



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

For fun early literacy activities that help kids get ready to read, check out our [website](#).

Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

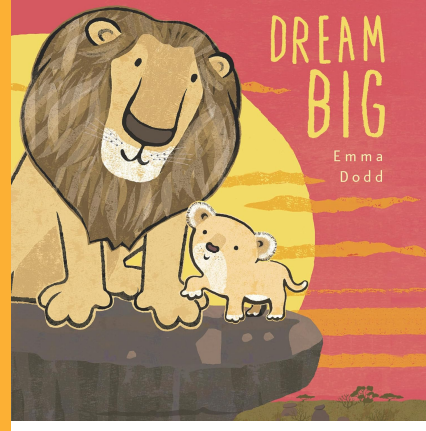
View and print our [2024 Early Literacy Calendar](#).

Participate in the [Summer Wonder Challenge for Little Readers](#) to earn a free book, now through August 9.

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE
MANAGE STRESS



Dream Big by Emma Dodd encourages children to pursue their dreams and reach their greatest potential. A lion cub goes on an adventure to discover the value of looking forward and not being afraid to dream big. Each page of the book shows the adventure unfolding through rhyming text and foiled illustrations.

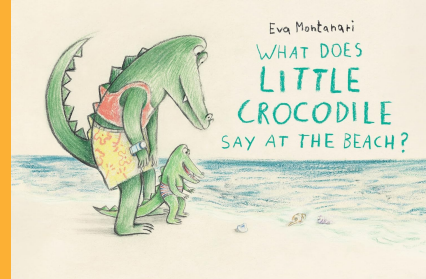
Spend some time going on a walk or playing on a playground. Encourage your child to embrace new paths and activities throughout daily adventures.

For more books on love, check out [Love Is My Favorite Color](#) by Nina Laden and Melissa Castrillon, [I Really Like Mom](#) by Su-an Lee and So-ra Kim and [Grandmas Are the Greatest](#) by Ben Faulks and Nia Tudor.



TALK

SING AND POINT



The hermit crabs snip-snap, the waves splish-splash and the fish blub-blub in **What Does Little Crocodile Say at the Beach?** by Eva Montanari. Little Crocodile discovers the sounds of the beach in a fun-filled beach and camping adventure. All adventures, like books, must eventually end, though. What do you think will happen when Big Crocodile tells Little Crocodile, "It's time to go"?

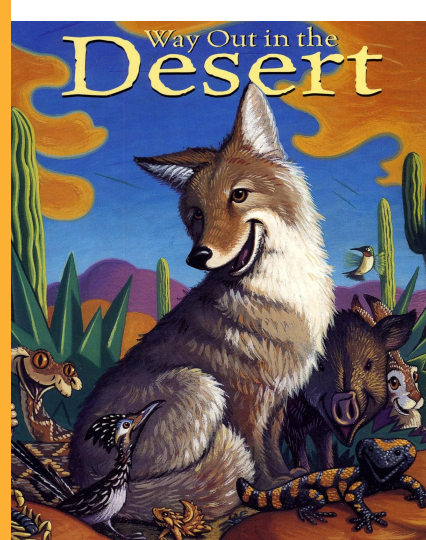
Close your eyes and imagine you are on a beach or camping adventure. Talk about what other sounds you might hear. When you are on your own summer adventures, pause to listen to the sounds around you and talk about what you hear.

For more summer reads, check out [Jabari Jumps](#) by Gaia Cornwall, [Froggy Learns to Swim](#) by Jonathan London and Frank Remkiewicz and [When You Can Swim](#) by Jack Wong.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



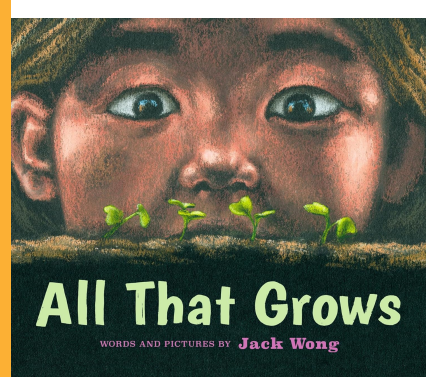
Way Out in the Desert by T.J. Marsh and Jennifer Ward skillfully portrays life in the desert through vibrant illustrations and engaging rhyming text. Readers both young and old can enjoy counting from one to ten as they learn about animals that live in the Sonoran Desert near Tucson, Arizona. Sheet music included in the back encourages readers to sing the rhyme to the tune of "Over in the Meadow."

For more counting and comparison books, try [Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature](#) and [Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature](#) by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell and [Look](#) by Gabi Snyder.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



What do you wonder as you play outside? Do you ever feel like the narrator of **All That Grows**, wondering why some plants are called flowers and others are called weeds? And how can some be both? Jack Wong's calm language and intricate pastel art is an invitation to slow down and wonder at all that grows. Learn about quince trees, dandelion leaves and fiddleheads and enjoy marveling at nature in all its mysteries.

For more play with plants this summer, check out [The Ocean Gardener](#) by Clara Anganuzzi, [The Concrete Garden](#) by Bob Graham and [In Our Garden](#) by Pat Zietlow Miller.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



Summer is Here by Renée Watson and Bea Jackson offers a vibrant and joyful ode to summer life, featuring pool parties, bubbles and jump rope among friends. Ask about the story together, talk about the feeling the language and pictures create. Are there any new words you can define, like "tangy" or "serenading"?

Read this story with the child in your life and take the time at the beginning of this summer season to be intentional about what activities and the number of activities you'll do together. What hopes does the child in your life have or need in this new season? What would you like to do in this gift of time? With older children, try putting those hopes into a poetic list, like Watson does: "Summer sings me a song, serenading me from the ice-cream truck. She brings me ice-cream cones and ice pops and all my favorite treats." What does summer bring you?

For more books about new seasons of life and learning, check out [Let's Go \(Haw Ékwa!\)](#) by Julie Flett, [I See You Try](#) by Deborah Farmer Kris and Jane Massey and [Jabari Tries](#) by Gaia Cornwall.



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