



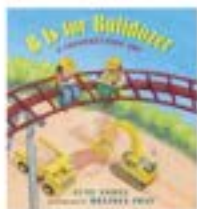
LITHGOW KIDS 2025 SUMMER READING Reading List for Future Readers

Every day: read, write, talk, sing, play! Our Summer Reading challenge for future readers encourages families to build these core skills of early literacy into their summer plans. Below are suggestions to get you inspired for every challenge - whether it involves reading or not. You are welcome to choose whatever books you like.

Creativity is encouraged! Families are welcome to interpret each challenge in the way that works best for them. You can always ask library staff for more suggestions.

Read an alphabet book & sing your ABCs

Letters make words, words make sentences, sentences make stories! Celebrate each letter with these alphabet reads.



You could try....

A picture book

- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *B is for Bulldozer* by June Sobel

A board book

- *Brown Bear and Friends ABC*

Make something from a recipe

Follow the steps from one to done (an maybe to yum!). A recipe can be as simple or as complicated as you want. Not ready to hit the kitchen? Make a pretend meal!



You could try....

A cookbook

- *Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes* by Mollie Katzen

A picture book

- *Bee-bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park

A board book

- *Too Green!* by Sumana Seeboruth



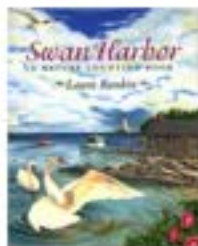
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Make a picture of something in nature

You don't need a story to finish this challenge, but here are some favorite nature illustrations to get you inspired.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Swan Harbor: a Nature Counting Book* by Laura Rankin

A board book

- *I Love My Home* by Sebastien Braun
- *A Monarch Butterfly Story* by Melissa Kim

Read a book that rhymes

Rhyming helps build phonological awareness, a building block of reading. Here are some fantastic rhyming books to get you started.



You could try....

A board book

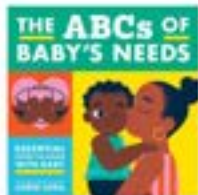
- *The Belly Song* by Mother Moon

A picture book

- *Fire Chief Fran* by Linda Ashman
- *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson

Take a walk and find letters as you go

You can find letters almost everywhere you look - on signs, on clothing, and even in shapes in the natural world. Can you find every letter in your name? The whole alphabet?



You could try....

A picture book

- *I Read Signs* by Tana Hoban
- *Sign Off* by Stephen Savage

A board book

- *The ABCs of Baby's Needs* by Loris Lora

Visit a park, museum, or swimming spot

Aren't we lucky to live in Maine? Here are some stories to get you inspired to hit the great outdoors - and ones that will certainly take you on an adventure if you can't get to a park yourself.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney
- *Bubbles... Up!* by Jacqueline Davies

A board book

- *Leo at the Park* by Anna McQuinn

Write or trace the letters in your name

Sing, Talk, Read, **Write**, Play! Everyday skills build early literacy, and writing is a key part. If writing isn't a skill you're ready to tackle just yet, try building up fine motor skills with activities like finger plays.



You could try....

A picture book

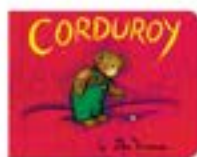
- *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal
- *A Squiggly Story* by Andrew Larsen

A board book

- *Follow the Dots ABC* by Gina Lorena Maldonado

Act out a story using toys

The story you act out doesn't need to be about toys, but here are some favorite toy stories to get you inspired.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Louis* by Tom Lichtenheld
- *Bing! Bang! Chugga! Beep!* by Bill Martin Jr and Michael Sampson

A board book

- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman

Play a game or do a puzzle

Here are some stories of games and puzzles to get you in the solving spirit!



You could try....

A board book

- *Knock Knock Who's There* by Rob Hodgson

A picture book

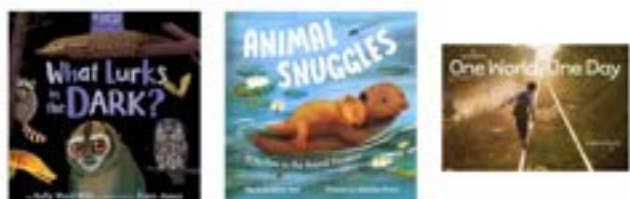
- *Mr. Fox's Game of "No!"* by David LaRochelle

An early reader

- *Kit and Kaboodle Visit the Farm* by Michelle Portice and Mitch Mortimer

Read a nonfiction book

It's never too soon to start reading books with facts and information! Here are a few nonfiction picks that work well in early childhood.



You could try....

A board book

- *What Lurks in the Dark?* by Kelly Ward-Wills

A nonfiction picture book

- *Animal Snuggles: Affection in the Animal Kingdom* by Aimee Reid
- *One World, One Day* by Barbara Kerley

Read a wordless picture book

Anyone can read a wordless picture book! Work together to tell a story based on what is happening in the pictures.



You could try....

A Caldecott honoree

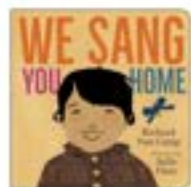
- *Home in a Lunchbox* by Cherry Mo

A picture book

- *Good Dog Carl* by Alexandra Day
- *Draw the Line* by Kathryn Otoshi

Read in a cozy spot

Comfy, cozy reading can be a group activity! Snuggle up and enjoy a story.



You could try....

A board book

- *We Sang You Home* by Richard Van Camp

A picture book

- *Safe, Warm, and Snug* by Stephen Swinburne
- *Sleep Like a Tiger* by Mary Logue

Come to a program at the library

We have special things happening all summer long in the Children's Room! And most of our regular weekly story times continue through the summer – from infant lapsit on Fridays, to Toddler Time on Tuesday mornings. Here are some library favorites.



You could try....

A picture book

- *The Library Book* by Tom Chapin and Michael Mark
- *No Cats in the Library* by Lauren Emmons
- *Lola at the Library* by Anna McQuinn

Make a picture based on a story you read

Let your creativity play! Any story, any style. Creating connects the story to you.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Grandma in Blue with Red Hat* by Scott Menchin
- *Time to Make Art* by Jeff Mack

A board book

- *Black Bird Yellow Sun* by Steve Light

Make art using things you find outside

We'll have take and make craft kits with a nature theme available in the Children's Room the week of June 30 (while supplies last). But you can make nature-based art any time! Trace leaves, make a collage, or grab an acorn cap!



You could try....

A picture book

- *If You Spot a Shell* by Aimée Sicuro
- *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert

Nonfiction

- *How to Build an Insect* by Roberta Gibson

Read a book about an animal

Maybe choose an animal that starts with the same letter as your name. Or an animal you've never seen in real life. Or a favorite animal! Library staff is here to help you find the perfect critter story.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Kitten's First Full Moon* by Kevin Henkes
- *Don't Worry, Little Crab* by Chris Haughton

A board book

- *Here, George!* by Sandra Boynton

Make music with your body

Clap, stomp, and sing! You are all the musical accompaniment you need. Feel free to grab some pots and pans if you need to crank the volume.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Play This Book* by Jessica Young
- *The Animal Song* by Jonty Howley
- *Hog Wild!: A Frenzy of Dance Music* by Sandra Boynton

Have a pretend picnic

What will you bring on your picnic? Who will be there? Where will you go? You don't need to leave the house to have plenty to talk about! (But maybe you'll get inspired.)



You could try....

A picture book

- *Summer Supper* by Rubin Pfeffer
- *Sun* by Sam Usher

A board book

- *Play With Me* by Kat Chen

Make up a silly song about food

Take a familiar tune and make up new words, or create something entirely original. What's for dinner tonight?



You could try....

A picture book

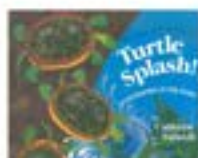
- *I'm a Little Teapot* by Iza Trapani
- *Are You Quite Polite?* by Alan Katz and David Catrow

A board book

- *Monster Food* by Daisy Hirst

Practice counting backwards

Countdown to blastoff! Here are some favorite counting books to inspire you.



You could try....

A picture book

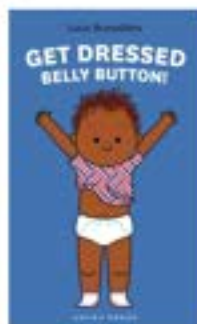
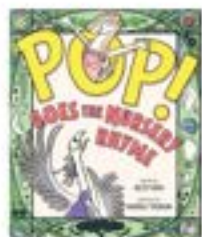
- *One Was Johnny* by Maurice Sendak
- *Turtle Splash!: Countdown at the Pond* by Cathryn Falwell

A board book

- *Five Enormous Dinosaurs* by Annie Kubler

Read a new (to you) book

We have new books coming into the Library all year long. Look for a "new" sticker or ask staff for a fresh idea. Or try a little free library in your neighborhood to change things up!



You could try....

Picture book

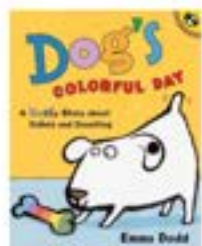
- *Pop! Goes the Nursery Rhyme!* by Betsy Bird
- *Nellie's Big Splash* by Cori Doerrfeld

A board book

- *Get Dressed, Belly Button!* by Lucie Brunellière

walk & talk about the colors you see

Can you find every color in the rainbow as you go? Here are some great color stories to send you on your way.



You could try....

A picture book

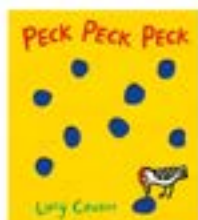
- *Dog's Colorful Day* by Emma Dodd

A board book:

- *My Favorite Color* by Aaron Becker
- *One Yellow Sun* by Michael Arndt

Read for three days in a row

Reading together every day can help set the scene for future reading success. Have you signed up for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten at the Library? If you read for three days in a row, then you're well on your way to a thousand!



You could try....

A picture book

- *Papilio* by Ben Clanton

A board book

- *Peck, Peck, Peck* by Lucy Cousins
- *123 Who Comes Next?* by Amy Matsushita-Beal

Read with a family member

Share some fun book time with people who are important in your life!



You could try....

A picture book

- *No Mirrors in My Nana's House* by Ysaye Barnwell
- *A Family is a Family is a Family* by Sarah O'Leary

A board book

- *Cat's First Baby* by Natalie Nelson

Library staff is here to help. If you need ideas or suggestions to complete a challenge, come see us, call us, or email us!

(207) 626-2415

kids@lithgowlibrary.org



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