



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

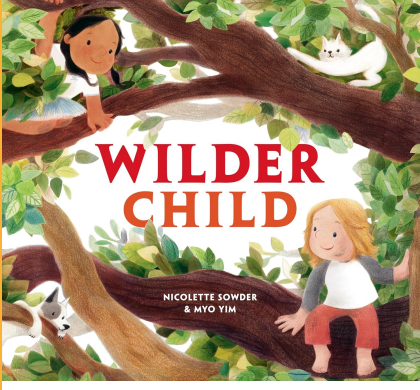
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER

LOVE

MAXIMIZE LOVE
MANAGE STRESS



[Wilder Child](#) by Nicolette Sowder and Myo Yim is a beautifully illustrated children's book connects love, nature and the curiosity of childhood.

The story follows a child who embarks on a whimsical journey through the natural world, discovering its wonders and forming an emotional bond with the earth, the sky and animals. With each step the child learns the importance of being free, wild and open-hearted.

Through gentle storytelling and vibrant illustrations, [Wilder Child](#) reminds readers of all ages that the natural world can help us be present to experience beauty and love. Help the child in your life connect to the book by taking a nature walk through a park. What do you see around you? Can you find a tree or flower you like? What sounds do you hear?

Nature journaling is another fun way to connect to the book. Give the child in your life a journal to draw or write about the animals and plants they see.

For more books on love and nature, check out [Each Day is a Gift](#) by Lisl H. Detlefsen and Natalia Vasilica, [Give Back](#) by Gina Bellisario and Alicia Más and [Breathe](#) by Linda Ragsdale and Lindsay Cook.



TALK

SING AND POINT



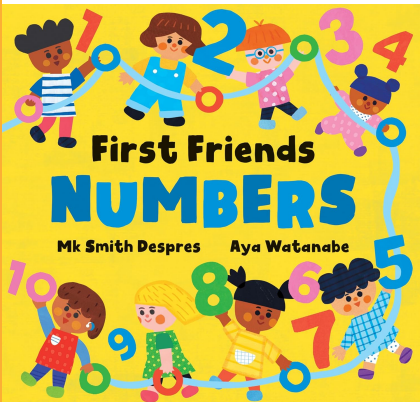
As seasons begin to change, a new opportunity for exploration starts. To set this mood of discovery, read [The Wonder You See](#) by Joanna Gaines and Julianna Swaney. Rhythmic text and detailed illustrations create a reading experience that invites you to seek and find all that nature has to offer, particularly after a long winter season.

If you enjoy this book, try these nature themed titles: [A Cat Like That](#) by Lester L. Laminack and Nicole Wong, [You are Part of the Wonder](#) by Ruth Doyle and Britta Teckentrup and [Hello, Sun](#) by Julie Downing.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



Follow young children through a day at school in [First Friends: Numbers](#) by Mk Smith Despres and Aya Watanabe. The book begins with "1 kiss goodbye, 1 hug hello," as a child receives a kiss from their grown-up and a hug from their teacher.

Readers continue to count their way through the school day while the children play with friends, enjoy snack time and relax during rest period. The end of the book even includes a search and find for readers to explore the pictures and continue counting.

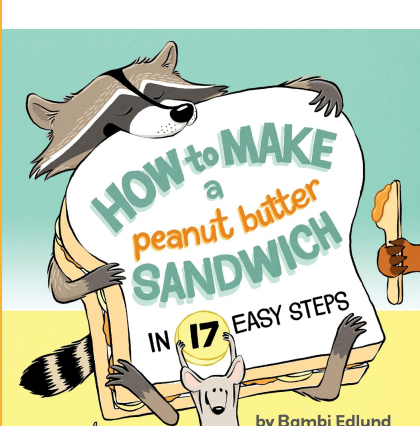
With colorful pictures and simple wording, this book provides a great introduction to a typical school day and can encourage conversations about what children might do when they go to school or day care.

To check out more counting books for the library's youngest visitors, try these board books: [On Powwow Day](#) by Traci Sorell and Madelyn Goodnight, [Cinnamon Bun, I Love You](#) by Amy Schwartz and [One Earth](#) by Eileen Spinelli and Rogério Coelho.



PLAY

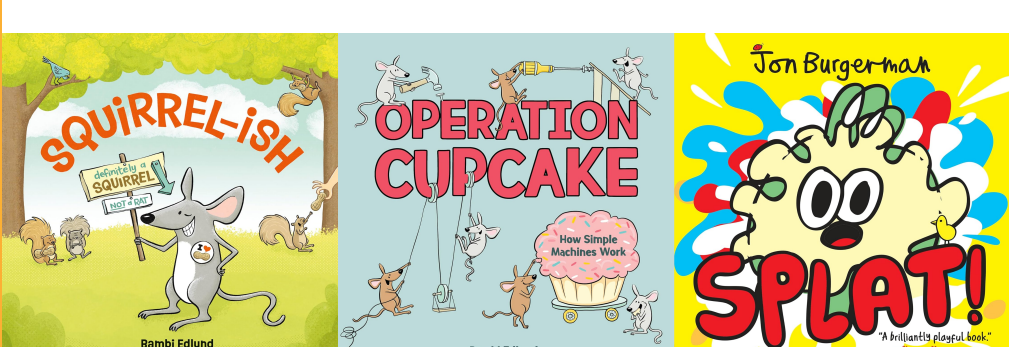
EXPLORE THROUGH
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



If you've been wanting to learn how to make sandwiches properly, check out [How to Make a Peanut Butter Sandwich in 17 Easy Steps](#) by Bambi Edlund. All you need is 1 hat, 3 oranges, 1 skateboard, 3 loaves of bread, 4 wooden clogs... and maybe a few other things like a donkey and a skunk and an accordion.

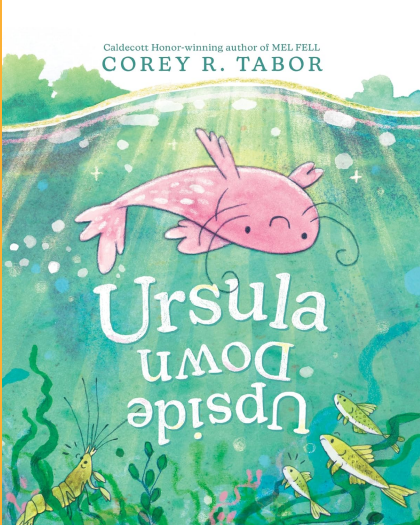
Have you ever tried making a sandwich with a beaver and some crows? This incredibly silly story overcomplicates every step of the process, leading us on one adventure after another until everyone finally makes it to the park and can share the sandwiches.

For more silly play, try [Squirrel-ish](#) or [Operation Cupcake](#) by Bambi Edlund, or [Splat](#) by Jon Burgerman.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Ursula Upside Down](#) by Corey R. Tabor presents a fun take for preschoolers on the diverse ways we all experience the world. Ursula is an upside-down catfish and is perfectly happy swimming along that way until a side comment from a fishy neighbor gets her thinking she's all mixed up. What follows is a delightful trick of book design, with Tabor offering cues to the reader to turn the book this way and that to mimic Ursula's attempt to swim a different way.

As you read the story with the child in your life, take some time to talk about book design: What's happening on the front cover of the book? As you make your way through the pages, point out the illustrations cleverly showing the ocean world from Ursula's perspective.

For more books with intentional book design elements, try [Color Farm](#) by Lois Ehlert, [Joseph Had a Little Overcoat](#) by Simms Taback and [A Happy Place](#) by Britta Teckentrup.



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