

www.hpl.ca

display

create

read



Hamilton
Public
Library

PRESCHOOL

hpl.ca

Caregiver Reading Tips



You are your child's first teacher. You are their best teacher. Your child's learning starts at birth. Support early literacy at home by talking, singing, reading, writing and playing together.

Children learn best when they are actively involved. Here are some tips for reading with your child:

- Point to the illustration on a book's cover and ask your child what they think the book is about.
- With predictable books (like rhyming books), stop before the end of a predictable line and let your child finish it.
- As you read, let your child turn the pages or swipe through them if you are reading a digital book. If your child is unable to turn the pages, say: "Now I'm going to turn the page."
- Make observations and involve your child. "The hen is taking the wheat to the mill. What do you think will happen there?"
- Ask open-ended questions. "What do you think will happen next?" "What would you do if that happened to you?" "How would you feel?" "Why do you think that happened?"
- Expand on what your child says by repeating or paraphrasing, adding details, and using new words.
- Even if your child is not talking yet, ask these kinds of questions and wait for your child to make a gesture or babble. Then provide feedback (ex. "That's right. There are four chickens on this page."). Children learn language by listening to you, and others, speak.



Choice Board



Share a story with someone who lives with you.

Read a book by a Canadian author.

Set up your ultimate cozy reading nook.

Make an indoor "campfire" and share stories with some stuffies.

Read a book on Tumblebooks.

Watch a book on KanopyKids.

Listen to an eAudiobook on OverDrive together.

Read a book at a city park.

Read some books from our 100 Books for New Readers list.

Read a funny book.

Read an easy non-fiction book on any topic of interest to you.

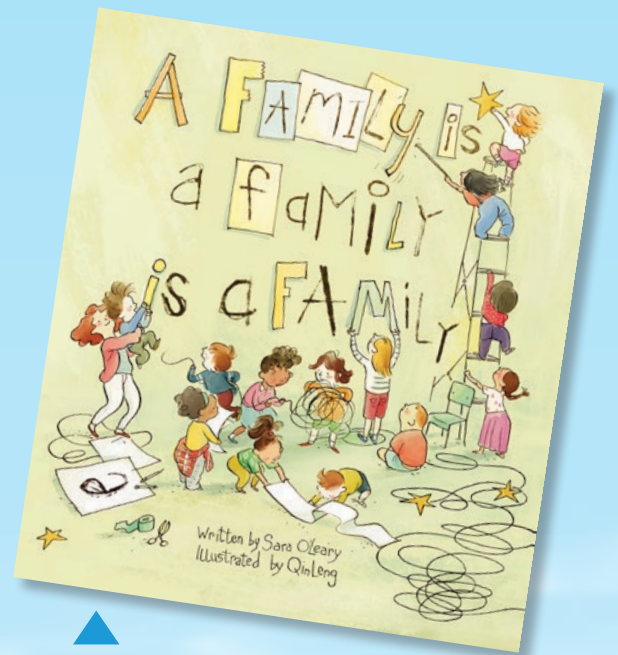
Read a book from our Junior Librarian-in-eResidence's book list.

A Family is a Family is a Family

by Sara O'Leary

Families are the people who love and care for you! A family can be big or small and may include adults, teenagers, children, babies and animals. The families of your friends, teachers and neighbours may look different from yours. All families are unique and special.

"I do think that families are the most beautiful things in all the world." – Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*



Find *A Family is a Family is a Family* on Hoopla at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Read Together and Share

Directions:

1. Read *A Family is a Family is a Family* with your child.
2. Ask your child the questions below and fill in your answers together.
3. Write your child's answers and then read them aloud together.
4. OR encourage your child to write their answers. Squiggles are OK!



Fill in the Blanks:

1. Families are special because _____.
2. In my house(s) there are _____ people. Their names are: _____
_____.
3. While reading *A Family is a Family is a Family*, I learned: _____
_____.
4. My favourite family activity is _____.
5. The language(s) we speak at home: _____.

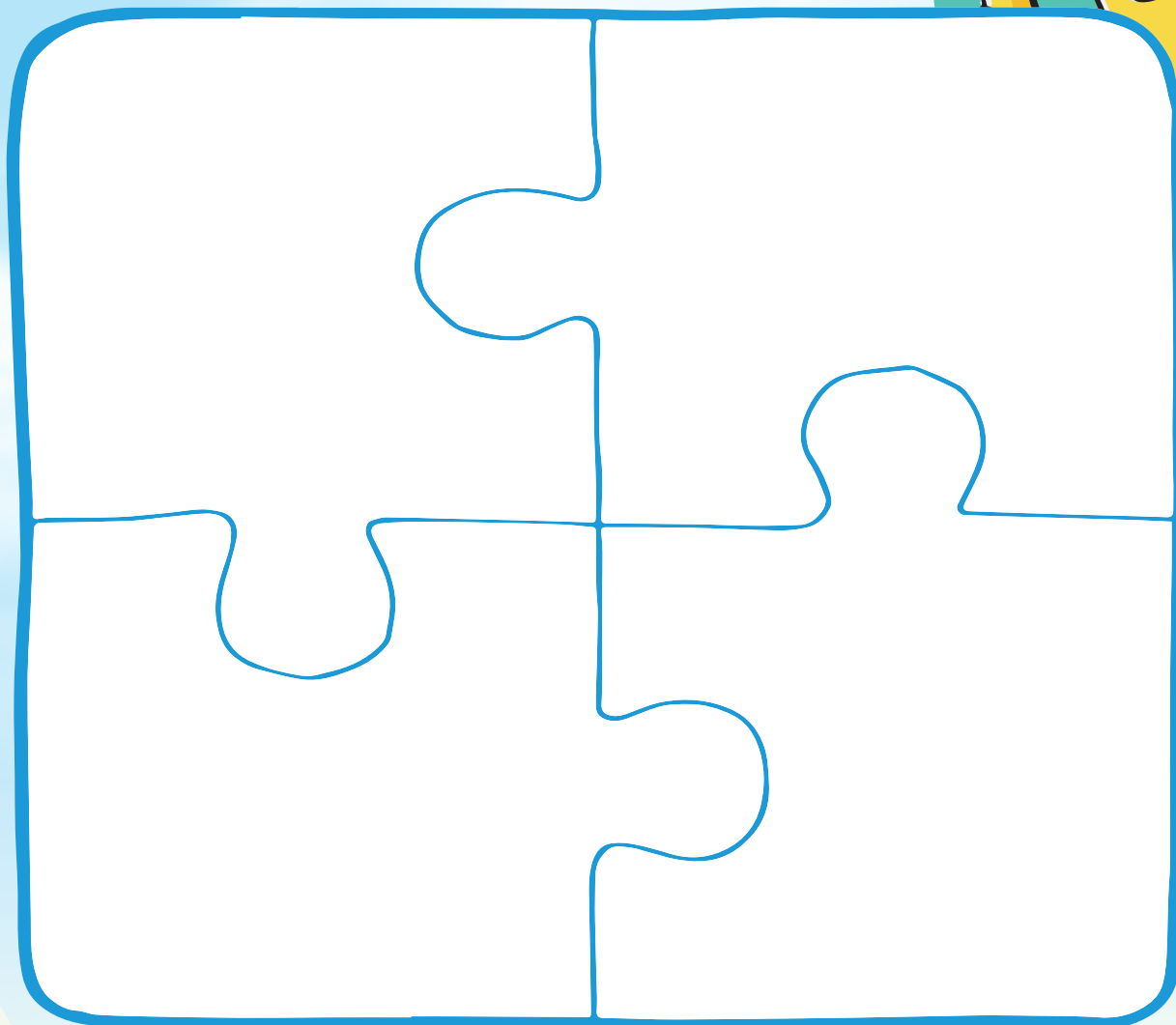


Visit hpl.ca/storytime for online preschool programs and a calendar of literacy-building activities to do with your child.

Make a Puzzle

Ask your child:

What activities do we love to do as a family? Draw a picture together. When complete, carefully cut along the puzzle lines and assemble the puzzle together.



Love Makes a Family
eBook on OverDrive

Read. Watch. Listen.

Explore more books, movies and music
online at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Singing You Home
Music on Hoopla



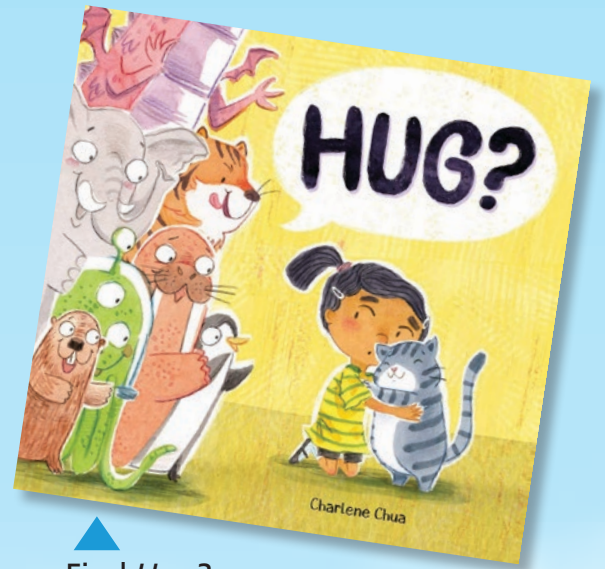
Hug?

by Charlene Chua

Explore the concept of boundaries, compassion, tolerance and empathy with your child.

How many hugs is too many? Hugs can make us feel better and help us have a happy day. Sometimes we might not want to hug. That's why it is important to ask permission to give a hug.

If you don't want a hug from others there are ways you can respond. You can say: "No hugs today, thank you." Instead, you can give a high five or a friendly wave.



Find *Hug?* on Hoopla at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Read Together and Share

Directions:

1. Read *Hug?* with your child.
2. Ask your child the questions below and discuss your answers together.
3. Write your child's answers and then read them aloud together.
4. OR encourage your child to write their answers. Squiggles are OK!

Questions:

1. What does a hug feel like? (*Example: A hug feels like a warm blanket on a cold night.*) _____

2. When do you give a hug? (*Example: I give a hug to my little brother when he is feeling sad.*) _____

3. When do others hug you? (*Example: My sister hugs me when she is happy.*) _____



Visit hpl.ca/storytime for online preschool programs and a calendar of literacy-building activities to do with your child.

Offering Choices

Giving children choices (like whether they want a hug) helps them feel in control over what they do. Practice offering choices to your child today. Would you like a high five or a hug? Would you like this book or that book? Do you want water or milk?



Drawing

Draw what your body feels like inside and outside when you get a hug.

Draw more!
(Turn to page 20 for more drawing pages!)



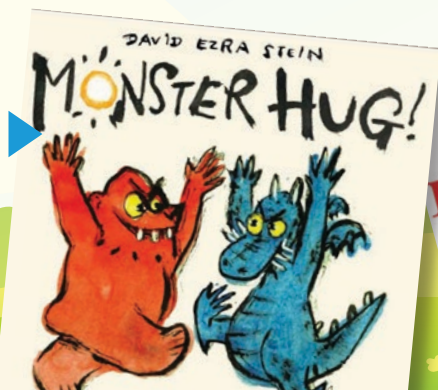
Read. Watch. Listen.

Explore more books, movies and music online at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Big Bear Hug
eBook on Hoopla

Hugs and Kisses
eBook on Hoopla

Monster Hug!
eBook on
TumbleBooks

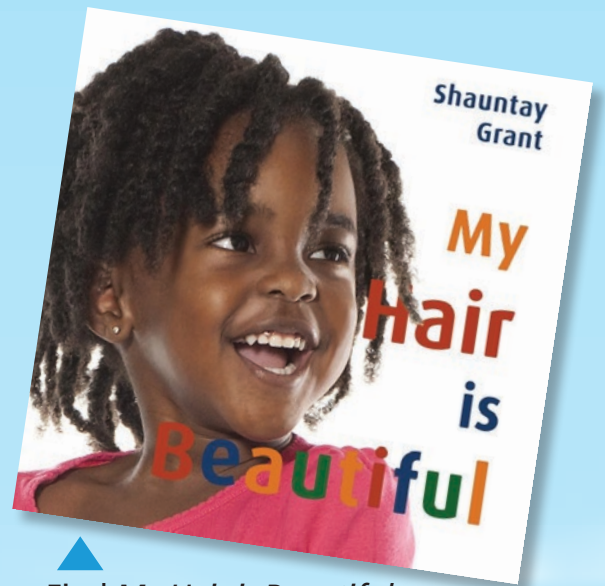


My Hair is Beautiful

by Shauntay Grant

My Hair is Beautiful celebrates natural Black hair and contains a message of self-love. Hair looks and feels different for everyone. Some people have long hair, some people have short hair, some people don't have any hair at all – but everyone's hair is special.

Talking about and appreciating differences in physical traits, like hair, reassures young children that their differences are beautiful – and others are beautiful, too.



Find *My Hair is Beautiful* on Hoopla at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online



Read Together and Share

Directions:

1. Read *My Hair is Beautiful* with your child.
2. Ask your child the questions below and discuss your answers together.
3. Write your child's answers and then read them aloud together.
4. OR encourage your child to write their answers. Squiggles are OK!

Questions:

1. Describe your beautiful hair. Is it long or short? What colour is it?

What does it feel like? (Example: *My hair is short and brown. It feels wavy.*)

2. What makes your hair special? My hair is special because: _____



Visit hpl.ca/storytime for online preschool programs and a calendar of literacy-building activities to do with your child.

Writing

Pick a few of the words to describe hair from *My Hair is Beautiful*, like fluffy, twisted, or puffed. Write the words below and say each letter as you go. Then, have your child trace the letters with their finger.



Three horizontal lines for writing.

Drawing

Draw a picture of yourself and your beautiful hair. After, pick a few words to describe your hair from *My Hair is Beautiful*, like fluffy, twisted or puffed. Think of any other ways to describe your hair that may not be in the book. Write the description words for your child, read it aloud and ask your child to repeat it. For example, "My hair is beautiful when it's twisted."

A large rounded rectangular area for drawing.

Draw more!
(Turn to page 20 for more drawing pages!)



Read. Watch. Listen.

Explore more books, movies and music online at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Hair eBook on Hoopla



Angus All Aglow eBook on TumbleBooks



Turn on the Night

by Geraldo Valerio

Turn on the Night is a colourful, wordless picture book exploring a girl's dream. Dreams are a common experience at every age. Dreams can be scary, funny or strange.

About Wordless Picture Books: Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension and an increased awareness of how stories are structured.



Find *Turn on the Night* on Hoopla at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Read Together and Share

Directions:

1. Read *Turn on the Night* with your child.
2. Answer the questions below with your child.
3. Write your child's answers and then read them aloud together.
4. OR encourage your child to write their answers. Squiggles are OK.



Questions:

1. List the animals in the book. Can you give them a name? _____

2. If you could be any animal, what animal would you be? (Example: *If I could be any animal, I would be a dolphin.*) _____

3. Try to remember a dream that you had. Can you describe what happened or what emotions you felt in your dream? (Example: *I had a dream about blowing bubbles outside. I felt happy.*) _____



Visit hpl.ca/storytime for online preschool programs and a calendar of literacy-building activities to do with your child.

Sing

Sing a song together at bedtime. Try *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. (To learn the tune, please watch <https://bit.ly/2RRUAW2>) Then, make up a song to the same tune as *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. Try a song about what happens in *Turn on the Night* or one about a dream you or your child had.

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are*

Drawing

Which animal would you be? Draw a picture to show what it looks like.



Draw more!
(Turn to page 20 for more drawing pages!)



Sweetest Kulu
eBook on Hoopla

Read. Watch. Listen.

Explore more books, movies and music online at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

Mortimer
eBook on Hoopla



When We Are Kind

by Monique Gray Smith

It is never too early to learn about kindness. Explore the concept of kindness with your child. These books and activities encourage children to examine their feelings when they receive kindness and when they give kindness. Everyone can be kind.

"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud." –

Maya Angelou



Find *When We Are Kind* on Hoopla at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online



Read Together and Share

Directions:

1. Read *When We Are Kind* with your child.
2. Ask your child the questions below and discuss your answers together.
3. Write your child's answers and then read them aloud together.
4. OR encourage your child to write their answers. Squiggles are OK!

Questions:

1. What does kindness feel like? (Example: Kindness feels like caring for others. Kindness feels good in my heart.) _____

2. When are you kind? (Example: I am kind when I share my toys with others.)

3. When are others kind to you? (Example: Others are kind when they help me.)



Visit hpl.ca/storytime for online preschool programs and a calendar of literacy-building activities to do with your child.

Drawing

Ask your child: Who is a kind person we know? Draw a picture together of this person. Have your child 'sign' their name. Share the picture with the kind person. If the person does not live with you, send it by mail, email or text.



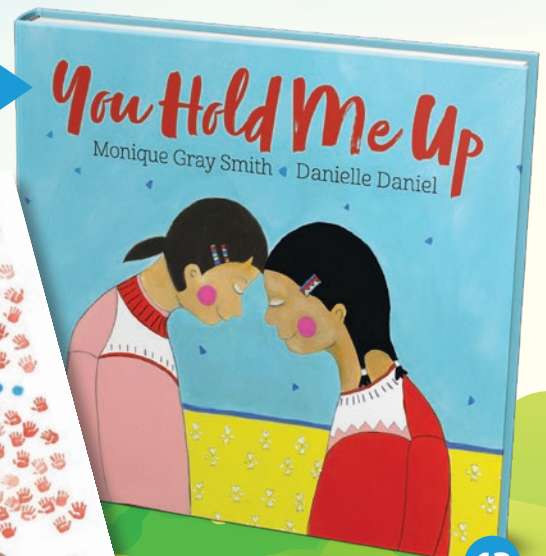
Draw more!
(Turn to page 20 for more drawing pages!)



Read. Watch. Listen.

Explore more books, movies and music online at kids.hpl.ca/hpl-online

You Hold Me Up
eBook on
OverDrive



Today I Feel...
eBook on hoopla
and OverDrive



JULY 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4 SINGING Sing a song with movement, like BINGO. (Words on the back.)</p>	<p>5 COUNTING Look at a recipe with your child. Talk about the ingredient quantities.</p> 	<p>6 READING Explore the Summer Reading Club on hpl.ca. Discover books and more.</p> 	<p>7 WRITING Write a message and tuck it in your child's shoe. Read it together when your child finds it.</p> 	<p>1 WRITING Plan a picnic. Print a list of items to bring and check off each as you find it.</p>	<p>2 PLAYING Play Big Steps, Little Steps. Call out one and take the step.</p>	<p>3 TALKING Talk about today's weather. What should you wear? </p>
<p>11 COUNTING Compare amounts. "You have more pieces of apple than I do."</p>	<p>12 READING Use different expressions and voices as you read. Talk about feelings.</p>	<p>13 WRITING Write a message outside with chalk. </p>	<p>14 PLAYING Look for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name.</p>	<p>15 TALKING Look outside. Talk about all you see. Point to and name things.</p>	<p>16 SINGING Sing or recite Mary Had a Little Lamb. (Words on the back.)</p>	<p>17 COUNTING Use a piece of string to measure things. What is longer or shorter?</p>
<p>18 READING After reading a book, talk about your favourite part. </p>	<p>19 WRITING Help your child draw a picture of a summer activity. Have your child 'sign' it.</p>	<p>20 PLAYING Make puppets from paper bags or socks and tell a story. </p>	<p>21 TALKING At bedtime talk about where animals sleep at night.</p>	<p>22 SINGING Fill an empty container with something that makes noise. Shake it while you march and sing.</p>	<p>23 COUNTING Count how many birds you see today. </p>	<p>24 READING Print is everywhere. Point out words wherever you go today.</p>
<p>25 WRITING Ask your child to trace the first letter of their first name.</p>	<p>26 PLAYING Play Riddle Me. "I'm smaller than your hand, purple and in the kitchen. What am I? Yes! A grape."</p>	<p>27 TALKING Talk about things you do in the morning, afternoon and at night.</p>	<p>28 SINGING Clap, stomp or beat a drum and have your child repeat the noise. </p>	<p>29 COUNTING Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to buy.</p>	<p>30 READING Borrow a book from the library and use your finger to follow the words.</p>	<p>31 PLAYING Play I Spy. "I spy something that has three wheels and is pink. Yes! Your bike."</p>

You are your child's first teacher, and your home is where your child begins to learn.

Make your home a great place to learn. Talk, sing, play, read and count together. Here are a few ideas:

PLACES TO READ

Find a place where your child can reach books without needing help. Sit together and read stories.

PLACES TO WRITE

Set out pencils, crayons, markers and paper where your child can use them.

PLACES TO PLAY

Play is an important way for children to learn. Children can use their imaginations to play with items around the home. Boxes, clothes for dress up, spoons and bowls can inspire great stories when kids play creatively.

B-I-N-G-O

There was a farmer who had a dog
and Bingo was his name-oh.
B-I-N-G-O,
B-I-N-G-O
B-I-N-G-O
and Bingo was his name-oh.

There was a farmer who had a dog
and Bingo was his name-oh.
(clap)-I-N-G-O,
(clap)-I-N-G-O
(clap)-I-N-G-O
and Bingo was his name-oh.

CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE LETTERS IN
BINGO'S NAME ARE REPLACED WITH CLAPS.

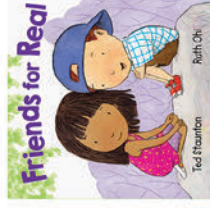


MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
And everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go;
It followed her to school one day
Which was against the rule,
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb in school.

Books to Read this Month

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



Friends for Real
Ted Staunton



Awāsis and the World-Famous Bannock
Dallas Hunt










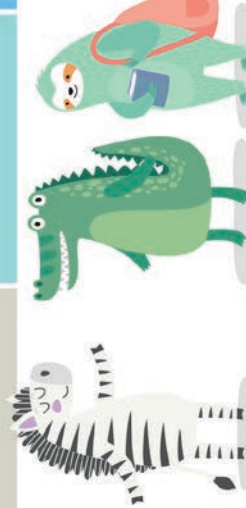

Kits, Cubs, and Calves: An Arctic Summer
Suzie Napayok Short



Canada Fun!
Paul Covello

AUGUST 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WRITING Look outside and write a list of seven things you see. 	2 PLAYING Paint outdoors with water. Watch it evaporate.	3 TALKING Show 'same, yet different.' "Our socks go on our feet (same) but are different sizes."	4 SINGING Make music with things you have in the house: pots, pans, spoons, boxes and cups.	5 COUNTING Talk about time. How long does it take to walk to different places?	6 READING Read a non-fiction book about birds. Say the rhyme "If I Were a Bird." (Words on the back.)	7 WRITING Label items in your child's room: bed, dresser, book, closet. Point to the words and discuss.
8 PLAYING Play with blocks. What can you make? Form the blocks into a letter shape. 	9 TALKING Take an alphabet walk. 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 toys in order from smallest to largest. 	12 READING Visit hpl.ca and check out a new book on Tumblebooks, Hoopla and KanopyKids	13 WRITING Draw a picture for someone you care about.	14 PLAYING Play What Fits? "Will your hat fit under your bed? Will the refrigerator fit in your pocket?"
15 TALKING Watch a puppet show at hpl.ca and talk about the story.	16 SINGING Pick a new kind of music you haven't listened to before.	17 COUNTING Set the table for a meal. How many plates and forks do you need?	18 READING Read something new. Check out the booklists on hpl.ca/learning-at-hpl.	19 WRITING Use play dough to shape your child's first name.	20 PLAYING Play the yes-no game about time. Is it time for breakfast? Time to read?	21 TALKING Before going to bed talk about things you did this morning, afternoon and tonight. 
22 SINGING Sing a "good morning" song to greet your waking child. 	23 COUNTING Line-up your family's shoes. Count them and put them in size order.	24 READING Read a story about summer. Choose one at hpl.ca.	25 WRITING Draw a triangle, square, circle and rectangle. Talk about how they are different.	26 PLAYING Go on a letter hunt today. Pick a letter and call it out every time you see it.	27 TALKING Offer choices today. Do you want this book or that one? Do you want water or milk?	28 SINGING Sing The Wheels on the Bus. (Words on the back.)
29 COUNTING Trace on paper your hand and your child's hand. Talk about the difference in size. 	30 READING Have a family story time. Each person picks a book to read aloud. 	31 WRITING Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Ask them to trace the letters with their finger.				

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!

WHEELS ON THE BUS

The wheels on the bus go round and round,

Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,

All around the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish . . .

The driver on the bus says "move on back" . . .

The people on the bus go up and down . . .

The babies on the bus go "wah, wah, wah" . . .

The parents on the bus go "shh, shh, shh" . . .

ADAPTATION: THE HORSE ON THE FARM GOES "NEIGH, NEIGH, NEIGH"; COW, LAMB, PIG, ETC.

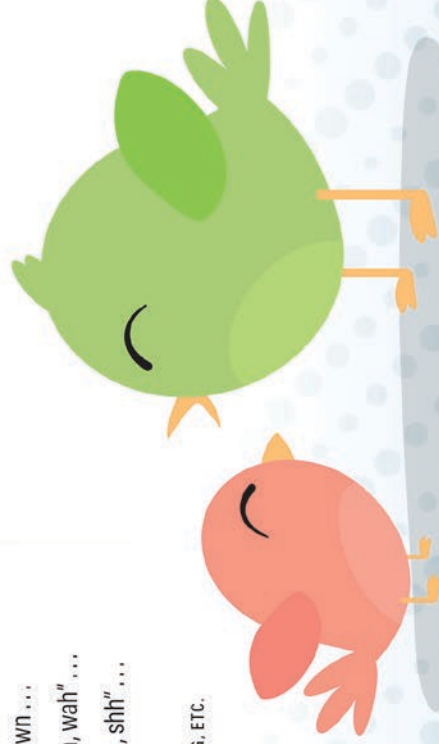
IF I WERE A BIRD

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

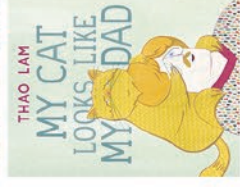
Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.



Bedtime 123
Eric Walters



Bright Sky, Starry City
Uma Krishnaswami



My Cat Looks Like My Dad
Thao Lam



I Am Scary
Elise Gravel



100 BOOKS

A LIST FOR NEW READERS



Animals

How to Give Your Cat a Bath in Five Easy Steps

Nicola Winstanley

Mr King's Machine *Geneviève Côté*

The Snow Knows *Jennifer McGrath*

The Very Impatient Caterpillar *Ross Burach*

Who's Next Door? *Mayuko Kishira*

Won Ton and Chopstick:

A Cat and Dog Tale Told in Haiku *Lee Wardlaw*

Sloth at the Zoom *Helaine Becker*

The Walrus and the Caribou *Maika Harper*

Bedtime

I Love You More and More *Nicky Benson*

Sing A Song of Bedtime *Barbara Reid*

Sleepyheads *Sandra J Howatt*

It's Time for Bed *Ceporah Mearns*

Time Now to Dream *Timothy Knapman*

Turn on the Night *Geraldo Valério*

Zoomberry *Dennis Lee*

Be Yourself

Big Bob, Little Bob *James Howe*

Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin *Chieri Uegaki*

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress

Christine Baldacchino

The Cranky Ballerina *Elise Gravel*

The Thing Lou Couldn't Do *Ashley Spires*

What Noise Do I Make? *Brian McLachlan*

What's My Superpower? *Aviaq Johnston*

Where Oliver Fits *Cale Atkinson*

The Proudest Blue *Ibtihaj Mohammed*

Hair Love *Matthew A Cherry*

Golden Threads *Suzanne Del Rizzo*

Colours

Claymates *Dev Petty*

Colors Versus Shapes *Mike Boldt*

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns:

A Muslim Book of Colours *Hena Khan*

Five Green and Speckled Frogs: Count-and-Sing

Priscilla Burris

Pride Colors *Robin Stevenson*

Vivid: Poems & Notes About Color *Julie Paschkis*

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh *Supriya Kelkar*

Family

A Family Is A Family Is A Family

Sara O'Leary

Africville *Shauntay Grant*

Carson Crosses Canada *Linda Bailey*

Gargantua (Jr!): Defender of Earth

Kevin Sylvester

Little You *Richard Van Camp*

Love *Emma Dodd*

Worm Loves Worm *J.J. Austrian*

Weekend Dad *Naseem Hrab*

Julian is a Mermaid *Jessica Love*

How Nivi Got Her Names *Laura Deal*

Islandborn *Junot Diaz*



Sharing

Little Blue Chair *Cary Fagan*

Mittens to Share *Emil Sher*

Music Is for Everyone *Jill Barber*

This is MY Fort! *Drew Daywalt*

We Found a Hat *Jon Klassen*

Environment

Nibi is Water *Joanne Robertson*

Watch It Grow *Barbara Reid*

My Green Day: Ten Green Things I Can Do Today
Melanie Walsh

Ocean Speaks *Jess Keating*

In the Red Canoe *Leslie A Davidson*

Me, Toma and the Concrete Garden *Andrew Larsen*

Feelings

A Surprise for Giraffe and Elephant *Paul Gude*

Giraffe Meets Bird *Becca Bender*

My Heart Fills with Happiness *Monique Gray-Smith*

Ira Crumb Feels the Feelings *Naseem Hrab*

Sam and Jump *Jennifer K Mann*

Scaredy Squirrel Has a Birthday Party
Melanie Watts

We Sang You Home *Richard Van Camp*

Where the Wild Things Are *Maurice Sendak*

Will Giraffe Laugh? *Hilary Leung*

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox *Danielle Daniel*

The Rabbit Listened *Cori Doerrfeld*

Food

Awâsis and the World-famous Bannock *Dallas Hunt*

Hungry Bird *Jeremy Tankard*

Mealtime *Kimberley Faria*

Ten Hungry Pigs *Derek Anderson*

The Very Hungry Caterpillar *Eric Carle*

Toto's Apple *Mathieu Lavoie*

Bilal Cooks Daal *Aisha Saeed*

Friendship

Friends for Real *Ted Staunton*

Fox and Squirrel Make a Friend *Ruth Ohi*

I Got A New Friend *Karl Edwards*

Snow Day! *H. Werner Zimmermann*

The Fabulous Friend Machine *Nick Bland*

We Are (not) Friends *Anna Kang*

You Make Me Happy *Smriti Prasadam-Halls*

You Are My Friend *Aimee Reid*

What if Bunny is Not a Bully *Lana Button*

Going Up *Sherry Lee*

Imagination

Fairy Science *Ashley Spires*

I Have An Idea! *Hervé Tullet*

If I Had A Gryphon *Vikki VanSickle*

My Cat Looks Like My Dad *Thao Lam*

Scribble *Ruth Ohi*

The Dot *Peter H Reynolds*

The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors *Drew Daywalt*

The Story Boat *Kyo Maclear*

Reading

ABCs On Wheels *Ramon Olivera*

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom *Bill Martin*

D Is For Dress Up: The ABCs of What We Wear
Maria Carluccio

The Boy & the Book (a Wordless Story)
David Michael Slater

Social Justice

A is for Activist *Innosanto Nagara*

Antiracist Baby *Ibram X Kendi*

Skin Again *Bell Hooks*

All are Welcome *Alexandra Penfold*

Say Something! *Peter H Reynolds*

Check out our
**ON-DEMAND
TITLES**
on Tumblebooks,
Hoopla, and
KanopyKids!



Drawing

Use these pages to draw pictures inspired by the books you have just read.

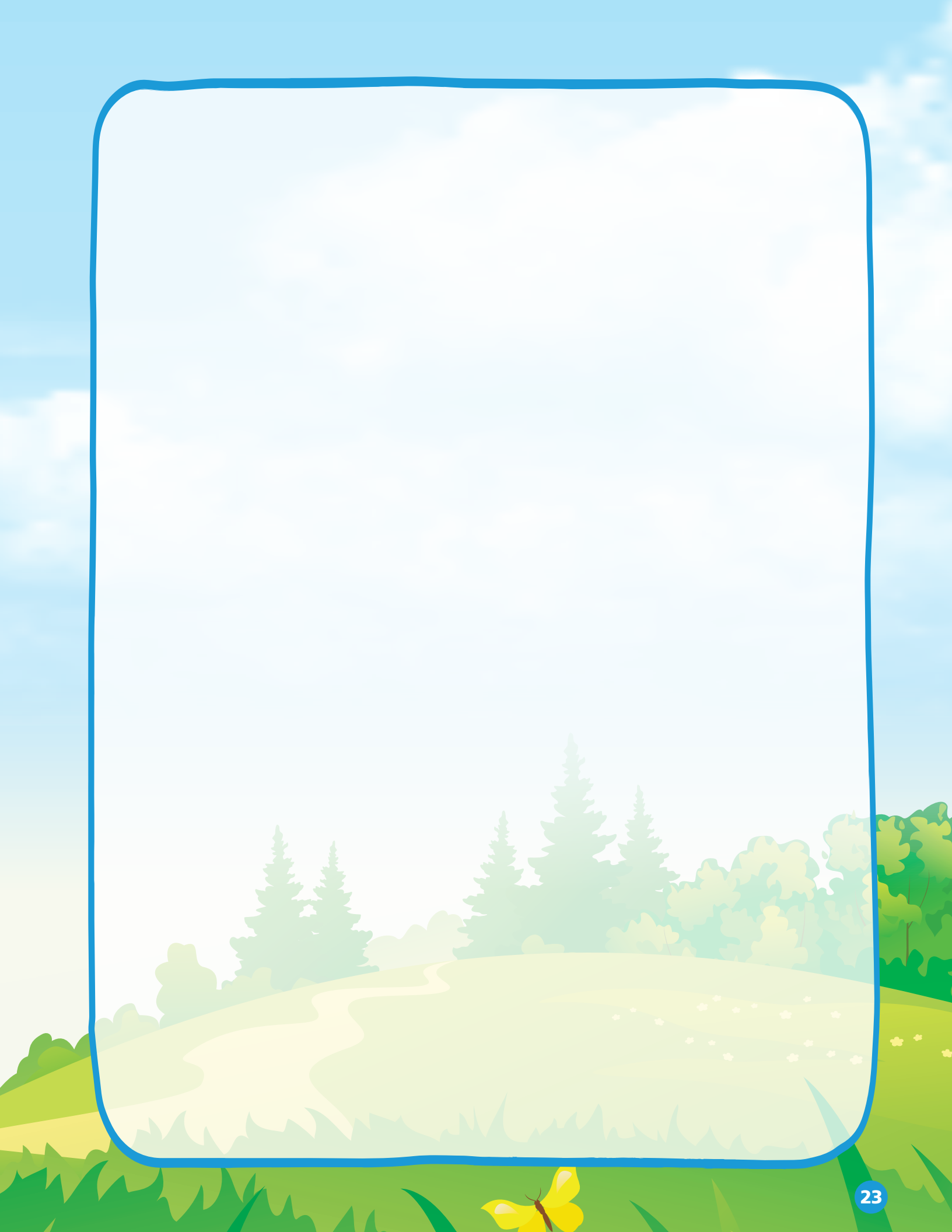




Drawing

Use these pages to draw pictures inspired by the books you have just read.





READING

TRACKER

DATE	TITLE	MINUTES READ

TOTAL MINUTES READ: _____