



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

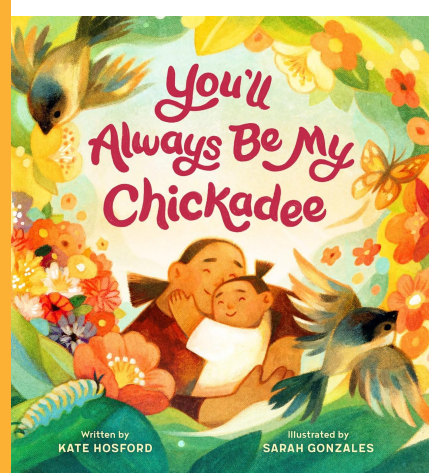
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy **1KB4K program**.

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

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

# LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE  
MANAGE STRESS



Discover love through outdoor exploration by reading the book [You'll Always Be My Chickadee](#) by Kate Hosford. Rhyming text describes a day spent outdoors with a mother and her child. The mother gives her child sweet nicknames that connect to things in nature. Sarah Gonzales fills each page with vibrant illustrations of fun outdoor activities like hiking through tall trees and walking through fields of flowers.

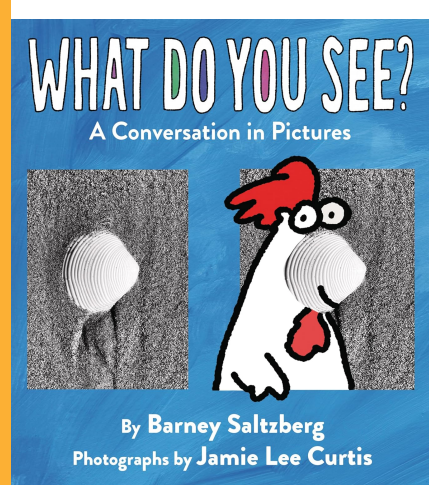
During this colorful season, spend some time outdoors. Focus on what's around you and the child in your life. What can you discover together to enjoy?

For more books on love check out [May You Love and Be Loved](#) by Cleo Wade, [Simple Thanks](#) by Deborah Wiles and Bao Luu and [Love, The Earth](#) by Frances Stickley and Tim Hopgood.



# TALK

SING AND POINT



We're all familiar with how simple objects put together or cast in the right light can make them appear to be more than they are. A rock on the ground with two pennies next to it can look like a snowman. A shadow cast on a wall can appear to be a dancing frog. As a child, I remember the wooden panel walls in the bedroom at my grandma's house were filled with intimidating faces everywhere!

Barney Saltzberg and Jamie Lee Curtis take this idea to the next level in [What Do You See? A Conversation in Pictures](#). Curtis shot simple, often abstract photographs. Saltzberg then drew pictures on top of them, bringing out a whole new perspective. There's no shortage of things to talk about in this playful book.

As you look at the book with the child in your life, consider asking "What do you see in this photograph?" and "What did Mr. Saltzberg see in the photograph?" Take time to talk about how there may be more than one way to create something. What do you notice around you? Could you take some photographs and then draw on them together to see what you discover? The end of the book has additional photos inviting readers to imagine what they would draw as well as a brief activity guide and a lovely message about friendship.

Be inspired to have more meaningful conversations with [Yes! No! A First Conversation about Consent](#) by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli and Isabel Roxas, [Are You Big?](#) by Mo Willems and [The Joyful Book](#) by Todd Parr.



# COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



Join a musical community in [One Sweet Song](#) by Jyoti Rajan Gopal and Sonia Sanchez. A young girl hears one sweet note ring out as she looks out over her neighborhood from her balcony. She adds a chime on her triangle, and soon the sounds of music throughout the neighborhood bring everyone together.

Some of the notes come from professional musicians while others are from people using pots and pans. This book, written by a kindergarten teacher and inspired by the balcony singing in Italy during the pandemic, is a perfect introduction to counting and music and the joy both can bring to a neighborhood.

For more counting books to try this month, check out [123 Sleepy Me: A Textured Touch Counting Book](#) by Sophie Aggett and Gareth Lucas, [Counting to Calm: My First Self-Regulation Book](#) by Prasha Sooful and Betania Zacarias and [Noni the Pony Counts to a Million](#) by Alison Lester.



# PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



There's something especially lovely about the clouds we see in fall. As the angle of the sun shifts through the seasons, we get to experience different cloud shapes and patterns. [Partly Cloudy](#) by Deborah Freedman is filled with fun cloud shapes to tease the imagination. A stratocumulus cloud can also be whipped cream, with a bit of fanciful thinking. Join two bunnies admiring the sky, one who sees cotton balls and flying saucers and one who sees altocumulus and lenticularis clouds.

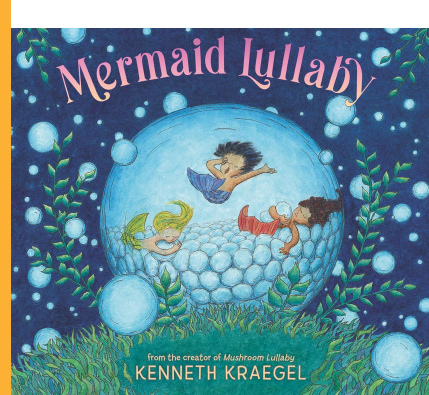
What are some ways you can play with clouds? The bunnies in this story imagine stories for the clouds they see. Maybe you can create your own clouds with crayons or cotton balls. Can you pretend to be a cloud with the child in your life?

If you are interested in more cloud play, check out [Lizzy and the Cloud](#) by the Fan Brothers, [Ploof](#) by Ben Clanton and Andy Chou Musser and [Little Cloud](#) by Eric Carle.



# READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



It's that time of year when fall starts to creep in with colors and new explorations. Pair the Kraegel's recent picture book release, [Mermaid Lullaby](#), a gentle read brimming with appreciation for beauty and the rest that comes after a good day.

As you read the story with the child in your life, point out when each page spread features a particular color, from red to orange to yellow and so on. Stop and notice the different animals, objects or textures that showcase that color. What animals, objects or textures did you and the child in your life see in your lives today? Take a moment at bedtime to appreciate a moment from the day.

For more quiet bedtime reads, try [A Happy Place](#) by Britta Teckentrup, [Good Night Baby](#) by Little Bee Books and [Bunny Should Be Sleeping](#) by Amy Hest and Renata Liwska.



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