



Welcome to KDL's early literacy newsletter!

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

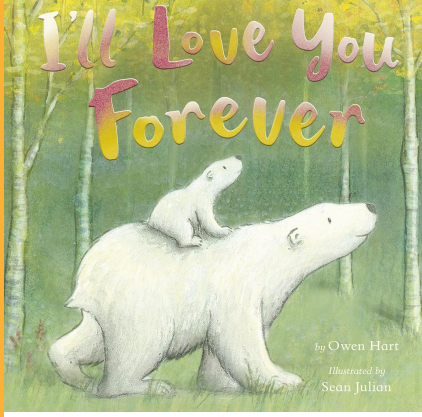
Get started reading and learning together with our simple and easy [1KB4K program](#).

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

Explore the five ways to help make a CHILD GROW SMARTER



MAXIMIZE LOVE
MANAGE STRESS



[I'll Love You Forever](#) by Owen Hart and Sean Julian is a tender story about a polar bear and her cub whose love grows through every stage of life. It beautifully shows how love stays steady even as time moves on and everything changes.

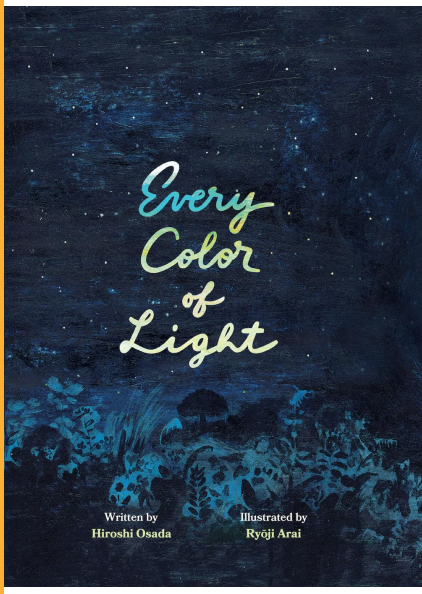
The message feels warm and reassuring, like a promise that never breaks. Sean Julian's illustrations glow with soft light and rich color and capture the closeness between parent and child in every scene. This heartfelt book celebrates love that lasts forever.

After reading the book, families can create a simple "Love Grows" heart poster. Draw a tree and add paper hearts with words or pictures that show ways your family shares love each day. Hang it up as a sweet reminder that love grows stronger over time.

For more books on love, check out [Love Finds a Way](#) by Vern Kousky, [G Is for Gratitude](#) by Samantha Berger and Ann Shen and [How to Say Thank You](#) by Jean Reagan and Lee Wildish.



SING AND POINT



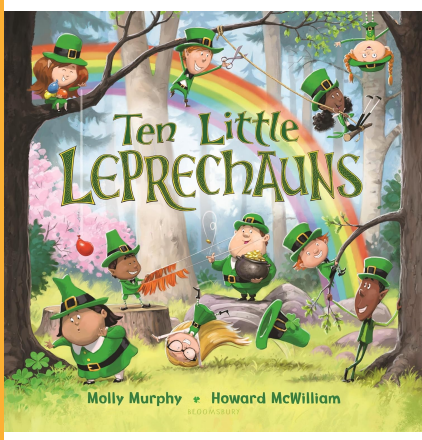
As winter turns into spring, short gray days give way to bright, sunny mornings, bringing back a world of colors you may have been missing. This beautiful transition is perfectly captured in [Every Color of Light](#) by Hiroshi Osada and Ryôji Arai. In this poetic story, a storm darkens the sky and washes the world in shadow. But as the clouds slowly drift away, light begins to return, sparking a brilliant display of color.

With its rhythmic text, this book invites children to rediscover the colors of nature as they reappear after the storm. As you read, pause to ask the child in your life which colors they notice and what things in nature share those hues. How did the world feel during the storm? How does it feel once the light returns?

Here are some other books about color to check out: [How Do You Eat Color](#) by Mabi David, Yas Doctor and Karen Llagas, [The Day the Crayons Quit](#) by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers and [What Color is a Kiss?](#) by Rocío Bonilla.



GROUP AND COMPARE



[Ten Little Leprechauns](#) by Molly Murphy and Howard McWilliam begins with ten mischievous leprechauns who set off on playful adventures, but one by one they disappear in silly and surprising ways. As each leprechaun vanishes, children can count backward from ten to one, strengthening number recognition.

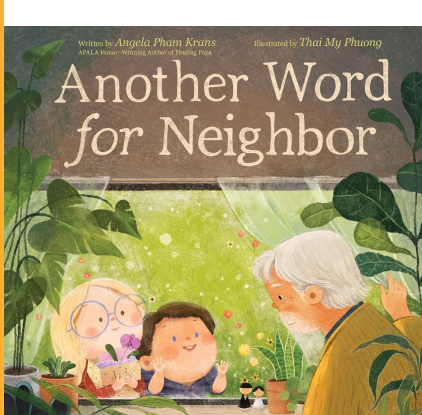
The playful, rhyming text and bright, expressive illustrations make it easy to follow along and practice this early math skill. Children are encouraged to notice how the numbers change and how the pattern repeats throughout the story.

Families can extend the learning at home by acting out the countdown with 10 small toys or coins, practicing counting backward or by creating their own story with drawings and simple subtraction. It's a festive and engaging way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day while building confidence with early counting skills.

For other books that celebrate counting, try these wonderful and fun selections: [Where is Sheep 100?](#) by Susie Crosby and Sebastien Braun, [Counting to Bananas](#) by Carrie Tillotson and Estrela Lourenço and [Backyard Birds: A Numbers Book](#) by Chloe Goodhart and Gareth Lucas.



EXPLORE THROUGH
MOVEMENT AND PLAY



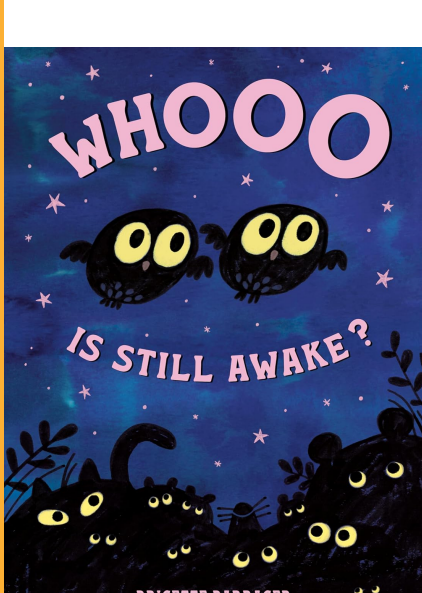
[Another Word for Neighbor](#) by Angela Pham Krans and Thai My Phuong introduces us to a grumpy old man named Han and the children who move in next door to him. Kate and Olly are determined to befriend their new neighbor, even when he yells at them for playing in his mailbox and climbing in his peach tree.

This book offers a lovely introduction to play through bird-listening, or birdwatching, as it is often called. We might not be able to find any warblers or bluebirds this early, but as spring deepens, listen for the songs of the birds introduced in the pages of this story.

For more neighborly books, check out [Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson, [Words Between Us](#) by Angela Pham Krans and Dung Ho and [The Neighbors](#) by Einat Tsarfati.



AND DISCUSS STORIES



[Whooo Is Still Awake?](#) by Brigitte Barrager offers a playful exploration of nighttime critter antics that's great for reading aloud with the child in your life. Two curious owls wake up to greet the other animals in the forest, discovering skunks, bears and possums along the way. "Whooo? Whooo?" is repeated throughout the story, allowing young children to anticipate and participate in the storytelling.

As you read the book with the child in your life, try taking turns "telling" the story: Have your child say "Whooo?" after you, then point out the different critters that you discover with the page turn. With older children, point out rhyming words like "flew" and "new." Practicing rhyming is a great way to explore language together.

Don't forget the illustrations: Take time to look together, count the number of critters you see and notice how the colors change from blues and purples to the dawning of a new day with oranges and pinks.

For more nocturnal reads, check out [When the Sun Goes Down: A Bedtime Book](#) by Greg Pizzoli, [Armadillo Antics](#) by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson and [Bedtime for Sweet Creatures](#) by Nikki Grimes and Elizabeth Zunon.



Kent District Library
814 W River Center Dr NE Comstock Park, MI 49321
Phone: (616) 784-2007

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