



September 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Talk Tell your friend what you like about your school.	2 Read Head to your local library and read some books on back to school.	3 Sing Sing "The Wheels on the Bus."	4 Write Write about your child's first week of school.	5 Play Paint a picture of how fall looks to you.
6 Talk Talk to your parent about what's new at school.	7 Read Labor Day! Give your child a history lesson about Labor Day.	8 Sing Sing "All the Leaves are Falling Down."	9 Write Write your name forwards and backwards 9 times today.	10 Play Gather some leaves and make a collage.	11 Talk Talk about how the leaves are changing.	12 Read Check out a wordless book and have your child create the story.
13 Sing Sing Happy Grandparents' Day to your favorite grandparent.	14 Write Make a list of your favorite things to do in the fall.	15 Play Gather up the family to play Musical Chairs.	16 Talk Look at some old photos and talk about what's going on in each one.	17 Read Read along with your parent during your bed time story.	18 Sing Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It."	19 Write Make a list of words that rhyme with "fall."
20 Play Go Play "I Spy" but use fall colors.	21 Talk Talk about the weather today.	22 Read Read your child's favorite bed time story.	23 Sing First Day of Autumn! Sing "How Many Leaves."	24 Write Write the word "Autumn" 6 times today.	25 Play Go outside and play Hopscotch.	26 Talk Take a trip to your favorite library.
27 Read Read some books about fall and the changing seasons.	28 Sing Create a song about how much you love fall.	29 Write Make a list of words that rhyme with "fall."	30 Play Go outside and play in the leaves.	<div style="border: 2px solid brown; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Youth Services Department Early Literacy Calendar http://cpl.org/kids</p>  </div>		



Talking

- Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining in conversation.
- Talking, telling stories and stretching conversations help children learn new words, learn to express themselves and learn how to have a conversation.
- Infants and young children need to hear the language (or languages) they will eventually speak in order to learn it — so if you speak two languages at home, it is beneficial to speak both languages to your child.
- Talking to your child in the language you are most fluent in is the best way to help your child develop early literacy skills.
- Very young children can **understand** spoken words long before they can **speak** any of them — so talk to them and you will be amazed at how your child responds.
- Talking to your child about many different events, ideas and stories helps them develop the general knowledge they need to understand the content of what they will read in books when they are older.

Writing

- Writing and reading go together! Both are ways to represent spoken words and to communicate information.
- Scribbling and drawing are forms of writing — they may not be words, but the lines and pictures your child draws mean something to them.
- Scribbling and drawing help children develop eye-hand coordination and the fine motor control they need to hold a pencil.
- As children write, they become aware that the printed letters and words have meaning. They begin to understand the purpose of reading through the process of writing.
- Writing doesn't always have to be **writing** — it can be tracing in sand, playing with clay or play dough, or crinkling up newspaper to help strengthen finger muscles!

Reading

- Reading together remains the **single most effective way** to help children become proficient readers.
- Children, who enjoy being read to, are more likely to want to learn to read themselves.
- Reading together develops vocabulary, comprehension, and general knowledge needed to understand other books and stories when they are older.
- Reading introduces children to "rare" words that they may not hear in everyday conversation.

Playing

- Play is one of the primary ways young children learn about how the world works and learn language.
- Play helps children practice putting their thoughts into words.
- Play helps children think symbolically — that this item stands for this thing ("This box is a rocket ship!"), which helps them understand that words can stand for real objects or experiences.
- Play is how children practice becoming adults and process what they see and hear every day.

Singing

- Singing helps children learn new words.
- Singing slows down language so children can hear the different sounds in words and learn about syllables.
- Singing together is a fun bonding experience with your child — whether you're a good singer or not!
- Singing develops listening and memory skills and makes repetition easier for young children — it's easier to remember a short song than a short story.

**There are five early literacy practices that every child needs to get ready to read, listen, and write: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing.
(Some information taken from the Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library 2nd Edition Toolkit, Sections 1–5)*