



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

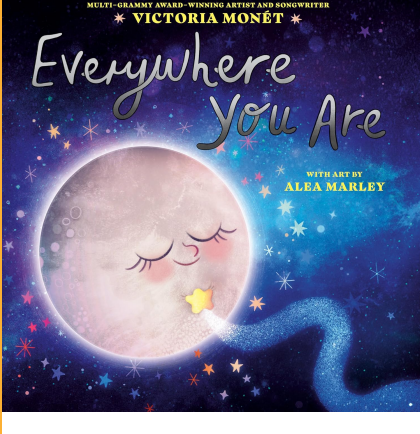
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

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

### LOVE

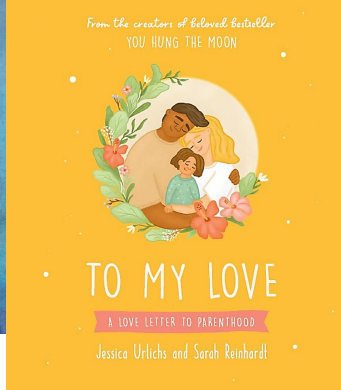
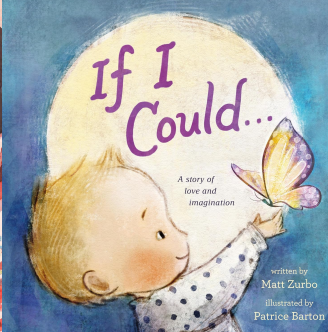
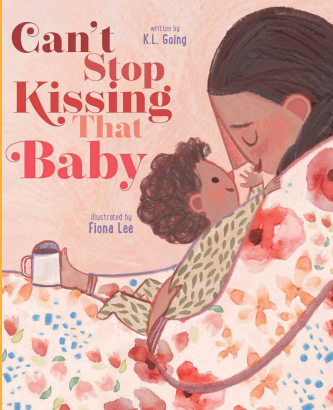
MAXIMIZE LOVE  
MANAGE STRESS



***Everywhere You Are*** by Victoria Monét and Alea Marley is a tender celebration of love that follows a child through the many places and moments where care can be felt. With lyrical text and vibrant illustrations, the book gently reassures children that love is constant.

Monét's heartfelt words paired with Marley's expressive artwork create a timeless story that reminds readers love can be present everywhere you are. Try inviting the child in your life to draw and share a picture of a place where they feel loved and safe after reading the story. This helps them connect the story's theme of love being present everywhere to their own lives.

For more books on love, check out ***Can't Stop Kissing That Baby*** by K. L. Going and Fiona Lee, ***If I Could...*** by Matt Zurbo and Patrice Barton and ***To My Love*** by Jessica Urlrichs and Sarah Reinhardt.



### TALK

SING AND POINT

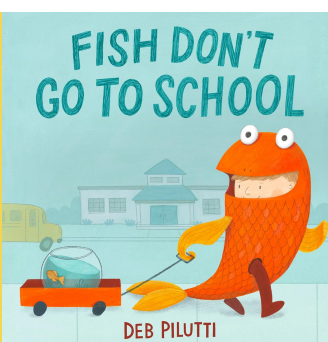


Going back to school can be both exciting and stressful. Whether your child is starting preschool for the very first time or an older sibling is heading back to class, it's natural for questions and worries to come up. Books can be a comforting way to ease those anxieties and open up conversations during the transition. One wonderful story to share is ***I Come From Another Galaxy*** by James Kwan.

In this imaginative tale, adventurous astronaut James faces his first day of school on a faraway planet. At first, he feels out of place: He doesn't speak the language, doesn't know the games (like slimeball!) and struggles to fit in. But everything changes on show-and-tell day when he discovers that sharing a piece of himself helps bridge the gap. It's a heartwarming reminder that being different is not only okay but can also bring connection.

Back-to-school season often stirs up uncertainty and big feelings. Reading together can give children a sense of familiarity and reassurance, while also opening the door to meaningful conversations. By sharing stories like this one, you can help the child in your life imagine what school might be like and create a positive, encouraging narrative around the new year ahead.

If you enjoy this book, try these additional suggestions: ***The Tour at School!*** by Katie Clapham and Nadia Shireen, ***Fish Don't Go to School*** by Deb Pilutti and ***Narwhal Vs. Kindergarten*** by Vanessa Roeder.



### COUNT

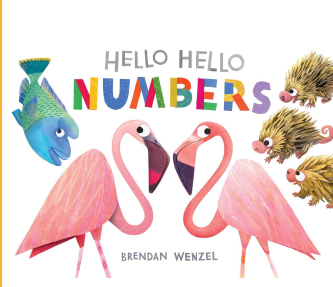
GROUP AND COMPARE



"Let's count in Cree all the things we can see," begins ***Péyak Little Duck*** by Sandra Lamouche and Mando Littlechild. In this beautiful picture book, a child enjoys taking a walk in nature. From diving loons to eagles soaring overhead, the child spots different birds while counting from one to ten in Plains Cree.

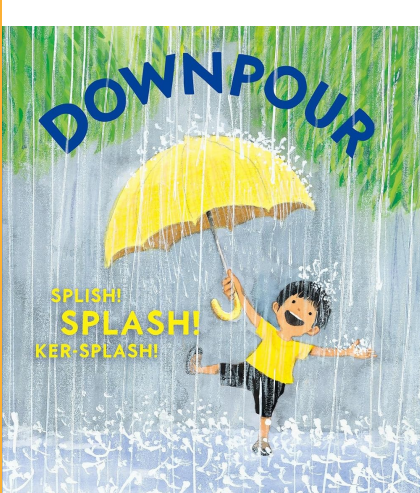
The bright illustrations, rhyming clues and pronunciation guides on each page make this a unique counting book for everyone to enjoy.

Let's pay attention to even more details in the world around us! Check out these fun books to count animals, compare dogs and notice differences in size: ***Hello Hello Numbers*** by Brendan Wenzel, ***This Dog, That Dog*** by Jade Orlando and ***The World and Everything in It*** by Kevin Henkes.



### PLAY

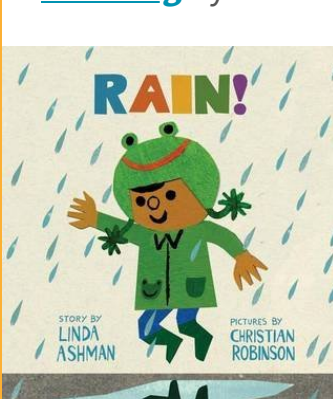
EXPLORE THROUGH  
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



If you're in the mood for puddle stomping, check out ***Downpour*** by Yuko Ohnari and Koshiro Hata, translated from the Japanese by Emily Balistrieri. A child with a yellow shirt and umbrella marvels at the sounds a rainstorm makes: plip, plip, bada-bada plam-pl-plam, plip. All the rain onomatopoeia makes this an entertaining read-aloud.

It's not long before the child drops the yellow umbrella in exchange for running, jumping, splashing and dancing, enthusiastically asking the rain to "come and play!" The illustrations perfectly capture the pure joy of embracing a downpour and the exquisite details of a single raindrop. All five senses awaken in a rainstorm, and as this sopping wet child reminds us, sometimes "sopping wet feels good." Do you like to play in the rain?

For more storied rain play, try ***Rain!*** by Linda Ashman and Christian Robinson, ***Worm Weather*** by Jean Taft and ***Let's Go Puddling!*** by Emma Perry and Claire Alexander.



### READ

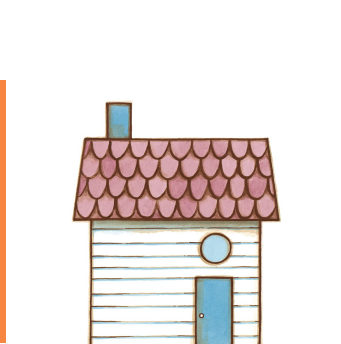
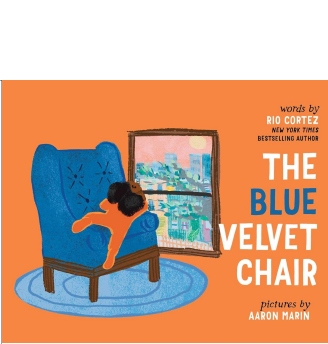
AND DISCUSS STORIES



***Go, Sloth, Go!*** by Toni Yuly engages the reader with a delightful tale of unhurried accomplishment. Sloth wakes from her sleep hungry. Yuly invites the reader into Sloth's climb to find the tasty leaves at the top of the tree with the refrain "Go, Sloth, go!," making this ripe for read-aloud potential.

As you read the story with the child in your life, talk about how the colors of the illustrations change in the story. Yuly's minimal color palette of greens and blues changes to oranges and purples, showing that Sloth's quest has taken the whole day as the sun sets and the book ends. With older children, talk about the opposites slow and fast and how the pacing of the story encourages the reader to match the pace of Sloth, despite perhaps wanting to hurry her along.

For more books that savor the ordinary moments and experiences of living, check out ***Quiet*** by Tomie DePaola, ***The Blue Velvet Chair*** by Rio Cortez and Aaron Marin and ***A House*** by Kevin Henkes.



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