



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



MAXIMIZE LOVE
MANAGE STRESS



Take a Breath, Big Red Monster! by Ed Emberley is a heartwarming and empowering picture book that gently guides young readers through big feelings with love and understanding. This vibrant, monster-filled tale taps into the powerful message of "maximize love, manage stress," reminding children that even the biggest, loudest emotions are okay and manageable with care, connection and a deep breath.

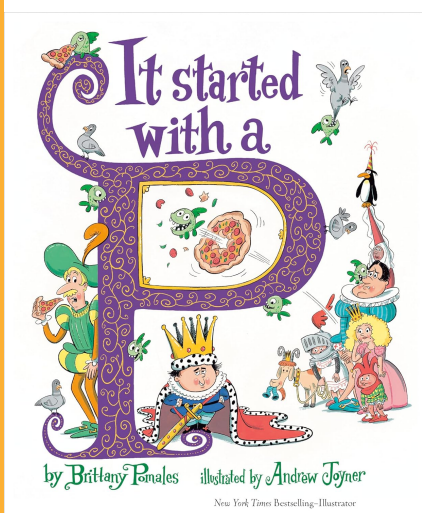
As the Big Red Monster feels overwhelmed by frustration and fury, young readers are invited to pause, reflect and breathe right alongside him. Through playful storytelling and expressive illustrations, this book creates a safe space where feelings are acknowledged and met with compassion. It also serves as a great read-aloud for helping kids explore their emotions and illustrates that every feeling matters and that love, calm and connection are always close by.

After reading ***Take a Breath, Big Red Monster!***, spend some time with the child in your life creating a "Feelings Monster" using paper and crayons, giving it a color and name based on how they feel.

For more books on love and emotions, check out ***Bear Feels Sad*** by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman, ***When You Find a Hope*** by Allie Millington and Anne Lambelet and ***Bear*** by Natalia Shaloshvili.



SING AND POINT



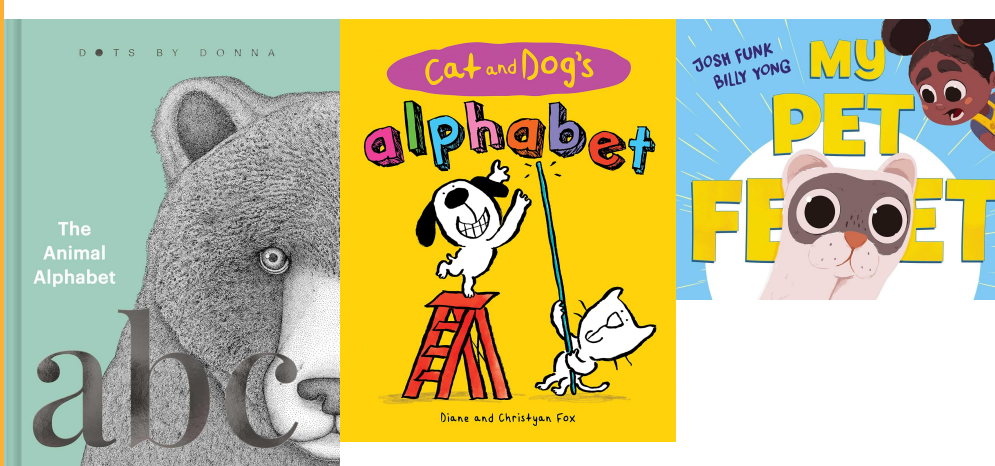
Is your little one starting to grasp the concept of letters and loves a silly story? Then ***It Started with a P*** by Brittany Pomaes and Andrew Joyner is the perfect book for you!

When the King wakes up with a premonition that something starting with the letter "P" will ruin his birthday, there's just one problem—he can't remember what that mysterious "P" thing is.

He decides to rid his entire kingdom of anything that starts with the letter P. Pepperoni pizza? Gone! Piñatas? Out! Pigeons, presents and even people are sent away, all in an effort to save his special day. But was the King right to worry... or just hilariously overreacting?

This playful story about overthinking is also a great opportunity to explore early literacy skills. Focusing on a single letter encourages children to recognize the starting sounds of words and connect them to everyday objects around them. What "P" words can you and the child in your life spot in your home or neighborhood?

If you enjoy this book, check out these stories about letters: ***The Animal Alphabet*** by Donna Taylor, ***Cat and Dog's Alphabet*** by Diane Fox and Christyan Fox and ***My Pet Feet*** by Josh Funk and Billy Yong.



GROUP AND COMPARE



Big Bike, Little Bike by Kellie DuBay Gillis and Jacob Souva creatively shows how perspective changes everything. When a small bird finds a bike, he quickly realizes that it is too big for him. However, the rhinoceros who discovers the bike next declares the bike too tiny. From the speedy cheetah to the fancy poodle, the bike continues to be passed from one animal to the next until it is abandoned and destroyed in a muddy swamp.

But the bike's story isn't finished yet. Enjoy all the comparisons throughout the book and see how even an old bike can have a new life.

Continue comparing sizes, shapes and words with these great books: ***I'm Not Small*** by Nina Crews, ***Big Gorilla*** by Anthony Browne and ***You Rule!*** by Rilla Alexander.



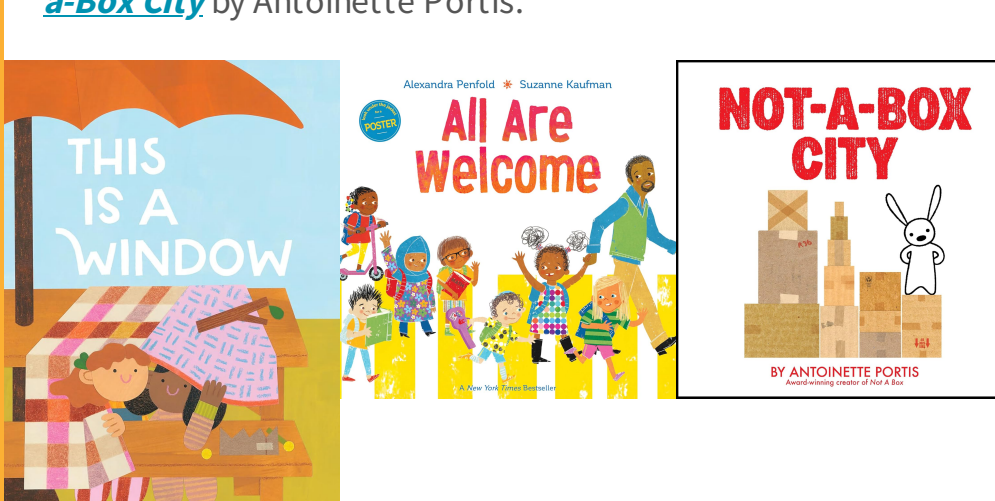
EXPLORE THROUGH
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



Would you like a tour of Cat Pine Falls? "These are our coins. And here's a café. And this is the hotel where you're welcome to stay." Join the group of kids in ***This Is Our City*** by Lauren Conrad and enjoy the welcoming, inventive city they've built. With cut-paper collage illustrations and jaunty rhyming text, this is a lovely invitation to imagine new ways of seeing the world around us.

The book declares "This is our city... And this is us, welcoming you." From beginning to end, this story showcases delightfully imaginative friendships and landscapes. What ideas for new worlds could you and the child in your life create in a backyard or a park?

For more inspiration related to building and community, check out ***This Is a Window*** by Lauren Paige Conrad, ***All Are Welcome*** by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman or ***Not-a-Box City*** by Antoinette Portis.



AND DISCUSS STORIES



Summer is Here: A Bear and Mole Story by Will Hillenbrand celebrates one of the sounds and sights of summer, baseball, while offering a gentle story of persistence and encouragement. Cheer on Mole in this feel-good story about trying your best.

Bright and colorful illustrations provide plenty of visual interest while interactive sounds create a fun read-aloud experience. Point out to the toddler or preschooler in your life how the action and sound words in the story are in different fonts, sizes and colors than the main text. Noticing how a book is created helps develop awareness of intentional design.

For more books to get you talking about encouragement and resilience, check out ***It Is (Not) Perfect*** by Anna Kang, ***The Squish*** by Breanna Carzoo and ***Just in Case You Want to Fly*** by Julie Fogliano and Christian Robinson.



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