



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

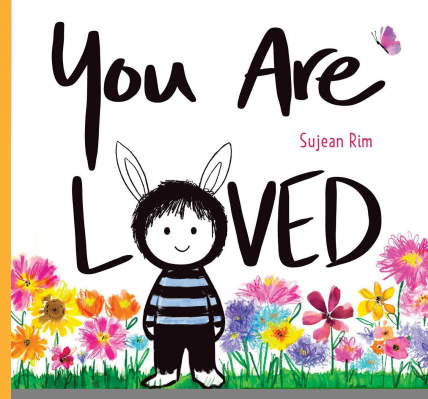
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

## Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

### LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE  
MANAGE STRESS



**You Are Loved** by Sujean Rim follows a young child as he ventures on an outdoor adventure. The colorful illustrations show the child dancing with birds, playing in the rain and exploring cloud shapes. Nature is a common theme used through the book to show the child how much they are loved.

Take some time to explore nature by running through grass or guessing cloud shapes. What emotions does your child exhibit when engaging in these types of activities? Curiosity? Joy? Love?

For more books on love check out [I Would Love You Still](#) by Andrea Theodore and Ken Wilson-Max, [Someone Just Like You](#) by Helen Docherty and David Roberts and [The Days Are Long, The Years Are Short](#) by Aya Morton.



### TALK

SING AND POINT



Discover the enchanting animal band in **The Animal Song** by Jonty Howley. Crocodile *snaps* on the snare drum, Bear *poom-pooms* on the bass and Weasel *jingle-jangles* on the banjo. Their music delights all the woodland creatures throughout spring, summer and fall. But when winter arrives and everyone longs to hibernate, the band faces a dilemma: They want to keep playing. What will the band do?

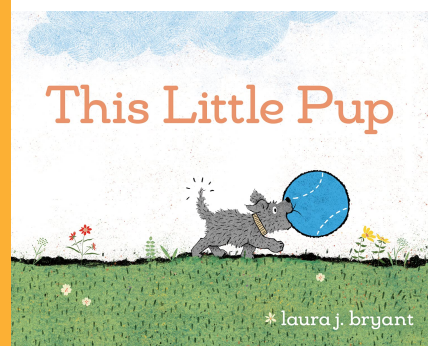
With vibrant illustrations, playful rhymes and a catchy rhythm, this story is bound to captivate both you and your little one. Check out the book to enjoy a free song that brings the story to life as you read!

For more musical stories, try [Music Is in Everything](#) by Ziggy Marley and Ag Jatkowska, [This Is Music: Horns](#) by Rekha S. Rajan and Tania Yakunova and [Bing! Bang! Chugga! Beep!](#) by Bill Martin Jr., Michael Sampson and Nathalie Beauvois.



### COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



**This Little Pup** by Laura J. Bryant showcases the adventure to be found in the simplest of activities. When a little boy throws one blue ball for his pup, it bounces past two brown cows, three green frogs, four pink pigs and more animals, journeying through the farm until the ball is finally caught.

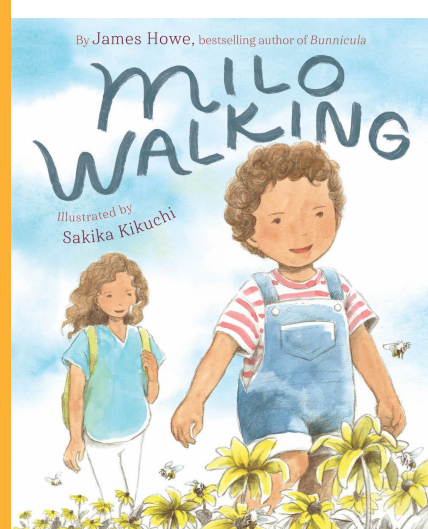
As you and the child in your life read together, you will discover numbers, colors and lots of messy joy in this story featuring engaging illustrations and fun text. Each reading offers more details in the pictures to discover.

For more doggy counting books, try [Doggy Kisses](#) by Todd Parr, [Dozens of Dachshunds](#) by Stephanie Calmenson and Zoe Pensico and [1, 2, 3, Nosh with Me](#) by Micah and Joshua Siva.



### PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH  
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



What do you see when you walk in your neighborhood? In **Milo Walking** by James Howe and Sakika Kikuchi, we join Milo and his mother as they notice the everyday wonders of their neighborhood. Journey along as they listen to the bees, watch the airplane trail and admire yellow flowers. Milo likes to draw what he sees, and he wants to make his pictures into a story, adding a fun literacy connection to the tale.

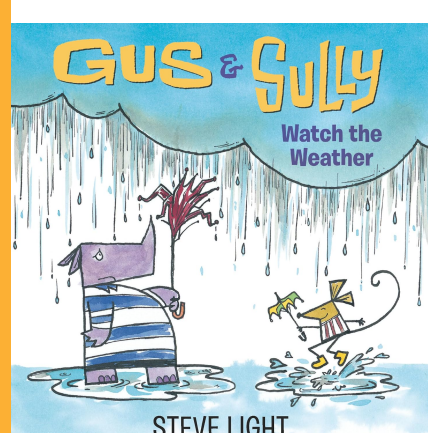
If you were writing a story about exploring where you live, what would you include? What sights, sounds, smells, tastes or textures would you draw?

For more stories of slowing down and noticing what's around you, check out [Windows](#) by Julia Denos and E.B. Goodale, [Now](#) by Antoinette Portis or [Little White Rabbit](#) by Kevin Henkes.



### READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



**Gus and Sully Watch the Weather** by Steve Light offers a comical and clever look at weather vocabulary for young children. Take a look at the front cover together and talk about what is happening and how the characters are feeling about it. Talk about the title and what it means to "watch the weather."

As you turn the pages together, take time to notice how Gus and Sully often have opposite reactions or different perceptions of the weather. Talk with the child in your life about how they feel when the day is sunny, rainy or snowy and what they like or dislike about the weather. Try encouraging one another the next time the weather isn't to your liking to see it from a different perspective.

Observing the weather and having the vocabulary to name what is happening outside is an important skill that can help the child in your life get ready for school, know what clothing they need to be comfortable outside and appreciate nature.

For more books to build weather connections and vocabulary, try [Do I Have to Wear a Coat?](#) by Rachel Isadora, [Feel the Fog](#) by Rachel Isadora and [Weather](#) by Jill McDonald.



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