



# Five Activities to **Raise a Reader**

Early literacy activities for preschoolers & their families

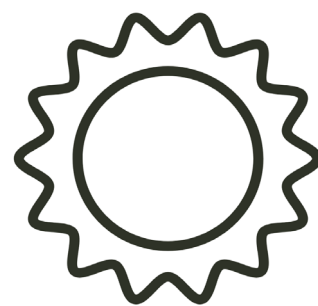
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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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### 5 Activities to Raise a Reader:

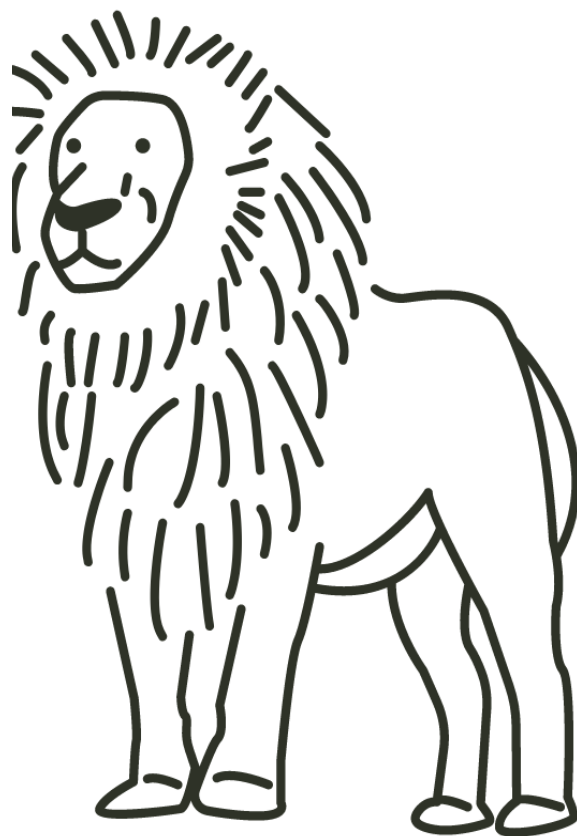
- Talk
- Sing
- Read
- Play
- Write



Science Activities

Alphabet Cards

Animal Cards





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# FIVE ACTIVITIES TO RAISE A READER

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## 1. **TALK**

Talking builds language and vocabulary

## 2. **SING**

Singing enables children to hear the different sounds

## 3. **READ**

Practice reading or telling stories using the pictures from books

## 4. **PLAY**

Playing should be part of your child's daily routine

## 5. **WRITE**

Build muscles by scribbling and drawing

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## TALK AT HOME TOGETHER

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Talking, naming things, and using a wide variety of words in your home language all help build your child's vocabulary. The more words a child hears, the bigger their vocabulary will be, and the easier it will be for them to sound out words when they start to read.



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### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER

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Sometimes I reach up tall, tall, tall  
*(stretch arms and hands above head)*

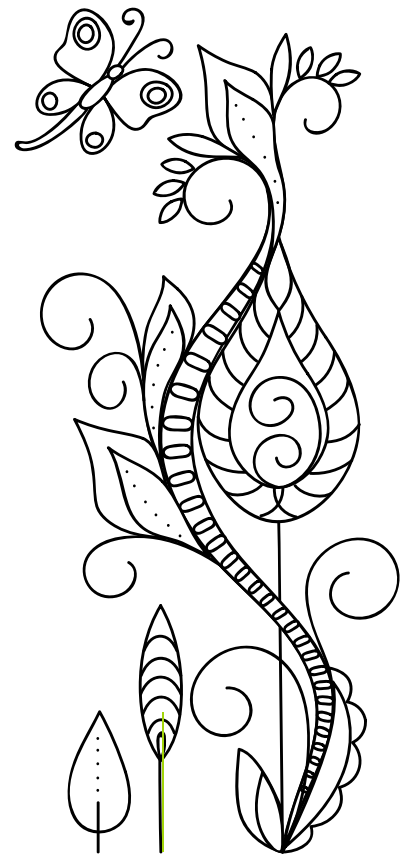
Sometimes I curl up small, small, small  
*(bend down and curl body into a ball)*

Sometimes I reach out - arms open wide  
*(stand up and open arms wide)*

Sometimes I sway from side-to-side  
*(sway arms and body side-to-side)*

Sometimes I hop up and touch the sky  
*(hop with hands above head)*

Then I float back down to the ground and sigh  
*(float fingers down to toes and sit down)*



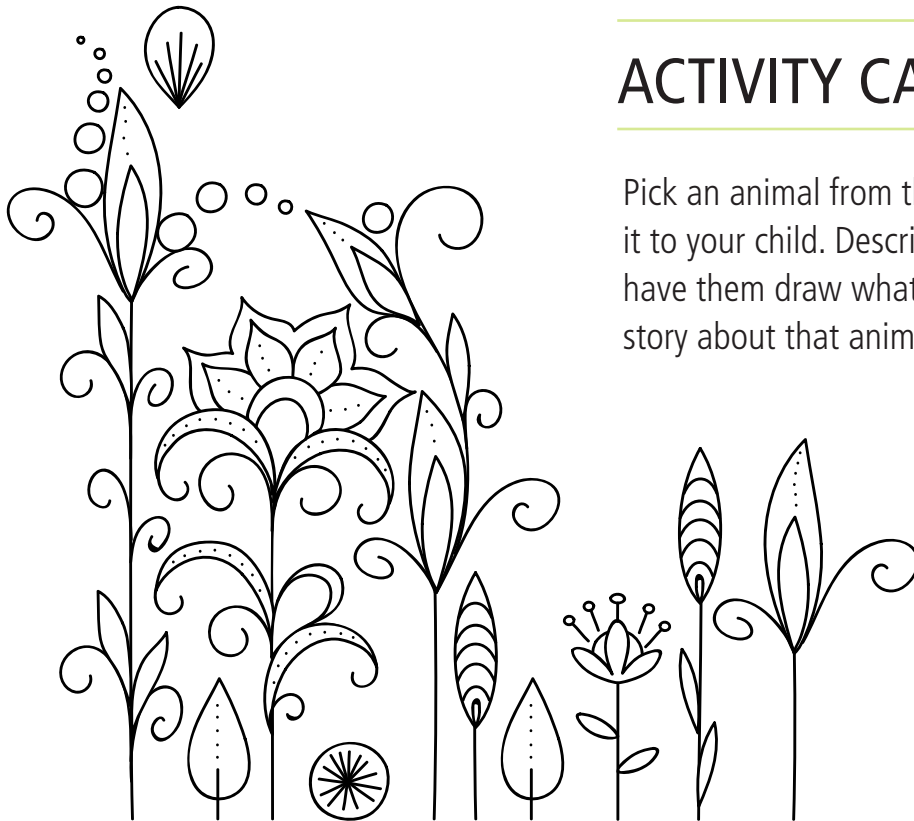


## TALKING TOGETHER

Go for a walk with your child (outside or inside your home). Talk about what you see, feel, smell, taste and hear. Point out different shapes and colors. Make a game out of counting things.

When cooking, talk through each step. Describe how the different ingredients feel, look and smell. Share feelings or memories about the food you're making.

At bedtime, make up a story or simply talk about what you and your child did that day.



## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Pick an animal from the Animal Cards, but don't show it to your child. Describe the animal to your child and have them draw what you are describing. Make up a story about that animal together.

## SING AT HOME TOGETHER

Singing slows down language so that kids can hear the smaller sounds in words. This helps them to play with different sounds and learn new words.



### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER

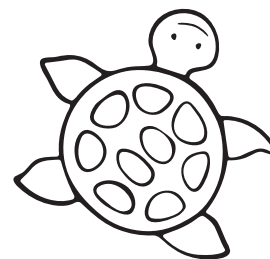
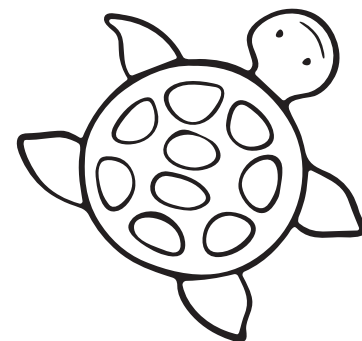
*(If you are doing this with a toddler or preschooler, stand up together. You can also do this with a baby, either with them facing you on your lap, or doing the movements to their bodies)*

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose

Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes!



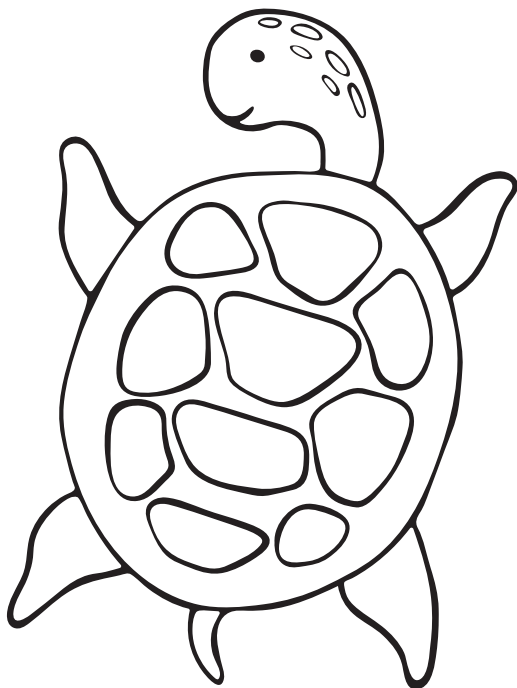


## SINGING TOGETHER

Sing to your baby or toddler during daily activities, like changing diapers and feeding, and to transition between activities. Bounce with the rhythm when you can!

Take turns sharing your favorite songs.

Can you make up a song as a family? You can make it as silly as you want and you don't even need to use real words!



## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Using the Alphabet Cards, sing the ABC song, pointing out each letter as you sing it.

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## READ AT HOME TOGETHER

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Reading together every day is the most important activity to help kids get ready to read. Along with reading books, point out and read words in the activities you do throughout the day. It helps kids notice print all around them.



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### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER

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We're going on down to the library  
*(march in place)*

Picking out books  
*(mime selecting books with both hands)*

Check them in  
*(point both hands forward)*

Check them out!  
*(point with both thumbs behind you, over your shoulders)*

Going to say hi to the dictionary  
*(wave hello)*

Picking out books  
Check them in  
Check them out!





## READING TOGETHER

Look through a newspaper or magazine article together, and circle all the words that start with the same letter as your child's name.

Read everything and anything:

- If you use a recipe when cooking dinner, read it out loud to your child as you do each step.
- When you gather ingredients to cook, read the labels aloud to your child. They can point out the letters they recognize, too
- Point out words on street signs.

As you read books, point to the words as you read them so children can see that you are reading the letters and not the pictures. This will also help them understand the direction you read in your language (for example, English is read from left to right).

## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Find the shapes of letters at home or outside. Bring the Alphabet Cards and look around your house or neighborhood for objects that look like the shapes of letters. Name them when you find them. For example, find a stick that looks like a "Y", a bracelet that makes an "O" shape, or a shoelace that can make an "S" shape.





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## PLAY AT HOME TOGETHER

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Playing together helps children express themselves and put thoughts into actions and words. Play helps children understand that spoken and written words represent real objects and experiences.



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### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER

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Hands up, shake shake shake  
*(raise hands over head, shake hands)*

Hands down, shake shake shake  
*(lower hands to knees, shake hands)*

Turn around, shake shake shake  
*(turn body, shake hands)*

Touch the ground, shake shake shake  
*(touch ground, shake hands)*



## PLAYING TOGETHER

Play the game I Spy using colors. Say: "I spy, with my little eye, something that is yellow. What do you see that's yellow that I may be looking at?"

Play I Spy using letters. For example, "I spy, with my little eye, something that begins with the letter B. What do you see me looking at that begins with the letter B?"

Do the Freeze Dance. Dance to a song you love. Whenever you pause the music, all the dancers stop moving and freeze in place until the music starts again.

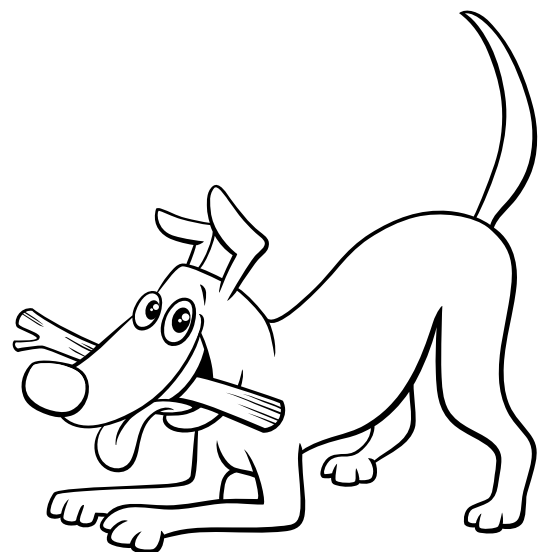
Draw a picture of you and your friends playing together. What friends do you miss? What would you like to do when you see each other again? Call one of your friends on the phone and tell them about it.

## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Let your child choose an animal from the Animal Cards. Ask your child to pretend to be that animal as you tell a story about it. Move like the animal, make sounds like the animal, and act out the story.

Using the Alphabet Cards, place different letters around the room. Then call out one of the letters, and encourage your child to hop to it.



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## WRITE AT HOME TOGETHER

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From holding crayons and scribbling, to writing letters and words, children start practicing their writing skills as young as two years old. Scribbling will help your child learn to write and read!



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### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER

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Tall as a tree, how tall can you be?

*(Stand very tall and stretch hands up toward the ceiling)*

Wide as a house, how wide can you be?

*(Stretch arms and feet very far apart)*

Thin as a pin, how thin can you be?

*(Stand tall and straight, with fingers pointed toward floor)*

Small as a mouse, how small can you be?

*(Crouch into a tiny ball)*

Tall as a tree, wide as a house, thin as a pin, small as a mouse

*(do each stretch as many as times as you want to!)*

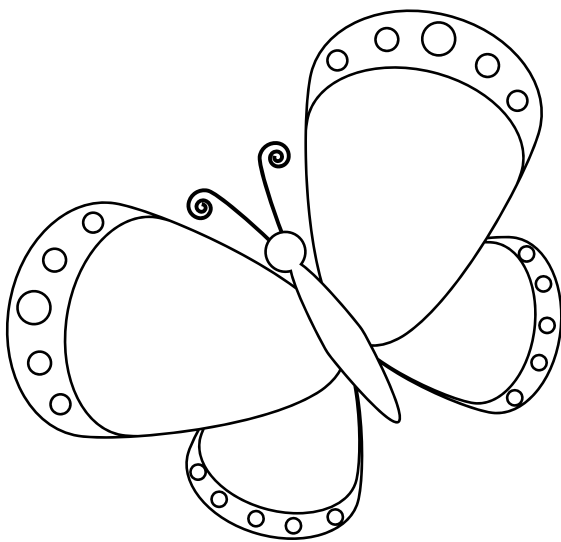


## WRITING TOGETHER

Keep crayons and paper around the house, so your little one can practice scribbling. Holding crayons and scribbling are the first steps in developing the motor skills that will help your child write one day!

Help your child recognize shapes. Practice drawing shapes together, or pointing them out in books. Children first recognize their letters as shapes.

Let your child practice writing their name. Tell them the story of where their name came from. Point out other words that start with the same letter as their name.



## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Help your child pick out the letters of their name from the Alphabet Cards. Think of an animal that starts with the same letter as their first name, and help them create a story about that animal.

Encourage them to write/scribble the story with you on their own sheet of blank paper with crayons, and draw pictures. Read the story back to them when you're done. Or let them read the story back to you!

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## SCIENCE AT HOME TOGETHER

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Asking questions and making observations about the world is how your child makes sense of everything going on around them. Take the time to describe what you're seeing and experiencing together, and make comparisons or point out differences. Young children are curious about everything; they are natural scientists!

### LET'S GET MOVING TOGETHER



*(Stand and dance with the rhyme)*

Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon.

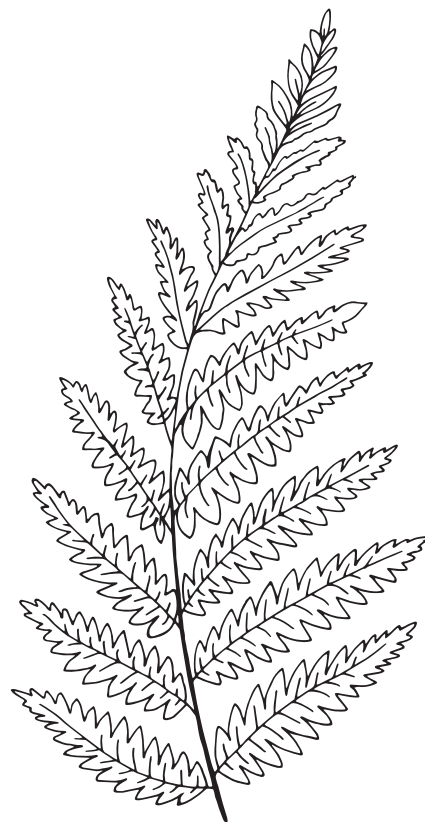
Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going very soon.

If you want to take a trip, step into my rocket ship.

Zoom, zoom, zoom, we're going to the moon.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1... BLASTOFF!

*(countdown slowly with your fingers and jump!)*





## SCIENCE TOGETHER

Go on an adventure inside (or outside) and look for similar objects: things that are tiny, things that are green, things that are soft, and whatever else you can think of!

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Set up a tasting experiment with the foods you're eating together. Close your eyes and describe the tastes, smells and textures that you're experiencing with each bite.

Share a story about how you solved a problem in your life. Or, describe something that you were curious about that you then learned more about.

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Draw a picture of something you see at home or outside. Talk about the details that your child captured when they tried to draw something from life.

## ACTIVITY CARD FUN



Using the Animal Cards, work with your child to sort them into different categories. What animals are yellow? What animals have four legs? Create whatever categories you'd like!



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