



Main Library
 834 Lake St.
 708.383.8200
 Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm
 Friday: 9 am–6 pm
 Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 1–6 pm

Dole Branch Library
 255 Augusta St.
 708.386.9032
 Monday: Closed
 Tuesday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
 Friday: 10 am–6 pm
 Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 1–6 pm

Maze Branch Library
 845 Gunderson Ave.
 708.386.4751
 Monday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
 Sunday: 1–6 pm



EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDED READING LIST

**OPPL.ORG/KIDS
 2017-2018**



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.

Marston, William Moulton. *My First Wonder Woman Book* (series). Babies will love the touch-and-feel interactions, while caregivers will love introducing beloved superheroes to the new generation.

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.

2-YEAR-OLDS

Balouch, Kristen. *The Little, Little Girl With the Big, Big Voice*. This is an excellent book to read with expression and volume, as a little girl meets animals and finds a new friend.

Barrow, David. *Have You Seen Elephant?* Kids will love being in on the joke of the elephant who claims to be truly talented at hide and seek.

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

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.

FitzSimmons, David. *Curious Critters: Illinois*. Introduce young children to the wonderful animals they can find right here in their neighborhoods! Go on nature hunts to look for evidence of these animals, or visit them at zoos.

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

Ho, Minfong. *Hush: A Thai Lullaby*. Animal books are a great way to share sounds and interact with books, and this one is filled with animals uncommon in American titles.

Kuhlman, Evan. *Hank's Big Day*. A bug's view will give kids a new perspective on familiar things, along with some beautiful new vocabulary.

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.

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

3- & 4-YEAR-OLDS

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. *Wolfe 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.

Hoffman, Eric. *A Dark, Dark Cave*. This ode to imagination has both rhymes and repeating refrains, making it an excellent choice to get kids interacting and helping read.

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.

Portis, Antoinette. *Best Frints in the Whole Universe*. This book encourages kids to play with language, pick up context cues to learn what new (made-up) words mean, and navigate the bumps of frintship, with some super cute aliens.

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

Richards, Dan. *Can One Balloon Make an Elephant Fly?* This book explores the magic of imagination and science questions as a boy and his mother visit the zoo. Can you make any animals fly?

Sattler, Jennifer. *Sylvie*. Kids love big words, and this one is positively filled with them! Stretch their vocabulary with this delightful flamingo who turns a multitude of colors—even paisley.

Schaefer, Lola. *Because of an Acorn* (577.3 SCH). This simple science book introduces kids to the life cycle of an acorn to a tree, and can spark discussions of other growing things.

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.

SIGN UP FOR EARLY BIRD READERS TO GET WEEKLY LITERACY TIPS SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE: [OPPL.ORG/READERS](https://oppl.org/readers)