



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

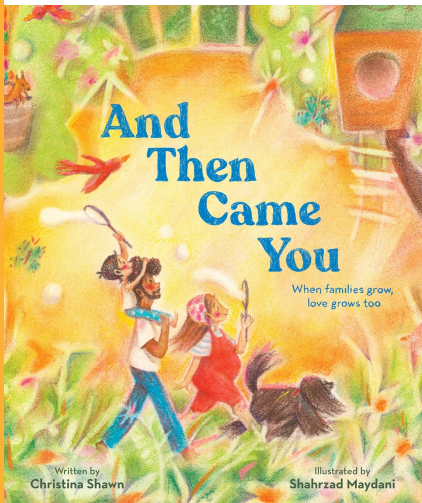
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

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

### LOVE

#### MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS



*[And Then Came You](#)* by Christina Shawn and Shahrzad Maydani is a tender celebration of love, family and new beginnings. The story follows a family's journey as they dream about the child they are waiting for and imagine the laughter, wonder and love that will fill their days.

The child's arrival makes their world grow brighter and more complete. Shawn's thoughtful words blend perfectly with Maydani's soft and heartfelt illustrations, capturing each sweet moment with care. Together they show how love grows bigger and brighter when someone new comes into the world.

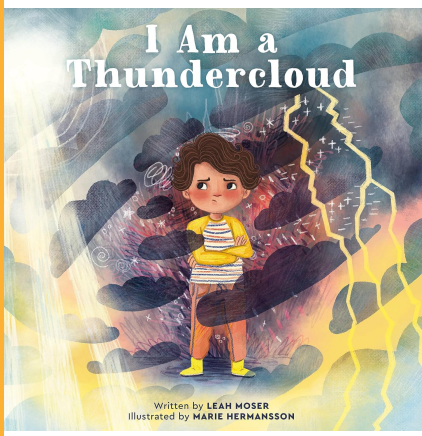
After reading *[And Then Came You](#)*, create a visual timeline of your family's journey, starting from when the family began, through special memories and leading up to the arrival of a new sibling or family member. Use drawings, photos or simple captions, whatever works best for you. This project mirrors the story's theme of anticipation and love growing over time and helps kids see how each moment adds to their unique family story.

For more books on love, check out *[Some Bunny Loves You](#)* by Helen Foster James and Petra Brown, *[A Cup of Quiet](#)* by Nikki Grimes and Cathy Ann Johnson and *[A Garden Called Home](#)* by Jessica Lee and Elaine Chen.



### TALK

#### SING AND POINT



Understanding and working through emotions can be tricky for little ones. Reading stories about feelings can help children explore them in a safe and healthy way, offering relatable examples of how to express what they're experiencing inside.

One great book to begin talking about emotions is *[I Am a Thundercloud](#)* by Leah Moser. Frustration, grumpy days or simply feeling "off" are all part of being human, and this story gently guides readers through the emotional storms and toward brighter skies. Moser beautifully illustrates a range of feelings, using vivid imagery and onomatopoeia to bring emotions to life.

If you liked this book, try *[Cranky](#)* by Phuc Tran and Pete Oswald, *[The Ways We Say "I Love You"](#)* by Caroline Hadilaksomo and *[A Place for Feelings](#)* by Corey Anne Haydu and Geeta Ladi.



### COUNT

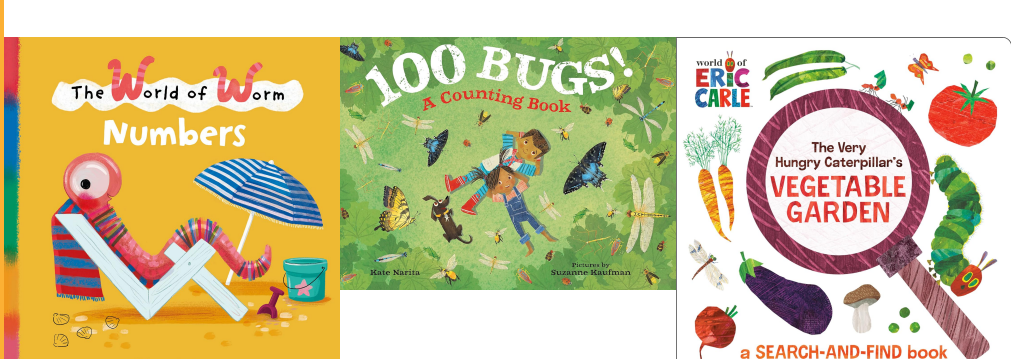
#### GROUP AND COMPARE



With vibrant pictures and a lyrical rhyme, *[Over in the Garden](#)* by Janna Matthies and Tisha Lee will inspire everyone to get outside and start digging. Set to the classic tune "Over in the Meadow," readers can sing along as young gardeners compost, water, weed and grow.

Throughout the book, children work together to create a beautiful community garden. Not only does the book encompass various aspects of gardening, but readers can count from one to ten as the garden grows and the seasons progress.

Ready to get outside and count more? Try *[The World of Worm: Numbers](#)* by Esther van den Berg, *[100 Bugs! A Counting Book](#)* by Kate Narita and Suzanne Kaufman and *[The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Vegetable Garden](#)* by Eric Carle and Gabriella DeGennaro.



### PLAY

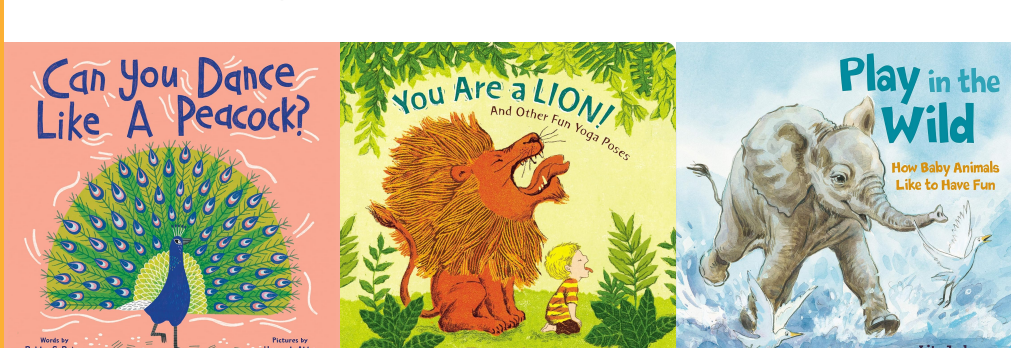
#### EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



If you'd like a story to get you up and hopping, spinning, running and dancing, check out *[Can You Do This?](#)* by Megan Roy. With cheerful pop art illustrations and plenty of bright colors, these pages are filled with challenges like taking teeny-tiny steps or spinning like a tornado.

Let's celebrate bodies in motion and spend a little time wiggling and moving together before winding back down with some deep, calming breaths. Are you ready to try it out with the child in your life?

For more books that encourage movement, try *[Can You Dance Like A Peacock?](#)* by Rekha S. Rajan and Hannah Abbo, *[You Are A Lion! And Other Fun Yoga Poses](#)* by Tae-eun Yoo and *[Play in the Wild: How Baby Animals Like to Have Fun](#)* by Lita Judge.



### READ

#### AND DISCUSS STORIES



Kenard Pak's *[Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer](#)* creates a gentle mood of walking through the quieter side of the season. As you read the book with the child in your life, pay attention together to the colors of the story as Pak's illustrations move the reader from the rain-drenched growing season of spring into the bright and glowing summer sun.

For an interactive reading, try inviting the child in your life to say hello to the objects and people in the story. Respond to the hello with Pak's words on the adjoining page, which give the response of the objects or people. Next time you're on a walk together, practice saying hello to the people, animals or wonders that you might see.

For more books to get you talking about all the sides of summer, the quiet as well as the boisterous and busy, check out *[Fireworks](#)* by Matthew Burgess and Cátia Chien, *[Our Pool](#)* by Lucy Ruth Cummins and *[Mama, Is It Summer Yet?](#)* by Nikki McClure.



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