

AUGUST 2020

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 WRITING

Sit outside and write a list of seven things you see.

2 PLAYING

Paint on the sidewalk with water. Watch it evaporate.

3 TALKING

Make this "same and different" day.

How are our socks the same and different? They go on our feet and they are different colors.

4 SINGING

Make music with things you have in the house, like pots, pans, spoons, boxes, and cups.

5 COUNTING

Sort toys by size. Count the number of toys in each group.

6 READING

Read a nonfiction book about birds. Talk about what you've learned. Say the rhyme "If I Were a Bird." *(Words are on the back. 🐦)*

7 WRITING

Label the things in your child's room. Bed, dresser, table, book, closet. Point to the words and discuss as you put things away.

8 PLAYING

Play with blocks. What can you make? Form the blocks into letter shapes.

9 TALKING

Take an alphabet walk outside. Talk about things that begin with different letter sounds.

10 SINGING

Sing a bedtime story. Encourage your child to sing with you.

11 COUNTING

Put five stuffed animals in order from smallest to largest.

12 READING

Have a family story time. Each person picks a book to read aloud.

13 WRITING

Draw a picture for a grandparent or other very important person.

14 PLAYING

Play "What Fits?"

Will your hat fit under your bed? Will the refrigerator fit in your pocket?

15 TALKING

It's Library Card Month. Talk about what you can do at the library.

16 SINGING

Pick a new kind of music you haven't listened to before. Listen together.

17 COUNTING

Set the table for a meal. How many plates will you need? How many utensils? Napkins?

18 READING

Go to the library for a new book you haven't read before. The librarian can help you find one.

19 WRITING

Write the names of each family member with chalk on the sidewalk. Stand on your name.

20 PLAYING

Play the yes-no game about time. Is it time for breakfast? Is it time to read? Is it time for kisses?

21 TALKING

Before going to bed talk about things you did this morning, this afternoon, and tonight.

22 SINGING

Sing a 'good morning' song to greet your child in the morning.

23 COUNTING

Count the trees you see today.

24 READING

Point out signs everywhere.

25 WRITING

Use chalk to draw shapes on the sidewalk. Draw a triangle, a square, a circle, and a rectangle. Talk about how they are different.

26 PLAYING

Pretend you are in a boat on the water. Ask your child what kind of fish they see.

27 TALKING

Offer choices today. Do you want this book or that one? Do you want water or milk? Would you like a banana or strawberries?

28 SINGING

Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." *(Words are on the back. 🐦)*

29 COUNTING

Trace around your hand and around your child's hand. Talk about the difference in size.

Children's reading success in kindergarten and beyond begins with positive language and literacy experiences from the time they are infants.

- Young children have shorter attention spans. You can do activities for short bits of time throughout the day or whenever you have the chance.
- You can help your children learn in ways and at times that are best for them.
- Parents are tremendous role models—if your children see that you think reading is important and enjoy it, they will follow your lead.
- Children learn best by doing—and they love doing things with YOU!

HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES

Touch each body part as you sing

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

And eyes and ears and mouth and nose,

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Neck, elbows, hips and feet, hips and feet

Neck, elbows, hips and feet, hips and feet

And thighs and rears and lips and teeth,

Neck, elbows, lips and teeth, lips and teeth.

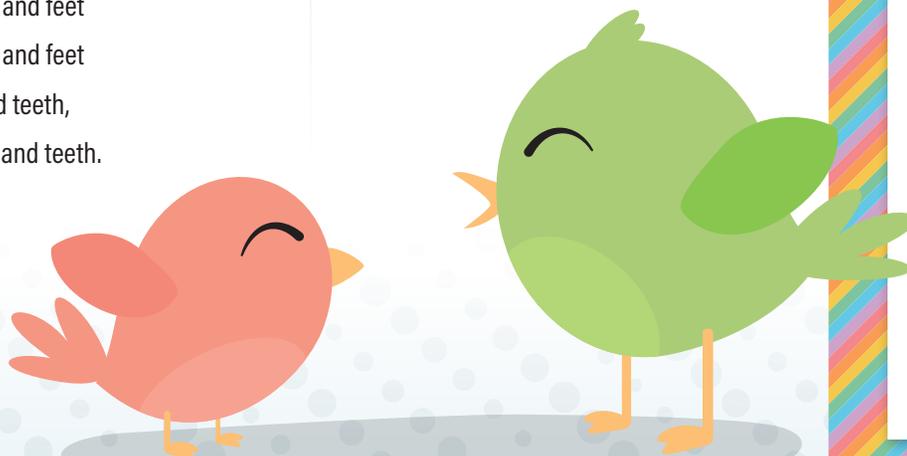
IF I WERE A BIRD

If I were a bird, I'd sing a song

And fly about the whole day long.

And when the night comes, go to rest,

Up in my cozy little nest.



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Birds

by Jill McDonald

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Eric Carle

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Birds

by Kevin Henkes

Saturday

by Oge Mora

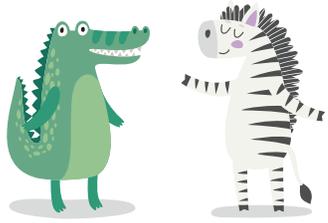


SEPTEMBER 2020

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.



SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY

1 WRITING

Have fun scribbling today! Use different kinds of paper and different pens, markers, crayons, etc.

WEDNESDAY

2 PLAYING

Blow bubbles—this strengthens muscles needed for speech.

THURSDAY

3 TALKING

As you tell a story, use new words and explain what they mean.

FRIDAY

4 SINGING

Clap your hands to the beat of a favorite song.



SATURDAY

5 COUNTING

Lace Cheerios onto a piece of yarn and then count them.

6 READING

Read a book or find information about insects that are active in late summer, like crickets or cicadas. Talk about how you can hear them at night.

7 WRITING

Write your to-do list together. Have your child check off each as it is completed.

8 PLAYING

Play alphabet search today. Take turns picking a letter and searching for it.



9 TALKING

Talk about something your child hasn't experienced and explain what happens.

10 SINGING

How many ways can you move to the music? Play a favorite song and clap, march, spin, and tap.

11 COUNTING

Count how many red cars you see today. Tally up at the end of the day.

12 READING

Have a friends book club. Each friend brings a book for a story time.



13 WRITING

Pop bubble wrap or play with squirt toys to develop muscles needed for writing.

14 PLAYING

Tape a sheet of contact paper to the wall, sticky side out. See which toys stick and which toys do not.

15 TALKING

Make silly sounds today. Encourage your child to imitate you.



16 SINGING

Sing "Now it's bath time, now it's bath time, yes, it is" to the tune of "Frère Jacques."

17 COUNTING

Take a walk and count how many birds or squirrels you see.



18 READING

Visit the library and help your child select books to check out.

19 WRITING

Use cooked pieces of spaghetti to make shapes and letters.



20 PLAYING

Go on a scavenger hunt today. Look for things that start with the 'p' sound, like a plate, a pan, and a pen.

21 TALKING

Use simple props to tell a story. Use silly voices for different characters.

22 SINGING

Recite a nursery rhyme like "Humpty Dumpty." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

23 COUNTING

Use blocks to measure how long something is. How many blocks long is your arm, your foot, etc.?

24 READING

Pick a child's favorite book. When you come to a favorite part encourage your child to "read" along with you.

25 WRITING

Work together to make a list of your child's favorite words.

26 PLAYING

Sing "Scarecrow, Scarecrow" to practice following directions. (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

27 TALKING

Use family photos to tell different stories. Encourage your child to tell a story.

28 SINGING

Recite a nursery rhyme like "Hickory Dickory Dock." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

29 COUNTING

Time yourself. How long does it take to walk one block? Show your child the time at the beginning and at the end.

30 READING

Go to the library and check out a book on a topic your child is interested in. The librarian can help you find one.



Playing to Learn New Words

Play and have fun with words:

- Read a book with lots of made-up words like “How Do You Wokka-Wokka?” by Elizabeth Bluemle. Many books by Dr. Seuss also are excellent for this purpose. Try making up more words to go with the story.
- Silly poems are fun and can teach new vocabulary.
- Kids love riddles and jokes, which often use a “play on words.” Laugh along as you talk about the answer to the riddle or joke.
- Having fun with words helps your child become more conscious of words and happy to keep learning.



HUMPTY DUMPTY

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the King's men
Could not put Humpty together again.

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory Dickory Dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one
And down he run.
Hickory Dickory Dock
Tick Tock!

SCARECROW, SCARECROW

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”

Scarecrow, scarecrow, turn around,
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch the ground.
Stand up tall and blink your eyes.
Raise your hands up to the sky.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, touch your toes.
Scarecrow, scarecrow, tap your nose.
Swing your arms so very slow,
Now real fast to scare the crows.
Raise your head, jump up and down.
Now sit down without a sound.

Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Together

by Emma Dodd

Baby Goes to Market

by Atinuke

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Pinky Got Out

by Michael Portis

Whose Nose Do You Suppose

by Richard Turner



OCTOBER 2020

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



<p>1 WRITING</p> <p>Start a list of things to do this week. Talk about it and decide who will do each.</p>	<p>2 PLAYING</p> <p>Cut out pictures of food from magazines. Let your child choose which to use and glue those onto a paper plate.</p>	<p>3 TALKING</p> <p>Talk about the weather today and what you should wear outside.</p>
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4 SINGING

Sing "good morning to you" to the tune of Happy Birthday.

Good morning to you, good morning to you. Good morning to (child's name), good morning to you!

5 COUNTING

Count out a healthy snack.

One for you and one for me and one for Daddy. Two for you, two for me, and two for Daddy.

6 READING

Go the library and take out a new book. Talk about new words you come across while reading the new book.

7 WRITING

Write a grocery list together. Go around checking what you need and add it to the list.

8 PLAYING

Take a walk outside. Collect colorful leaves. Try to find as many different types as possible.

9 TALKING

Expand on what your child says.

Yes, we saw a dog at the park. It was large and brown and wagging its tail.

10 SINGING

Take turns singing bits of the alphabet song.

11 COUNTING

Trace the hand of each person in your family. Whose hand is bigger? Whose is smaller?

12 READING

Try to spot letters on license plates today. How many can you see?

13 WRITING

Write your child's name in big letters. Talk about each letter.

14 PLAYING

Play "I Spy" with rhyming words.

I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with fall. What is it? Yes! A ball!

15 TALKING

Read a book together. Ask 'what' questions.

What is happening here? What do you think will happen next?

16 SINGING

Sing "Where is Thumbkin?" (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

17 COUNTING

Pick a point in your house or on your block. Count the steps to get there.

18 READING

Read a book about bears or other animals that hibernate over the winter. The library can help you find one.

19 WRITING

Use crayons or markers to write the names of colors. Use the red crayon to write the word red; the blue crayon to write the word blue; etc.

20 PLAYING

Take turns pretending to be animals.

What sound do you make? How do you move?

21 TALKING

Talk about foods that are orange.

22 SINGING

Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It" (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

23 COUNTING

Count the number of pumpkins you see today. Keep a tally.

24 READING

Read a book about fall. The library can help you find one.

25 WRITING

Write a list of words that rhyme with dog.

26 PLAYING

Play a rhyming riddle game.

What do you see that rhymes with bee? Yes, a tree!

27 TALKING

Smell different things and talk about them: spices, flowers, fruit, and cocoa. Which scents do you like or dislike?

28 SINGING

Dance to a fast song and then dance to a slow song. Clap along to both songs.

29 COUNTING

What three things would fit inside your pumpkin? What three things won't fit?

30 READING

Read a book about Halloween.

31 WRITING

Make a list of things you liked most about this month.

Parents are tremendous role models.

If your children see that you think reading is important and enjoy it, they will follow your lead. When you go to the library, check-out books for you and your children. Put your books somewhere at home where your child can see them. Let your children see you reading. Talk about what you've read, even if it is just to say, "That was a good book. I liked reading it."

THUMBKIN *Sing to the tune of "Frère Jacques"*

(Start with hands behind back)

Where is Thumbkin? Where is Thumbkin?

Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with thumb up)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with thumb up)*

How are you today friend?

Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle thumbs as if they are talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Where is Pointer? Where is Pointer?

Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with index finger up)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with index finger up)*

How are you today friend?

Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle fingers as if they are talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Where is tall man? Where is tall man?

Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with third finger up)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with third finger up)*

How are you today friend?

Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle fingers as if they're talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT

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 and you really want to show it, if you're happy and you know it clap your hands (clap, clap).

OTHER VERSES: STOMP YOUR FEET! SHOUT HOORAY! DO ALL THREE!

Where is Ring Man? Where is Ring Man?

Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with ring finger up)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with ring finger up)*

How are you today friend?

Very well I thank you. *(Wiggle fingers as if they are talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Where is Pinkie? Where is Pinkie?

Here I am. *(Bring right hand to front, with little finger up)*

Here I am. *(Bring left hand to front, with little finger up)*

How are you today friend?

Very well, I thank you. *(Wiggle fingers as if they are talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Where are all the fingers? Where are all the fingers?

Here we are. *(Bring right hand to front with all the fingers showing)*

Here we are. *(Bring left hand to front with all the fingers showing)*

How are you today friends?

Very well we thank you. *(Wiggle fingers of both hands as if they are talking to each other)*

Run away. *(Hide right hand behind back)*

Run away. *(Hide left hand behind back)*

Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Besos for Baby

by Jen Arena

(Text is in English and Spanish)

Can I Be Your Dog?

by Troy Cummings

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Good Night, Good Night, Construction Site!

by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

by Grace Lin



NOVEMBER 2020

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 WRITING Create a list of things to do this month. Hang it up where everyone can see. Have your child check off items as they are completed.	2 PLAYING Go for a walk after dark. Pretend you are an explorer. Talk about what you see.	3 TALKING At the end of the day talk about everything that happened. What did you like best about today?	4 SINGING Have a family sing-along. Each person gets to pick a favorite song.	5 COUNTING Draw numbers 1-10 in big puffy letters. Help your child color in each one as you say each one.	6 READING Read a book that won the Caldecott Medal. The library will help you find one based on what your child likes.	7 WRITING Write a message to someone important. 	
8 PLAYING Play "I Spy" with rhyming words. <i>I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with hat. Yes, a cat!</i>	9 TALKING In the morning talk about what you will do today. What are you especially excited to do?	10 SINGING Recite "Rub a Dub Dub."  <i>(Words are on the back. ➡)</i> 	11 COUNTING Make cloud dough together. <i>(Follow the recipe on the back. ➡)</i> 	12 READING Read a fiction and nonfiction book about fall. Your library has lots to choose from!	13 WRITING Draw your child's name in big puffy letters. Help them color in the letters as you say each one.	14 PLAYING Make a fort with sheets and furniture. Pretend you are sleeping there overnight. What will you bring? Read a book together in the fort.	
15 TALKING Talk about fun things you like to do together as a family. 	16 SINGING Sing a favorite rhyming song. Stop at the end of a line and have your child fill in the word. <i>(See Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star on the back. ➡)</i>	17 COUNTING Name four things that begin with the first letter of your child's first name.	18 READING Snuggle together and read two favorite books and one new book you haven't read yet.	19 WRITING Scribble day! Have lots of papers, markers, crayons for your child to scribble and draw.	20 PLAYING Do the alphabet hop! Write letters on paper and place them on the floor. Hop from one to the next naming the letters.	21 TALKING Talk about opposites. Reach high to the sky and low to the ground. Take a big step and a little step.	
22 SINGING Sing a song your toddler knows but stop and let your children fill in the blanks. "Row, row, row, your ____."	23 COUNTING See how many cotton balls you can fit into a variety of different-sized containers. <i>How many can fit in this cup? How many can fit in your pocket?</i>	24 READING Read a book about Thanksgiving. 	25 WRITING Make a book with your child. Draw letters and pictures to tell a story. Tape the pages together.	26 PLAYING Go for a morning walk. Walk slow. Walk fast. (Toddler pace). Repeat. 	27 TALKING Ask your child "What is your favorite toy?" Have a conversation about the answer.	28 SINGING March to a drum. Use any empty container as a drum, then play the drum and march to the tempo, going from slow to fast.	
29 COUNTING Make a number path. Recite each number as your child walks the path.	30 READING Read a book about Winter. Talk about the seasons.					 <p>PublicLibrary ASSOCIATION A Division of the American Library Association WWW.PLA.ORG</p>	

Listening to nursery rhymes and songs is an early literacy experience that helps children understand how language and stories work.

Recite rhymes and sing songs with children from the time they are infants. This helps them become aware of and then play with the sounds in the words. Many rhymes tell a story with a beginning, middle, and end. This shows children how stories work and that events happen in a sequence. Good readers understand that stories and books have a beginning, middle, and end. After reciting a rhyme or singing a song ask your child about the song. What happened at the beginning? What happened at the end?

RUB A DUB DUB

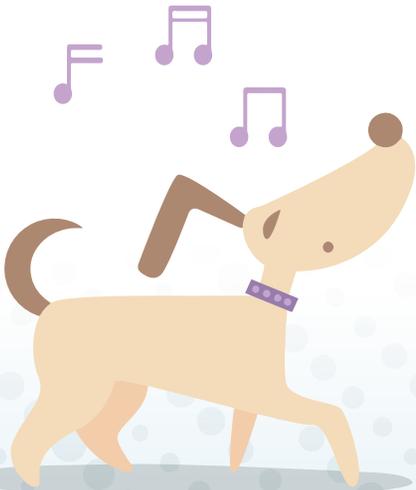
Rub a Dub Dub

Three Men in a Tub

And Who Do You Think They Be?

The Butcher, The Baker, The Candlestick Maker

And All of the them Out to Sea



CLOUD DOUGH RECIPE

- 4 cups of flour
- ½ cup of vegetable oil
- Food coloring

1. Add the food coloring to the oil. Use as much or as little food color as needed to achieve the color you like.
2. Mix in the flour.
3. Use your hands to knead the dough so the oil is distributed evenly.
4. Use on a large tray or shallow bin to help keep the dough in one play. Give your child cookie cutters, measuring cups, or other items to play with the dough.

Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

How Are You? / ¿Cómo estás?

by *Angela Dominguez*

(Text is in English and Spanish)

Arctic Animals

by *Jill McDonald*

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Baby Monkey, Private Eye

by *Brian Selznick*

A Big Mooncake for Little Star

by *Grace Lin*



DECEMBER 2020

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY

1 WRITING

Make a winter card to send to someone special. Who will you send it to?

WEDNESDAY

2 PLAYING

Make an indoor fort with sheets and furniture. Cuddle together and read favorite books.

THURSDAY

3 TALKING

Talk about family traditions you'll celebrate this month. Look at photos from previous years and talk about them.

FRIDAY

4 SINGING

Sing "Snowflakes, Snowflakes." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)
Give each family member a scarf and move the scarves to the beat of the song.

SATURDAY

5 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here _____
Compare it to the weight you wrote down in January.

6 READING

Read books about different holidays and how people celebrate them.



7 WRITING

Write a message to someone important to you.

8 PLAYING

Pretend to be an animal that like cold weather. Who will you be?



9 TALKING

Talk about your feelings. What made you happy today?

10 SINGING

Sing, "The Frost Song." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)



11 COUNTING

Measure your child's height and write it here _____
Compare it to January and June.

12 READING

Read a fiction and nonfiction book about winter. Your library has many to choose from!

13 WRITING

Draw shapes: a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle. Have your child color them in. Talk about shapes and point them out today.

14 PLAYING

Play with a large empty box. What can you pretend to be and do?

15 TALKING

At mealtimes, talk about the food you are preparing, what tools you are using, how you are making it, how it will taste.

16 SINGING

Sing some favorite songs. Clap along to the singing.

17 COUNTING

Make a high tower with blocks. How many blocks did you use?

18 READING

Be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading a book, magazine, or newspaper.

19 WRITING

Have each family member write one thing they liked about this week. Have your child decorate the paper.

20 PLAYING

Use play dough or cloud dough to make a snowman.

21 TALKING

Talk about the seasons. Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall.



22 SINGING

Sing "Cold and Snowy Morning." (*Words are on the back.* ➡)

23 COUNTING

Name three things that are white like snow.



24 READING

Draw the alphabet on strips of paper. Add the strips of paper to a container and have your child draw one. Make that the letter of the day.

25 WRITING

Pick one color and only use that to cover a whole page with scribbles and pictures.

26 PLAYING

Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?

27 TALKING

Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.

28 SINGING

Make up a song using your child's name. Incorporate other family member names or pets into the song.

29 COUNTING

It's Measure Your Feet Day. Line up your family's shoes or boots. Whose are the biggest? The smallest?

30 READING

Snuggle together and read a book of nursery rhymes. The library can help you find one.

31 WRITING

With your child, write a list of things you plan to do in 2021.



Your library helps children get ready to read.

- The library has many materials and ideas you can use to talk, sing, read, write, play, and count with your child. It doesn't matter if your child is four days old or four years old, we have books, music, programs, and services to help your child develop language and prereading skills.
- We have books to read together, music to borrow, places where you can write, places to play and learn, and programs for all ages.

SNOWFLAKES, SNOWFLAKES

Sing to the tune of "Frère Jacques"

Snowflakes, snowflakes,
Snowflakes, snowflakes,
All around,
All around—
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Hit the ground,
Hit the ground.

THE FROST SONG

Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

The frost is in the air.
The frost is in the air.
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,
The frost is in the air.

The frost tells me it's cold.
The frost tells me it's cold.
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,
The frost tells me it's cold.

SING OTHER VERSES IN WHICH THE FROST IS "ON THE ROOF," "ON THE WINDOWS," AND "ON THE GROUND"

COLD AND SNOWY MORNING

Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we put on our mittens
Put on our mittens
Put on our mittens
This is the way we put on our mittens
On a cold and snowy morning

This the way we put on our coats
Put on our coats
Put on our coats
This is the way we put on our coats
On a cold and snowy morning

This is way we put on our hats
Put on our hats
Put on our hats
This is the way we put on our hats
On a cold and snowy morning

This is the way we shovel the snow
Shovel the snow
Shovel the snow
This the way we shovel the snow
On a cold and snowy morning

This is the way we build a snowman
Build a snowman
Build a snowman
This is the way we build a snowman
On a cold and snowy morning.



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Pouch

by David Ezra Stein

Black Bird Yellow Sun

by Steve Light

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Imagine!

by Raúl Colón

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

