



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

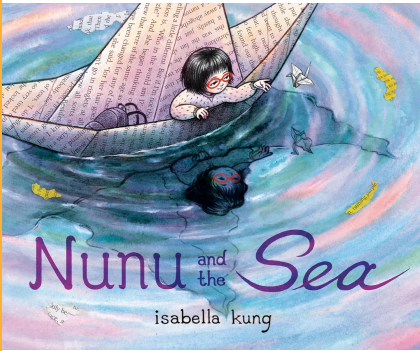
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

View and print the [2026 Early Literacy Calendar](#). Español: [Calendario de Alfabetización Temprana](#).

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

### LOVE

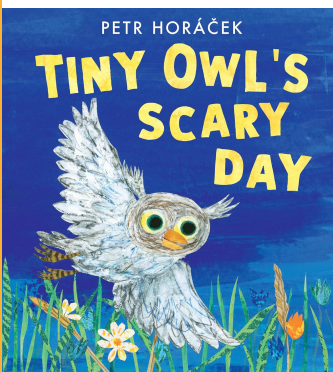
#### MAXIMIZE LOVE MANAGE STRESS



***Nunu and the Sea*** by Isabella Kung is a gentle, heartfelt story that explores love and the many emotions that come with change. Through Nunu's quiet journey by the sea, readers are invited to experience the feelings of longing and comfort without the need for many words.

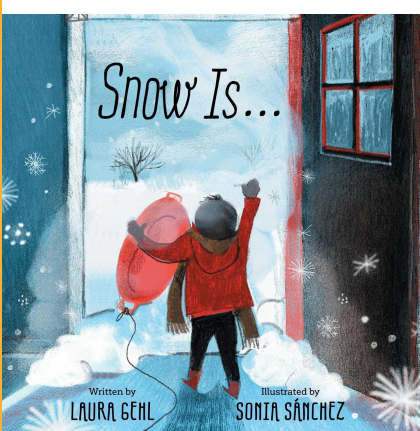
After reading *Nunu and the Sea*, spend some time creating a “feelings ocean” together by using blue paper, fabric or scarves to make pretend waves. Name emotions as you move the materials gently. Talk with the child in your life about the times they felt loved, calm or sad while you hold hands or share a hug. This simple activity encourages connection, emotional expression and shared comfort, just like in the story.

For more books on love and emotions, check out [Tiny Owl's Scary Day](#) by Petr Horáček, [What's Sweeter](#) by June Tate, and [And They Walk On](#) by Kevin Maillard and Rafael López.



### TALK

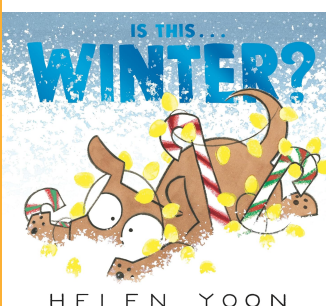
#### SING AND POINT



***Snow Is...*** by Laura Gehl and Sonia Sánchez is a gentle, poetic picture book that captures the many moods and moments of a snowy day. Written in short, lyrical phrases, the text invites young readers to slow down and savor the sensory experience of snow. The soft whimsical illustrations complement the text beautifully using muted winter tones and expressive characters that bring the book to life.

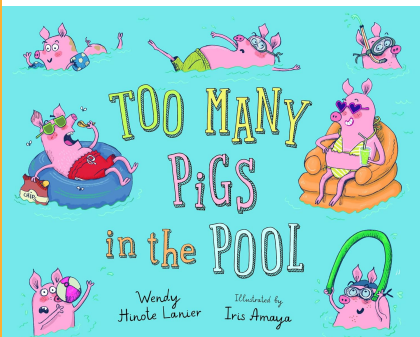
After reading this book, explore with the child in your life what snow days mean to them. What are their favorite activities to do? Work together to plan out your next snow-filled day.

If you enjoy this story, try [Is This...Winter?](#) by Helen Yoon, [The Snow Thief](#) by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater and [Ten Ways to Hear Snow](#) by Cathy Camper and Kenard Pak.



### COUNT

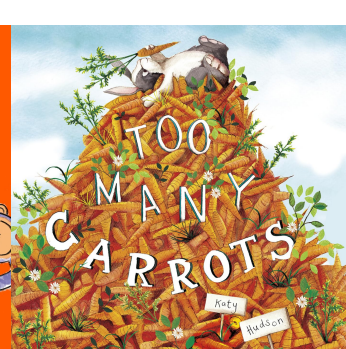
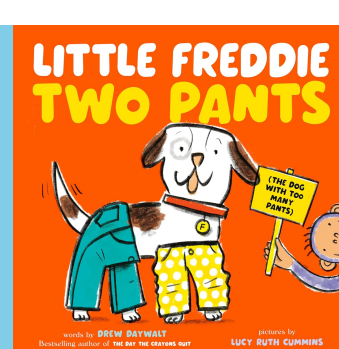
#### GROUP AND COMPARE



***Too Many Pigs in the Pool*** by Wendy Hinote Lanier and Iris Amaya is a colorful, engaging picture book that introduces early math concepts in a humorous way. The story begins with Mr. Jenkins inviting one pig to swim in his pool. Before long he comes home to find the number of pigs has doubled each day. The number of pigs grows from one to two, then four, and then eight until there are far too many pigs in the pool!

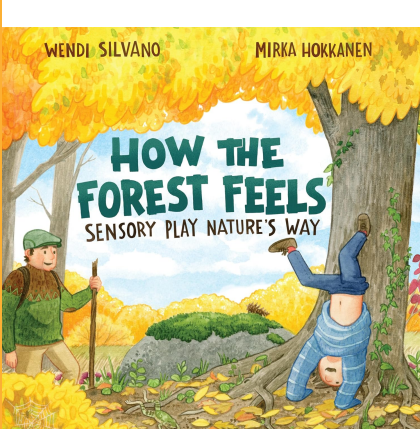
As more and more pigs jump into the pool, children can see numbers double, helping them explore counting and the idea of “more.” The bright illustrations invite children to count the pigs, notice patterns and sort details like pigs with floaties or sunglasses, building early skills in counting, addition and classification. This book is a great choice for families looking to support early math learning through a laugh-out-loud read.

For more stories all about having way too much of a good thing, check out these silly reads: [How Many Dinosaurs Is Too Many?](#) by Lou Peacock and Nicola Slater, [Little Freddie Two-Pants \(the Dog with Too Many Pants\)](#) by Drew Daywalt and Lucy Ruth Cummings and [Too Many Carrots](#) by Katy Hudson.



### PLAY

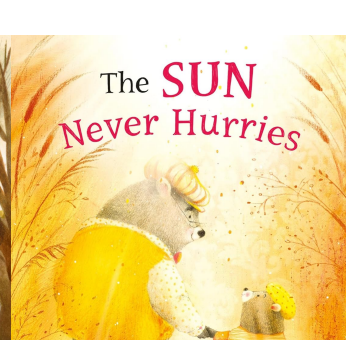
#### EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY



***How the Forest Feels: Sensory Play Nature's Way*** by Wendi Silvano and Mirka Hokkanen is a cozy rhyming exploration of the textures found in the woods. Every sentence begins with a texture as a child and his grandfather explore all the fascinating things to see and feel in the woods, like spongy moss, rough bark and sticky frogs. Best of all is experiencing the warm wool cap that Grandfather shares.

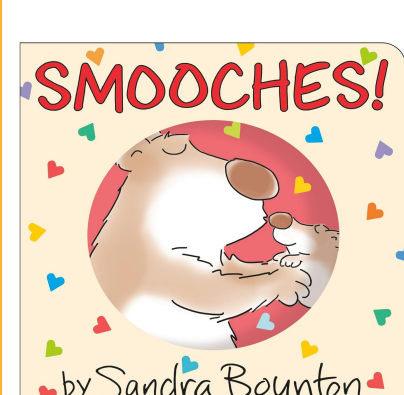
The back of this book features information about the five senses and ideas for playing with textures, including using an old box for a texture mystery box to guess and name what your fingers find inside. Have fun exploring with the child in your life.

For more nature walk play, try [Tiny Perfect Things](#) by M. H. Clark and Madeline Kloepper, [On A Magical Do-Nothing Day](#) by Beatrice Alemagna and [The Sun Never Hurries](#) by Roxane Turcotte and Lucie Crovatto.



### READ

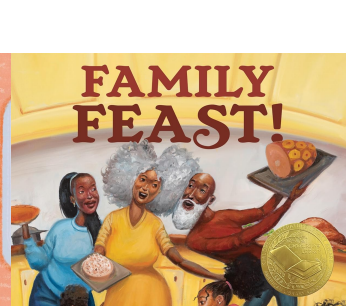
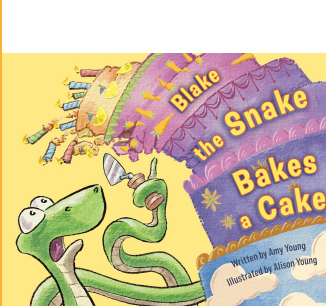
#### AND DISCUSS STORIES



Rhyming text often is a read-aloud's best friend, and Sandra Boynton's new board book ***Smooches*** offers a delightful romp in rhyme through a little bear's daily routine, made sweet with smooches as Bear bestows them on a caregiver throughout the day.

As you read the book with the child in your life, point out the parts of Bear's routine that they also do and talk about what happens during and after each activity. Try experimenting with different ways to express affection, like a fist bump, high five or a special card or art project.

For more books that create story through rhyme, try [Blake the Snake Bakes a Cake](#) by Amy and Alison Young, [Do You See the Tiger?](#) by Philip Ardagh and David Melling and [Family Feast!](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford and Frank Morrison.



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