



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

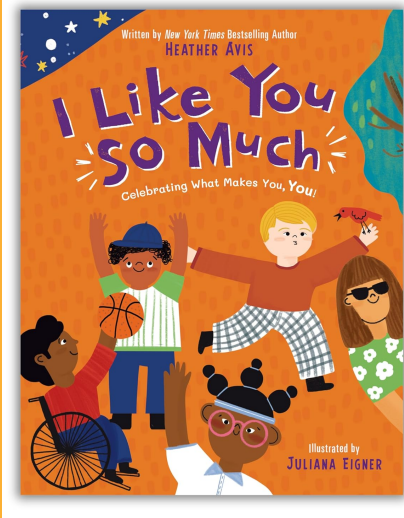
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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 Like You So Much](#) by Heather Avis and Juliana Eigner is a gentle and loving story perfect for parents and children to share. This simple book shows the many ways kids express love and affection, making it a wonderful tool to help little ones understand their feelings. With warm words and inviting art, it encourages connection and helps nurture loving bonds during family reading time.

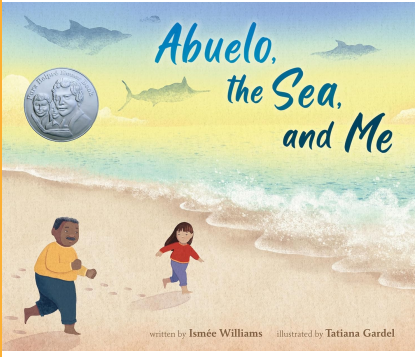
Spend some time decorating paper hearts with drawings or stickers. Write simple notes on the hearts and hang them around the house to remind everyone how much they are loved.

For more books on love, check out [Quiet Is Strength](#) by Mary Rand Hess and Dow Phumiruk, [The Greatest Gift](#) by Emma Dodd and [You Make the World](#) by Muon Thi Van, Phung Nguyen Quang and Huynh Kim Lien.



TALK

SING AND POINT

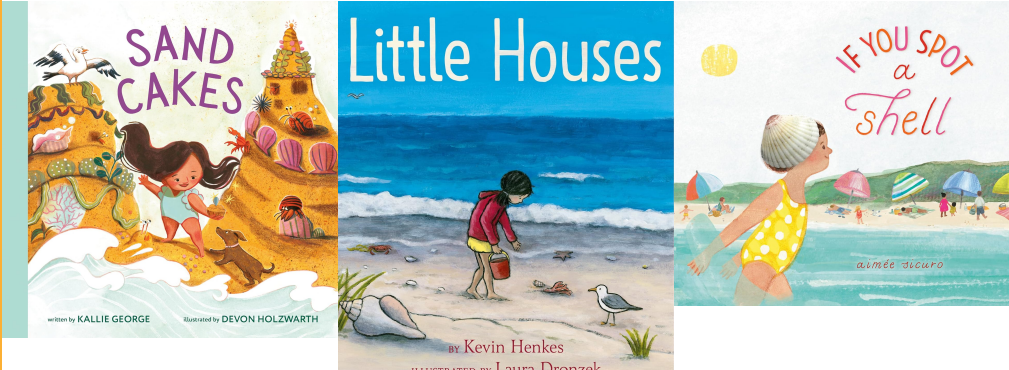


Now is the perfect time of year to head to the beach and play in the sand with your little one. It's a great opportunity to slow down, soak up the sunshine and have conversations while being present with each other.

That sense of connection is at the heart of [Abuelo, the Sea, and Me](#) by Ism e Williams and Tatiana Gardel. In this heartfelt story, a young girl visits the beach with her grandfather and begins to understand just how much the sea means to him. With each visit, she learns something new about his past and the memories he holds dear, deepening their relationship with every wave and grain of sand.

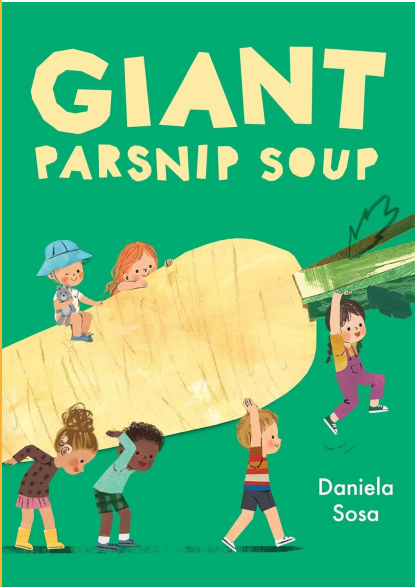
After reading, take a moment to talk with the child in your life about what the beach means to them. Share your favorite beach memories and invite them to create new ones with you. Whether it's collecting shells, splashing in the water or simply enjoying a quiet moment, these experiences can help strengthen relationships and early learning.

If you enjoyed this story, check out these other fun beach titles: [Sand Cakes](#) by Kallie George and Devon Holzwarth, [Little Houses](#) by Kevin Henkes and [If You Spot a Shell](#) by Aim e Sicuro.



COUNT

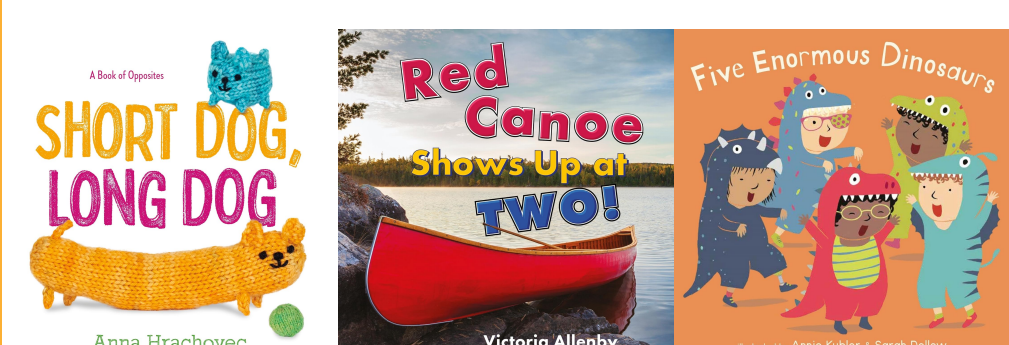
GROUP AND COMPARE



"One morning, two friends found a giant parsnip." Now the two friends need to decide what to do with that giant parsnip in the delightful picture book [Giant Parsnip Soup](#) by Daniela Sosa. Should they make a rocket or use it for a slide? Or should the friends make giant parsnip soup? In addition to one giant parsnip, they will need two bags of potatoes. What else might they need?

Count with the friends from the beginning of their culinary creation to the conclusion when we find ten full bellies. Readers can even make their own parsnip soup using a recipe found at the end of the book.

For more creativity, counting, comparing and conversation, check out these imaginative books: [Short Dog, Long Dog](#) by Anna Hrachovec, [The Red Canoe Shows Up at Two!](#) by Victoria Allenby and [Five Enormous Dinosaurs](#) by Annie Kubler and Sarah Dellow.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



[Hatch and Match](#) by Ruth Paul offers an exciting variation on matching games. "Hens jump down, stretch their legs. Can you help them find their eggs?" We're on a mission to help each chicken find her nest of matching eggs with each chicken sporting a different vibrant pattern. Will you help join the search?

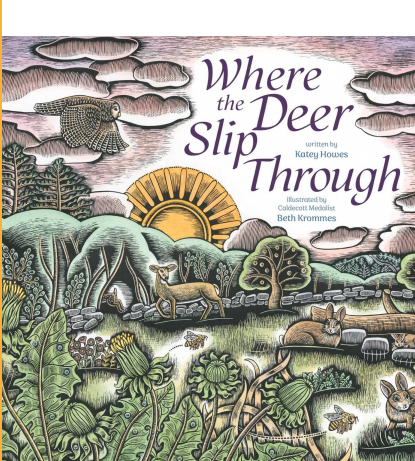
Filled with brightly colored illustrations and playful rhyming text, this egg hunt finishes with all the baby chicks hatching in one big chirpy mix. The book gives the reader the responsibility to match the chickens to their chicks. Sorting everyone into neat categories isn't so easy, though, since they are the "same but different. Can you see? Just the same as you and me." What other same-but-different things can you find that match?

For more chicken play, try [Catch That Chicken!](#) by Atinuke and Angela Brooksbank, [Mavis the Bravest](#) by Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton and [I Got A Chicken For My Birthday](#) by Laura Gehl and Sarah Horne.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Where the Deer Slip Through](#) by Katey Howes and Beth Krommes offers a gentle ode to quiet summer nights and slipping off to sleep with the sound of nature and a loved one's voice. Pick up this title when you need a quiet moment with the child in your life.

Black-and-white images drawn from scratchboard panels and colored with watercolor create detailed illustrations that beautifully show scenes of a woodland surrounding a cozy home. Howes' text reads like poetry and is perfect for a reading before bedtime. While reading, point out the different animals described. After reading, talk about the sights and sounds of the summer nights around your house. On a second reading with older children, try making a list of words they might not know, like "hedges" and "bask," and help them to understand what those words mean.

For more books that are poetic in language, check out [If You Want to See a Whale](#) by Julie Fogliano and Erin E. Stead, [Round and Round the Year We Go](#) by Carter Higgins and [Woodland Dreams](#) by Karen Jameson and Marc Boutavant.



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