



# January 2024 Newsletter

Dear Caregiver,

Welcome to our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten monthly newsletter! Each month you'll find book lists, songs and rhymes, and early literacy tips to share with your baby or young child. On page 2, find a printable calendar with an activity or reading suggestion for every day of the month! Happy reading!

## Librarian Reads

Jessica's top choices this month.

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*I'm Going to Build a Snowman* by Jashar Awan

*Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell

*It's Snowing!* by Gail Gibbons

*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Keats

*First Snow* by Peter McCarty

*First Snow in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams

*Bundle Up* by Jennifer Sattler

*Once Upon a Winter Day* by Liza Woodruff

*Snow Party* by Harriet Ziefert

## Rhyme Time

### Dance Like Snowflakes

(Sing each line twice, to the tune of "Frere Jacques.")

Dance like snowflakes  
(wiggle fingers up and down)

In the air  
(wave hands back and forth)

Whirling, twirling snowflakes  
(roll hands)

Here and there!  
(present arms to side one at a time)



**Ready to Read** Create a culture of reading in your home and get your child ready to read by incorporating the 5 Practices of Early Literacy into your daily routines. It's easy and fun!

**Read** — Did you know the StoryBook Trail is open year-round? Grab your boots for a hike and enjoy the picture book *Snow Horses* by Patricia MacLachlan through the end of January!

**Write** — Use a stick or icicle to trace letters, names, or pictures in the snow.


**Sing** — "Snow" includes the long o vowel sound, and it has many common rhymes. Make up a song with a child and see how many snow rhymes you can work into it.

**Talk** — On a nature walk around your neighborhood, talk about how different it appears now compared to other seasons. Notice sights, sounds, and smells for a sensory experience.

**Play** — Bring play kitchen accessories outside and serve up snowy "food."

# Daily Fun with Your Little One!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>1 Reading</b> On New Year's Day, read <i>How to Party Like a Snail</i> by Naseem Hrab and help your child have a 'quiet party' of their own.</p>	<p><b>2 Rhymes</b> How many words can you and your child think of that rhyme with "new" and "year"?</p>	<p><b>3 Math</b> Have your child tell you three wishes he has for the new year. Tell him three of yours. How many total wishes is that?</p>	<p><b>4 Play</b> Find some colorful socks and put on a puppet show.</p>	<p><b>5 Math</b> Use leftover popcorn to do simple addition and subtraction problems.</p>	<p><b>6 Songs</b> (Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques") <i>Snow is falling (2x), From the sky (2x), Let's go build a snowman (2x), Winter's fun! (2x)</i></p>	
<p><b>7 Play</b> On Bobblehead Day, have a dance party or play a game while bobbing your heads back and forth like the classic toy.</p>	<p><b>8 Stories</b> After watching a movie together, have your child tell you in her own words what happened.</p>	<p><b>9 Science</b> On Static Electricity Day, have your child rub a balloon on her shirt or hair for 30 seconds, then watch it cling to the wall. Talk about why it sticks.</p>	<p><b>10 Play</b> Ask your child to teach you his favorite game. Let him make up his own rules!</p>	<p><b>11 Writing</b> Have your child paint a picture by dipping cotton swabs into paint.</p>	<p><b>12 Math</b> Give your child an object that's easy to carry. Go around the house and ask your child to find objects that are bigger or smaller than the object.</p>	<p><b>13 Rhymes</b> Go to the library and ask the children's librarian to recommend a rhyming book or two.</p>
<p><b>14 Stories</b> Show your child several pictures and have her tell you a story based on what she sees.</p>	<p><b>15 Reading</b> Open a book. Ask your child how many words he can pick out on the page.</p>	<p><b>16 Math</b> At breakfast, have your child count the number of eggs in the carton.</p>	<p><b>17 Play</b> Make a snowman out of cotton balls and glue.</p>	<p><b>18 Songs</b> Make up a song about yesterday's cotton ball snowman and sing it to a familiar tune.</p>	<p><b>19 Reading</b> Get 26 plastic cups and write one letter on each (A-Z). Line them up and give your child a small ball to kick at them. Ask her what letter(s) she knocked down.</p>	<p><b>20 Science</b> Check out a nonfiction book about your child's favorite animal. Look at the pictures and read the captions together.</p>
<p><b>21 Sounds</b> Bundle up for a nature walk and talk about how the sounds are different from other seasons.</p>	<p><b>22 Writing</b> During Crayola Creativity Week, create an art station at home where your child can draw a picture of their day each day.</p>	<p><b>23 Writing</b> On Handwriting Day, have your child practice printing her name in different colors.</p>	<p><b>24 Songs</b> Sing while you do everyday activities like making breakfast or driving to the store.</p>	<p><b>25 Play</b> Get silly on Opposite Day! Have dinner for breakfast, say "good morning" at night, and say "hello" when you leave the room.</p>	<p><b>26 Sounds</b> Use household items as instruments!</p>	<p><b>27 Stories</b> Have your child tell you a story about what his stuffed animals do when they are home alone.</p>
<p><b>28 Reading</b> While shopping, read boxes together as you look at different items.</p>	<p><b>29 Math</b> Go from room to room counting different objects, such as chairs or books.</p>	<p><b>30 Songs</b> Make up a new song about a snowflake and sing it to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot."</p>	<p><b>31 Rhymes</b> Write a rhyming poem together.</p>	<p><b>Help your child get ready to learn to read!</b> Each day features a fun activity that will help your child build pre-reading skills. Activities are color-coded by skill. Ask your children's librarian for more ideas on how to promote early literacy skills with daily activities at home.</p>		



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