



All Aboard for Kindergarten

Ideas & activities to help your child get ready to read

HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN ABOUT LETTERS

Make an Alphabet Book with your child

A B C

- Give each page a letter of the alphabet and have your child look in magazines for pictures to illustrate each letter.
- "Publish" your child's book by making photocopies for grandparents, friends or relatives.
- Talk about the different parts: cover, title page, words, pictures.

Reading Readiness Games to play in your car

I Spy ABC

Playing "I Spy" is a fun way to practice the alphabet and its sounds. Starting with A and taking turns, look for things that start with each letter of the alphabet.

For example: "A, I spy an ambulance. B, I spy a bus..."

Licence Plate Games

Look for all the letters of the alphabet on license plates or signs.

Call out the letters on a license plate. Then everyone tries to come up with a different phrase using the letters in the order they appear on the license plate as the first letter of each word. For instance KEW could be "kittens eating watermelon" or "kiss every warthog." When you can't think of any more, look for another license plate.

SUMMER READING – Congratulations!

You and your child have arrived at the End of Kindergarten Station. Now All Aboard for the Fraser Valley Regional Library Summer Reading Club! Children who join the club are given a bright, colourful Reading Record, a bookmark and stickers. They are encouraged to read every day and earn a special Reading Club Medal at the end of the summer. Libraries have special programs for children in July and August. Joining this club helps children maintain & extend their pre-reading skills.

Summer is also a great time to continue with your list of the *100 Books to Read in Kindergarten*. Check them out from your public library this summer!

TELL STORIES

Story Stretchers

Turn a favourite story into a hands-on experience to build your child's enthusiasm for reading. For example, read *If you give a Mouse a Cookie* and then buy or bake a batch of chocolate chip cookies with your child (see recipe on reverse). Drink a glass of milk with a straw and look in the mirror to see if you and your child have milk moustaches, just like the mouse in the story.

Following recipes together is an excellent exercise. Children learn about how each step depends on the step before, and supports the step that follows after. This is an important reading skill.

Some picture books have recipes included at the back of the book! Try these:

Everybody Cooks Rice

JXF Doo

Cook a Doodle Do

JXF Ste

Thunder Cake

JXF Pol



PLAY WITH WORDS

Tongue Twister Fun!

Reciting tongue twisters is lots of fun and it also helps your child listen for the same first sound in different words. Read the tongue twister, say it several times together. Then try saying it faster, five times in a row.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Betty Botter bought a bit of bitter butter.

Rubber baby buggy bumpers.

Ask at the library for books of tongue twisters, or check *Between the Lions* website for tongue twisters & other fun activities: <http://pbskids.org/lions>

If English is not your first language, then speak in the language you are most comfortable using. Your child will be hearing richer vocabulary and will easily adjust in English.

What is so great about reading aloud?

- It will encourage your child to want to read. Wanting to read is a big step toward learning how to read.
- Reading aloud increases your child's vocabulary.
- Children with bigger vocabularies will find it easier to learn how to read.
- Reading aloud brings families together, creates good memories, and enriches family relationships.

Encourage your child

Children who are confident in their ability to learn will be willing to try new things and meet new challenges.

- Talk to your child about something she is proud of: a project, an accomplishment or a skill.
- Ask your child to think of something that was hard for her to learn or achieve. How did she feel when she was able to accomplish the task?

Listen to Audio Books!

The library has a great collection of children's audio books on cassette and CD. Downloadable audiobooks are also available on the library website: www.fvrl.bc.ca



Take some with you on vacation this summer!

GREAT AUTHORS GREAT WEBSITES!

Denise Fleming: www.denisefleming.com
Suse MacDonald: www.susemacdonald.com
Laura Numeroff: www.lauranumeroff.com

Chocolate Chip Cookies



INGREDIENTS:

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour	3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt	2 eggs
1 cup butter, softened	2 cups (12 oz.) Chocolate Chips
3/4 cup granulated [white] sugar	1 cup chopped nuts

DIRECTIONS:

Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla in large mixer bowl. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition; gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in chips & nuts. Drop by rounded table-spoon onto ungreased baking sheets.

BAKE in preheated 375-degree F. oven for 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.