





MAY 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Cleveland Public Library Youth Services Department Early Literacy Calendar</p>		<p>1 Talk National Mother Goose Day! Ask your parent about Mother Goose.</p>	<p>2 Read Take a look at <i>My Very First Mother Goose</i> by Iona and Peter Opie.</p>	<p>3 Sing Sing along to <i>The Month of May</i> by Jack Hartmann.</p>	<p>4 Write National Star Wars Day! Write the words <i>Stars Wars</i> four times.</p>	<p>5 Play National Train Day! Pretend you are <i>Thomas The Tank Engine</i> and "Choo-Choo" around the house.</p>
<p>6 Talk National Lemonade Day! Ask your parent if you can make some lemonade today.</p>	<p>7 Read Don't forget about <i>Just Me and my Mom</i> by Mercer Mayer.</p>	<p>8 Sing National Teacher Appreciation Day! Make up a song your favorite teacher.</p>	<p>9 Write Write the word <i>May</i> nine times.</p>	<p>10 Play Head outside and play a game of <i>Mother May I</i>.</p>	<p>11 Talk National Eat What You Want Day! Ask if you can have cookies for lunch.</p>	<p>12 Read Make sure you go to the library and read <i>Duck on a Bike</i> by David Shannon.</p>
<p>13 </p>	<p>14 Write Write the words May and Flowers five times.</p>	<p>15 Play Find some playing cards and a few friends to play <i>Go Fish</i>.</p>	<p>16 Talk Ask your parent if they know how to ride a bike.</p>	<p>17 Read You should try to read 6 different books today.</p>	<p>18 Sing Sing "I'm A Little Teapot" standing on one foot.</p>	<p>19 Write Write the word <i>Bike</i> ten times.</p>
<p>20 Play Go outside and play a game of <i>Tag</i>.</p>	<p>21 Talk Tell you parent about how awesome your day was.</p>	<p>22 Read You should read <i>A Bad Case of the Stripes</i> by David Shannon.</p>	<p>23 Sing Listen to <i>The Poppy Song</i> by The Kiboomers.</p>	<p>24 Write Red Nose Day! Write the words <i>Red, Nose and Day</i> six times.</p>	<p>25 Play Find things around the house that start with the letter <i>M</i>.</p>	<p>26 Talk Head to your favorite library and ask the librarian for a book about Memorial Day.</p>
<p>27 Read Take a look at <i>Memorial Day Surprise</i> by Theresa Martin Golding.</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29 Write Write the words <i>Red and Blue</i> seven times today.</p>	<p>30 Play National Creativity Day! Paint a picture only using the colors Red, Blue, and Green.</p>	<p>31 Talk Tell your parent what you would like to dinner.</p>	<p>Don't forget this month is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Bike Month • National Get Caught Reading Month • National Strawberry Month 	

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)*