



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

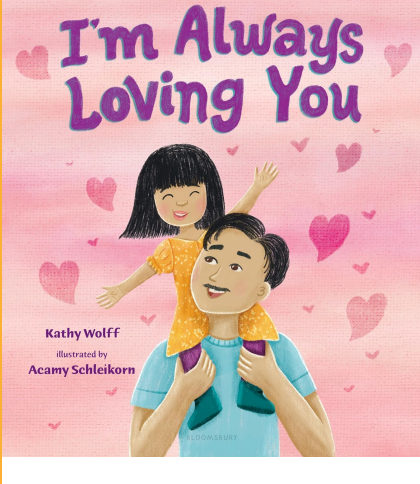
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

View and print our [2025 Early Literacy Calendar](#).

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS



[I'm Always Loving You](#) by Kathy Wolff and Acamy Schleichorn is a heartwarming children's book that explores unconditional love and family connection. The book uses tender text and captivating illustrations to show how love stays constant despite distance or challenges.

The book follows a child learning that love is a powerful force that holds families together even when they are apart. The warm, colorful illustrations bring the story to life and create an emotional connection for readers of all ages.

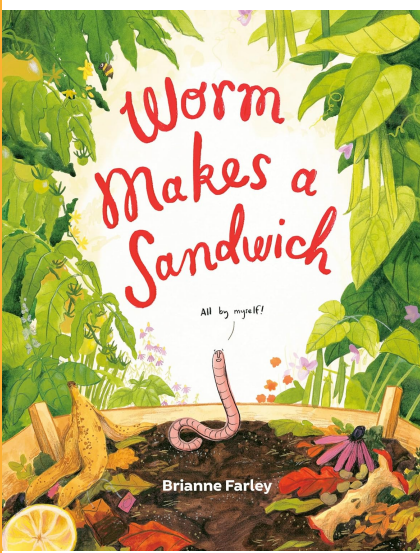
A great activity for families to promote love and connection is a "Love Letter Circle." In this activity, each family member writes or draws a short letter or note to another family member expressing something they love or appreciate about them. Everyone can share their letters aloud to help create a circle of positivity and support. This simple activity fosters love, communication and a strong connection among family members.

For more books about love, check out *[I Love You, Little Horse](#)* by Gianna Marino, *[I Love You More](#)* by Clare Helen Welsh and Kevin and Kristen Howdeshell and *[Just Be You](#)* by Karl Newson and Ela Smietanka.



TALK

SING AND POINT



We think about the rebirth of the world around us with the return of spring. Birds are back from their southern vacations while green leaves start to fill the trees and worms make their return to help fuel our gardens. To help you get outside with your little one and spark their interest to make your own garden, read *[Worm Makes a Sandwich](#)* by Brianne Farley.

This book will have you and your little one exploring the topic of composting as our little protagonist, Worm, wants to make a sandwich for you to enjoy. To get started, he'll need just one piece of garbage: delicious, delectable garbage like apple cores and mushy grapes, broccoli bottoms and carrot tops, sad celery and drippy cucumbers. Follow the composting cycle in this hilarious, engaging picture book. It is the perfect introduction to the process of composting from start to finish, told from the perspective of one little worm who is very eager to help.

For more new books to enjoy, try *[A Forest Song](#)* by Kirsten Hall and Evan Turk, *[Bird Bath](#)* by Steve Antony and *[Little Lion Girl](#)* by Olivia Hope and Fiona Woodcock.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



Brendan Wenzel's vibrant board book *[Shapes](#)* brings life to a wide range of animals and shapes. From a triangle of tree frogs to parrots in a pear, each page is filled with colors, patterns and, of course, shapes! Say hello to beautiful creatures and notice owls in the shape of ovals and penguins forming a pentagon. A key at the back even allows readers to discover the specific animals pictured throughout the book.

Look for more shapes throughout the world and in the following books: *[Shape Up, Construction Trucks!](#)* by Victoria Allenby, *[Kitty and Cat: Bent Out of Shape](#)* by Mirka Hokkanen and *[Round](#)* by Jennifer Ward and Lisa Congdon.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY

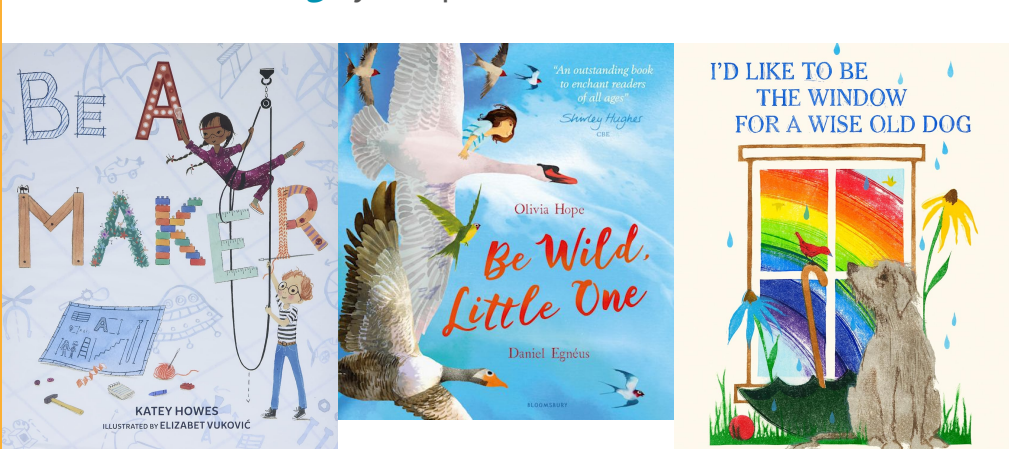


In *[Your House Is Not Just a House](#)* by Idris Goodwin and Lorraine Nam, a rainy day leads to a series of thrilling adventures. This story begins already on the inside cover, with a picture of rain pouring down on a neighborhood. Even before the words begin, we see a small child watching the rain against the windows, wanting to be outside.

But maybe a house isn't just a house. Just like that, the child's imagination is creating a teleportation chamber, a robot planet, an epic wrestling match and a hip-hop stage with an audience of lions and zebras.

Do you have a favorite game or story to imagine? As you read this book with the child in your life, talk about the many different ways the child in the story plays by imagining all sorts of things.

For more imaginative adventures, check out *[Be a Maker](#)* by Katey Howes and Elizabet Vukovic, *[Be Wild, Little One](#)* by Olivia Hope and Daniel Egnéus and *[I'd Like to Be the Window for a Wise Old Dog](#)* by Philip Stead.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Every Monday Mabel](#) by Jashar Awan offers a delightful slice of life story for young and old. Every Monday Mabel prepares herself for the thing she looks forward to every week: the arrival of the garbage truck! Bold and bright illustrations chronicle Mabel's devotion to the green vehicle of the street while Awan's words provide glimpses of humor and delight in enjoying the ordinary.

Before reading the story with the child in your life, look at the cover of the book and think together about what the book might be about. Can you find any clues? Flip the book to the back cover for an up-close look at the garbage truck, with the ISBN number cleverly functioning as part of the vehicle. With older children, talk about perspective: What's important to Mabel in the story? To her sister? To her dad or mom? What about the other characters at the end of the story? Do you have an interest or hobby like Mabel that you might share with others?

For more great books about garbage trucks and all things that go, check out *[Wheels](#)* by Sally Sutton and Brian Lovelock, *[Supertruck](#)* by Stephen Savage and *[I Stink!](#)* by Kate and Jim McMullan.



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