



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



Through warm words and glowing illustrations, [You Are Not Alone](#) shows how family and friendship can hold us close like a comforting hug. Ingrid Law's soothing text offers hope and reassurance that no one faces life's challenges alone. Xin Li's soft and heartfelt art fills each page with color and emotion, showing the power of love and family together.

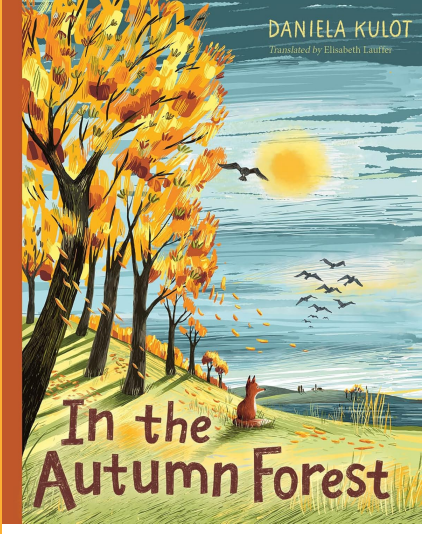
Create a "Love Links" paper chain by writing or drawing on colorful paper strips people and things that make the child in your life feel loved. Join the links together to show how love connects everyone, just like in *You Are Not Alone*.

For more books on love and family, check out [We Go Slow](#) by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie and Aaron Becker, [A Place for Us](#) by James E. Ransome and [My Grandma and Grandpa Rock!](#) by Pat Benatar, Meil Giraldo and Tiffany Everett.



TALK

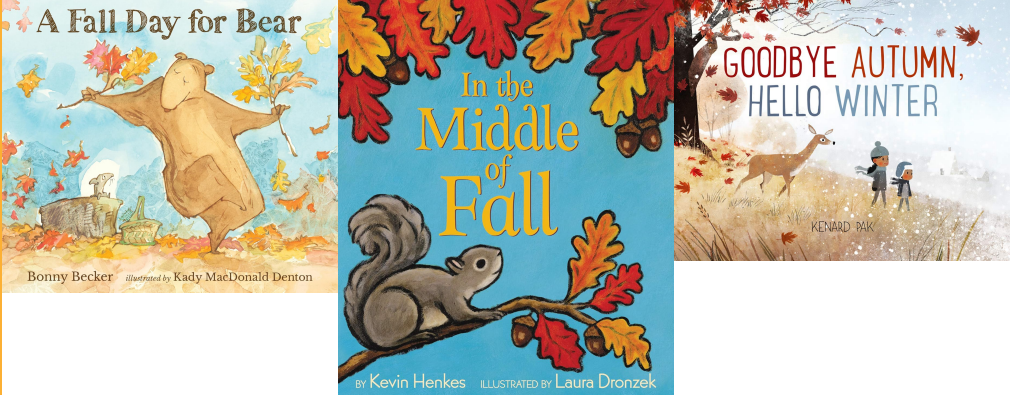
SING AND POINT



One story that beautifully opens the door to a conversation about seasonal change is [In the Autumn Forest](#) by Daniela Kulot. In this gentle tale, a group of woodland creatures notice the world around them beginning to shift. Should they worry or simply enjoy the new colors? Children are invited to think about how change can feel both strange and exciting.

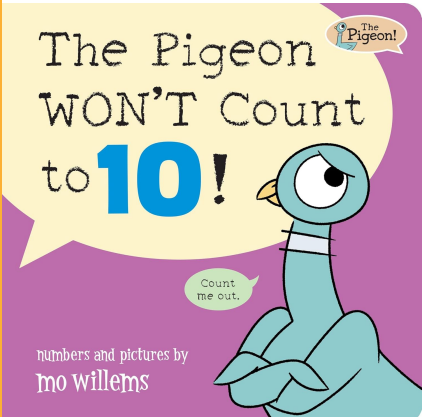
After reading, talk with your child about how they feel as the weather turns cooler. Are they excited for the falling leaves and cozy sweaters or a little nervous about the change? What are their favorite things to do during this time of year?

Looking for some other titles about a similar topic? Try [A Fall Day for Bear](#) by Bonny Becker and Kady MacDonald Denton, [In the Middle of Fall](#) by Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek and [Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter](#) by Kenard Pak.



COUNT

GROUP AND COMPARE



[The Pigeon Won't Count to 10!](#) is a delightfully funny and engaging board book that combines the signature humor of Mo Willems with an early learning counting concept. This stubborn pigeon does not want to count to 10 almost as much as he would like to drive the bus.

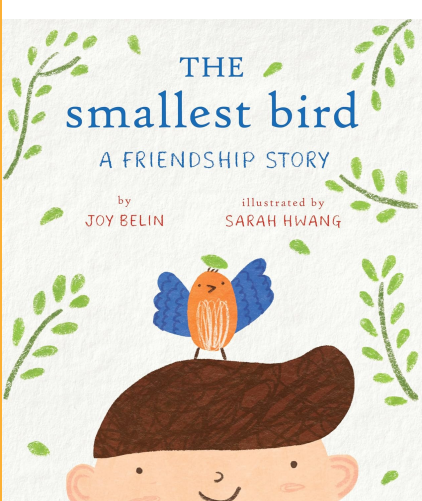
Bright, bold illustrations and "touch-and-trace" elements invite little hands to participate. With its perfect mix of silliness and learning, this book makes counting to ten an adventure kids will laugh through from start to finish.

For other books exploring early math concepts, try these great titles: [Shape Stories](#) by Amanda Shackelford and Leslie Warner, [100 Goats and a Granny!](#) by Atinuke and Lauren Hinds and [How Many Squirrels Are in the World?](#) by Ben Gundersheimer and Marcos Almada Rivero.



PLAY

EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



Have you ever tried to make friends with a bird? [The Smallest Bird: A Friendship Story](#) by Joy Belin and Sarah Hwang reminds us that the best way to make friends with the smallest bird is to be a good friend by being gentle and kind—and sharing plenty of snacks. What does play look like for the child in your life when they're making new friends?

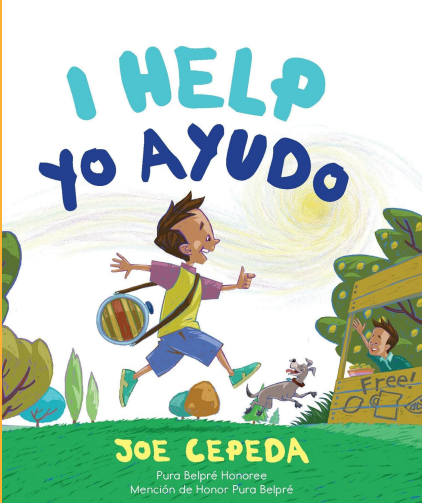
As you read the story with the child in your life, notice how carefully the boy is looking out for what the bird likes. You'll discover that this is a sweet and slightly abstract how-to guide to friendship.

For more friendship play, try [Wally Mammoth: The Sled Race](#) by Corey R. Tabor and Dalton Webb, [Grilled Cheese? Yes, Please!](#) by Tim Kley and [Vera La Valiente Is Scared](#) by Ana Siqueira and Teresa Martinez.



READ

AND DISCUSS STORIES



[I Help \(Yo Ayudo\)](#) by Joe Cepeda offers a bilingual board book focused on the way simple acts of kindness can connect a neighborhood. A young boy's sense of adventure is sparked when he sees a canteen in his family's garage, starting a journey that leads him to help and be helped with the gift of water.

As you read the story with the child in your life, talk about the pictures together. What is the boy doing? How is he helping? Where might he go next? As you go about your day, point out and talk about the ways you use water in your life.

For more books about sharing, try [Bunny Made Tea](#) by Amanda Baehr Fuller, [Mr. Norton's New Hat](#) by Huw Lewis Jones and Corey Egbert and [A Gift for Nana](#) by Lane Smith.



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