



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

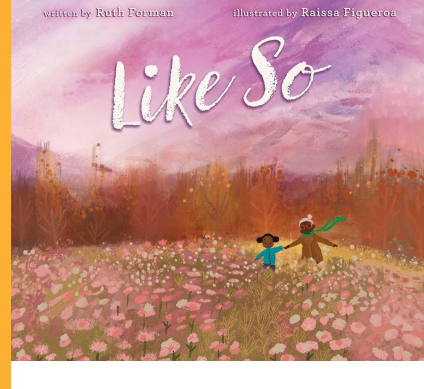
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE
MANAGE STRESS



Explore the endless magic of nature through love by reading the book *Like So* by Ruth Forman and Raissa Figueroa. Follow along as a grandmother takes her granddaughter on an outdoor adventure to show her the natural beauty of love. Each page is filled with vibrant illustrations of fun outdoor activities like dancing in fields of flowers or building a snowman.

Explore nature together and discover how it creates a backdrop for a family's love. Start by spending some time outside. Focus on the sun's warmth or the chill of a breeze. How do these parts of nature resemble different forms of love like a hug or kiss?

For more books about love, check out *I Drew a Heart* by Gillian Sze and Naoko Stoop, *Love Like Chocolate* by Tracy Banghart and Alina Chau and *How to Love a Grandma* by Jean Reagan and Lee Wildish.



TALK

SING AND POINT



Music is a great tool for early literacy. Many songs, especially those written for children, feature rhyming and movement. Music gives caregivers a chance to talk about concepts like loud, quiet, fast and slow. Finding the beat of a song, clapping and stomping are great introductions to the literacy concept of syllables.

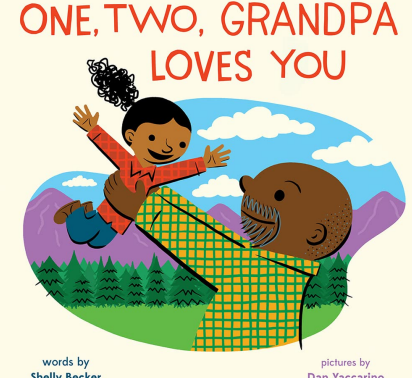
In *This Magical, Musical Night* by Rhonda Gowler Greene and James Rey Sanchez, the reader is given a front row seat to a symphonic performance. The book has many opportunities to talk about instrument names and sounds as well as musical vocabulary. The colorful illustrations invite the reader to point and discuss the instruments and musicians. Words and onomatopoeia are even incorporated into the pictures.

If books about music make your heart sing, check out *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem* by Amanda Gorman and Loren Long. For the younger kids, read *Bing, Bop, Bam: Time to Jam!* by Valerie Bolling and Sabrena Khadija. And for a book you can really sing, try *This Jazz Man* by Karen Ehrhardt and R. G. Roth - you can sing the words of the book to the tune "This Old Man."



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



In *One, Two, Grandpa Loves You* by Shelly Becker and Dan Yaccarino, a young girl and her grandfather go on an adventure and have a great time. He picks her up at home and they go camping in a story full of counting and rhyming. The words are a new version of the classic rhyme "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" with five to ten words per page, offering a read-aloud suitable for younger children. The simple pictures are colorful and engaging, highlighting the love between the girl and her grandfather.

For more books to practice counting, try *1 is One* by Tasha Tudor, *One Fox* by Kate Read and *Everybunny Count!* by Ellie Sandall.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



Do you like to make music? *One Sweet Song* by Jyoti Rajan Gopal is filled with rhythm, color and satisfying rhyme. Have you ever experienced spontaneous music-making like what takes place in this book? It all begins when "One note trills . . . floating in the air." While some of the musicians in this book play instruments like a flute or a ghatam, others improvise with balcony rails, spoons or pots. Are there other creative instruments you spot in these pages? What are ways you can play with creating music?

For more musical play, check out *Play This Book* by Jessica Young and Daniel Wiseman, *Pokko and the Drum* by Matthew Forsythe or *When Rubin Plays* by Gracey Zhang.



READ

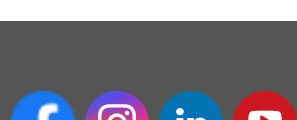
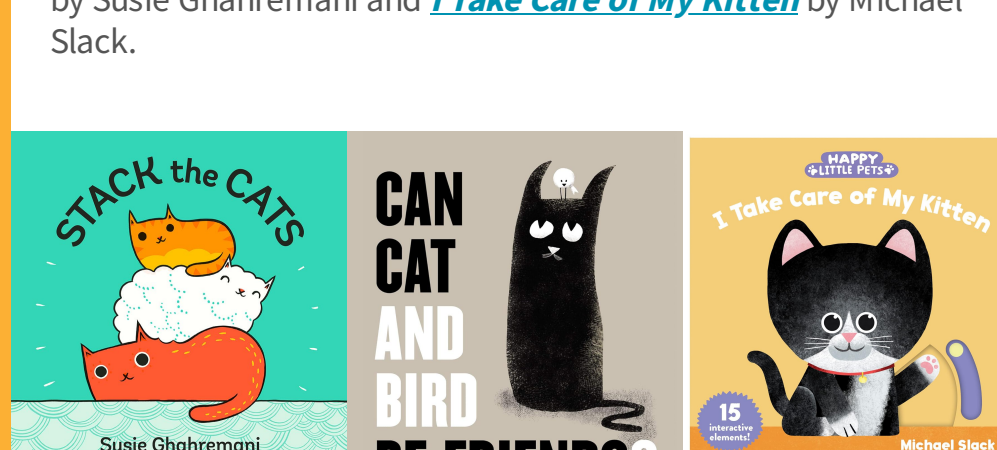
AND DISCUSS STORIES



March brings lovely signs of spring and new life. Celebrate with Karen Obuhanych's *This Little Kitty in the Garden*, a fun nod to the classic rhyme "This Little Piggy." As you read the story together, enjoy the bold and bright pictures. Talk about what each kitty does on the pages, as each one has a different personality to notice. Introduce words like "playful," "curious," or "mischievous" in addition to colors to describe each cat.

With older children, try pointing out aspects of the book's design: The end papers inside the cover feature kitty paw prints, the front cover shows Kitty faces while the back cover shows their tails, and peeking under the jacket of the book shows the kitties circling around a plant with gleeful expressions. Enjoying these small details can help children to understand and appreciate that books are often works of art.

For more books showing the shenanigans of the furry kind, try *Can Cat and Bird Be Friends?* by Coll Muir, *Stack the Cats* by Susie Ghahremani and *I Take Care of My Kitten* by Michael Slack.



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