skills. Make some musical instruments at home! Pots and pans can easily be turned into drums. Help your child find rhythm by singing and dancing to the music they create!

**Did you know**: May 22nd is Musical Instrument Day!

**Here are some titles and CDs** at the library to help you and your child celebrate:

**June**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Show your child how reading and writing work in the real world! Make a grocery list together, and show them what words like “green beans” or “cookies” look like!

**Did you know:** In 2012, June was declared “Great Outdoors Month!” Spend lots of time outside with your child this month. Point out as many words in the real world as you can, like signs at the park and around your community!

**July**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Help build your child’s communication skills by telling stories. Pick out a few postcards, and have your child tell you a story about the picture!

**Did you know:** The first picture postcard was made on July 5th!

We celebrate the **Fourth of July** this month! **Here are some titles** you and your child might like:

**August**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Show your child how reading is helpful by baking together. Follow a recipe, and show your child what direction you’re following by reading it out loud first!

**Here are some Cookbooks** to help you with this project:

**September**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Ask your child what book he wants to read at story time. This helps build confidence in decision making.

What was your favorite book growing up? **Check it out at the library!** Does your child like it too?

**Here are some of our Favorite Books:**

**October**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** Kids learn by playing! Using your imagination builds language and thinking skills. Put together a dress-up box, and spend some time playing pretend with your child!

**Did you know:** October 6th is Mad Hatter Day? Decorate some old hats with your child and add them to your dress up box! Have a tea party!

**Here are some fun books to read in October:**

 **November**

 **Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** As your child gets older, she’ll begin to connect ideas. Ask your child lots of questions to help build this skill. Ask her why the sky is blue, or why butterflies fly. The right answer isn’t important!

**Did you know:** the first Saturday of the month is **Book Lover’s Day!** Spend some time at the library with your child!

We also celebrate **Thanksgiving** this month! **Here are some titles** to help you and your child celebrate:

**December**

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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**Early Literacy Tip of the Month:** As your child gets older, engage him in story time. Ask him what he thinks will happen next, or what he likes best about the illustration. This encourages critical thinking!

We have lots to Celebrate in December! **Here are some Favorite Holiday Titles** for you and your child: