



Main Library
 834 Lake St.
 708.383.8200
 Mon-Thurs: 9 am to 9 pm
 Friday: 9 am to 6 pm
 Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm
 Sunday: 1 pm to 6 pm

Dole Branch Library
 255 Augusta St.
 708.386.9032
 Monday: Closed
 Tues-Thurs: 10 am to 9 pm
 Friday: 10 am to 6 pm
 Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
 Sunday: 1 pm to 6 pm

Maze Branch Library
 845 Gunderson Ave.
 708.386.4751
 Mon-Thurs: 10 am to 9 pm
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
 Sunday: 1 pm to 6 pm



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
 RECOMMENDED
 READING LIST**

**OPPL.ORG/KIDS
 2016-2017**



7 DAYS / 7 WAYS WITH THE VERY READY READING PROGRAM

Sharing these seven ideas with kids will help them grow into readers. Focusing on one a day will keep it fun. Here are some of our favorite tips.

SHARE BOOKS: Always keep reading fun, not a chore or punishment. Flashcards can take away from the fun and make kids less likely to enjoy learning to read or reading independently later. Avoid asking questions on every page—it breaks the flow of the story and makes it less enjoyable. Try 1 or 2 per book, or ask questions after you finish. And don't force it—better to read one or two pages without a struggle than a full book that is miserable for everyone.

SHARE SONGS: Sharing songs is more than fun—music's rhythms and rhymes help children develop the vital knack of hearing differences between different sounds. When we sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," kids love doing the finger actions, but they're also hearing the subtle distinctions between "star" and "are," and "high" and "sky." So find a book to sing out loud, or sing your directions to a task. Each syllable has a note, making it easier to hear how words break down to sound them out, an essential skill.

SHARE RHYMES: Rhymes don't need to make sense! They still help kids hear patterns of words and speech. So make up silly rhymes and act them out, dance with your child while reciting them, and play rhyming games: "I spy something that rhymes with the word *hook!*"

SHARE SOUNDS: Share books and tunes that encourage sound effects,

silly noises, or animal sounds—they are fun and help you and your child interact with the books together. Encourage your children to help with any noises that may occur. Is a lion roaring? Is the wind howling? Is someone snoring?

SHARE WORDS: Kids love big, fancy words. Use them all the time and kids will too! Talk about the indigo sky, the gigantic stack of books, and so on. New experiences mean new words: at the zoo, read words on animal exhibit signs. At the store, read words on packages. The more words kids hear, the more they understand and will be able to figure out when they learn to read. Narrate your days!

SHARE STORIES: Practice telling stories and connecting them to your lives at the same time. Tell your kids stories about how you used to celebrate the Fourth of July as a child, and let them tell you memories of their own past celebrations. Family pictures are a great way to share stories about when you or their grandparents were younger. Make your own books! Use photos to tell the story of a favorite day or vacation, or make a touch-and-feel book with fabrics and other items.

SHARE PLAY: Play with your kids as often you can. It's the basis of all learning for kids! It fosters creativity and imagination, bonds you, and gives your child confidence when they are in charge of the game. Pretend play is the best for reinforcing new words and vocabulary and allowing kids to practice telling stories. Act out stories, have a tea party, visit a pretend zoo—anything is possible!

BABIES & 1-YEAR-OLDS

Butler, John. *Can You Growl Like a Bear?* Adorable animals delight everyone!

Cimarusti, Marie. *Peek-A-Moo* (series). Animal sounds and peekaboo pages equals lots of fun.

Harrison, Kenny. *Hide and Seek Harry Around the House* (series). Toddlers will delight in being able to spot Harry the Hippo as he tries to hide.

Miller, Margaret. *Baby Faces*. Babies love to look at photos of other babies, and this bright book keeps their attention.

Murphy, Mary. *I Kissed the Baby!* Stark black-and-white illustrations catch baby's focus, and it's fun and easy to act the story out.

O'Connell, Rebecca. *Baby Goes Beep*. Babies and 1- and 2-year-olds will all get a kick out of this book—help your little one imitate the motions to make it even better.

Siegel, Jerry. *My First Superman* (series). Babies will love the touch-and-feel interactions, while caregivers will love introducing beloved superheroes to the new generation.

2-YEAR-OLDS

Braun, Sebastien. *Meeow and the Big Box* (series). Great choices for practicing imaginative play.

Dodd, Emma. *Dog's Colorful Day*. Kids love to count and practice colors with this very messy dog.

Doyle, Elizabeth. *A B See*. There's plenty to identify and talk about in this fantastic alphabet book, where each letter is made up of dozens of items that begin with it. This book will grow with your baby for years.

Franceschelli, Christopher. *Countablock*. This lovely book introduces kids to numbers up to 100 by showing how they grow.

Krosoczka, Jarrett J. *Bubble Bath Pirates!* Excellent imaginative play for kids who love the bath (and for those who don't).

Lemke, Donald. *Book-o-Beards* (series). Kids love to play with their books, so why not turn the book into masks they can wear as they read?

Matheson, Christie. *Touch the Brightest Star*. This gorgeous book lets kids push the story forward with fun, interactive scenes.

Sherry, Kevin. *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean!* A very fun way to talk about bigger and smaller.

Taback, Simms. *Safari Animals* (series). Fold-out pages and clues let kids practice their animal identification.

Thomas, Jan. *Can You Make a Scary Face?* Everyone loves to act out this silly book!

3- & 4-YEAR-OLDS

Bergman, Mara. *Snip Snap, What's That?* Repeating refrains and age-appropriate suspense make this one a real winner.

Bryan, Sean. *A Boy and His Bunny* (series). The idea that you can do anything with a bunny on your head will inspire young readers...and induce giggles.

Dyckman, Ame. *Wolfie the Bunny*. Kids will enjoy the art and the humor in this story of a very special wolf.

Feiffer, Jules. *Bark, George*. Kids delight in this story of animal sounds gone wrong.

Fischer, Scott. *Jump!* Rhyming lines offer some fun vocabulary builders and opportunities for little ones to chime in with the refrain.

Hort, Lenny. *Seals on the Bus*. Preschoolers love this twist on an old favorite.

Kohara, Kazuno. *Ghosts in the House*. Fabulous illustrations pair with an inventive story about creativity in action.

LaRochelle, David. *Moo!* Anyone can read this book by giving it just the right tone of voice.

Martin, Emily Winfield. *The Wonderful Things You Will Be*. Kids and caregivers can dream about the future and what it'll be like to be grown up, clever, and kind.

Otoshi, Kathryn. *Beautiful Hands*. This colorful concept book rouses children to use their hands for good and to reach for their dreams.

Pizzoli, Greg. *Templeton Gets His Wish*. Templeton the cat makes a wish for his family to disappear, but quickly learns that being alone isn't as great as he had thought it would be.

Pizzoli, Greg. *The Watermelon Seed*. Kids love the silly humor of the horrified crocodile who has, GASP, swallowed a seed!

Portis, Antoinette. *Wait*. A picture book about the joys of waiting and taking in what is around you.

Thomas, Jan. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*. Practice rhyming skills with Ed, Ned, Ted, and Bob (the voice of reason).

Wan, Joyce. *Whale in My Swimming Pool*. Kids can add their own ideas to this story about a kid trying to get the whale out of the pool.

Wilson, Karma. *Bear Snores On* (series). Kids are drawn to Bear's hilarious antics, and the gorgeous rhythm makes it fun for adults to read.

SIGN UP FOR EARLY BIRD READERS TO GET WEEKLY LITERACY TIPS WITH ACTIVITIES AND MONTHLY VIDEOS SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE OR INBOX! [OPPL.ORG/READERS](https://oppl.org/readers)