

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



Love is in the Little Things by Stella J. Jones and Jane Massey shows just how powerful love can be during the smallest of tasks. Love can be seen in the little gestures or activities we engage in each day. Follow along as a bear and young child spend the day exploring love through friendship. The small acts of kindness they share help show the love they have for one another.

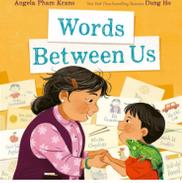
Jane Massey illustrates each page with simple and heartwarming details. Fun images of love and friendship can be seen throughout the book with activities like apple picking and bike riding. Spend some time doing similar activities with your little one to help build a stronger bond of love.

For more books on love, check out *Wherever You Go* by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman, *A Gift for Nai Nai* by Kim-Hoa Ung and *Like You, Like Me* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw.



TALK

SING AND POINT



In *Words Between Us* by Angela Pham Krans and Dung Ho, family and food take center stage. A Vietnamese grandma moves to the United States. She doesn't speak much English and her grandson, Felix, doesn't speak much Vietnamese. As Felix and Grandma spend time together, they learn how to understand one another and speak each other's languages.

Every spread offers an opportunity for conversation for caregivers and children. You can ask questions like did you meet your grandma? If so, when did you meet her? What is your favorite food? What would you show someone who is visiting our house? What words would you teach someone who is just learning your language? Enjoy talking together!

Does the child in your life love to talk about food? Check out *Spicy Spicy Hot!* by Lenny Wen for a story about a little girl who tries to find a version of Indonesian Sambal that isn't so spicy or *Anni Dreams of Biryani* by Namita Moolani Mehra and Chaaya Prabhat, where Anni tries to discover the secret of a perfect biryani. Need another read? Try *Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day* by Erica Kim where a little girl excitedly shares the different ways that she eats kimchi.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



It's amazing what happens when a group of different animals get together to convert an old mall into a water park. Even the littlest bugs in this book can contribute and make a big difference. Marc Brown's beautiful illustrations combine with the rhyming words of Judy Sierra in *Everyone Counts* to tell a fun story of kindness, inclusion for all and counting to ten. The last pages even have fun mathematical riddles that are sure to entertain.

Need to practice some more counting? Try *Ten Little Squirrels* by Bill Martin Jr., Michael Sampson and Nathalie Beauvois, *Let's Count Goats!* by Mem Fox and Jan Thomas and *One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count With Me!* by John Micklos Jr. and Clive McFarland.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



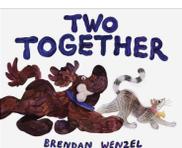
If you were going to climb to the stars, how would you do it? Maybe a ladder, or a tower or a pogo stick? In *A Way to the Stars* by David Almond and Gill Smith, Joe's friends mock him, but his dad encourages him to experiment: "The stars? OK, I'll help. I'll finish my chores and Joe'll have a think." How do you think Joe can make it to the stars?

One thing that's really special in this story is the way Joe's dad lets Joe take the lead on what to try next, even though his dad probably knows that a pogo stick cannot reach the stars. There's a similarly delightful dynamic in *Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall. For more imaginative play, try *Between Two Windows* by Keisha Morris or *What Can You Do With A Rock?* by Pat Zietlow Miller and Katie Kath.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



Two Together by Brendan Wenzel offers a simple story about friendship and daily exploration through rhyming text and thoughtful illustrations, showcasing the extraordinary moments that make up life.

As you read the story, pause to look at the pictures together and notice how the cat and dog change from sketches to colorful characters. Point out their expressions and talk together about how they are feeling as they traverse their world, seeing new sights but also getting lost. What emotion words can you attach to different parts of the story based on what you see in the illustrations?

After reading the story, talk about your own day together. What feelings did the child in your life have throughout the day? What picture might they draw to express different moments or what colors would they choose to show how they felt?

For more books about daily friendship and community, check out *Hooray for Hat!* by Brian Won, *A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni and *Sourgrass* by Hope Lim and Shahzad Maydani.

