



EVLD Summer Early Literacy Activity Program Babies, 0-18 months old

Complete **10** activities from the back of this page to receive a free book!

Complete **all** activities to be entered into the grand prize drawing at each branch.

Talking:

Many everyday family and community activities are good times to expose infants to literacy-rich learning for the first time. As you go through your day, narrate to your child what you are doing (e.g. I'm going to lay you down on the table. Here, you can hold the fresh diaper.) It may feel silly at first, but these caregiving routines (diaper changing, bedtime, mealtime, etc.) are great times to support your child's language development, which is their first step in literacy.

Singing:

Songs slow down the rate of your words. This helps the child to better hear the individual sounds within your words.

Playing:

Babies learn best through loving and responsive relationships that support play and exploration. Hold your baby on your lap and play lap games/rhymes. Or get down on the floor and imitate their actions and sounds.

Reading:

Infants are drawn to high-contrast images. You can read books with black and white pictures such as, *I Kissed the Baby* by Mary Murphy. As babies grow older, they are often drawn to photographs of other babies. Read books like *Hands Can* by Cheryl Hudson. Board Books are easy for babies to grasp and turn the pages. They are learning that print moves from left to right and that pictures symbolize things in the real world. Babies begin to understand that pictures are symbols. This is the first step towards understanding that text represents real things as well.

Writing:

Tummy time on the floor is a great time to explore some prewriting. When your baby is practicing tummy time, they are strengthening their core and neck muscles, which will support them in future fine motor tasks.

How to know if it is working:

Does your child seem to understand or get excited when you use words to describe what he is doing? Does being involved in an activity get the child to communicate using gestures or sounds? Do they show more interest in starting or continuing an activity?



**EAGLE VALLEY
LIBRARY DISTRICT**

Play your favorite music and dance with your baby.



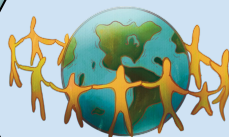
Walk outside and identify sounds you hear.

Read a high-contrast board book with black and white images.



Make up a diaper changing game. Talk about what you are doing.

Repeat the sounds your child makes to hold a "conversation" with them.



Play a clapping game like "Pat-a-Cake."

Teach your child the ASL sign for "more."

In a highchair or bathtub, "draw" with soap, pudding or bathtub paint.



Play "Peek-a-Boo."

Learn a finger rhyme like "Where is Thumbkin?" Repeat often.

Have your child make marks on paper with a crayon.

Talk to your child about the food at mealtimes.

Share food, alternating who eats. Say "My turn" then "Your turn."

Read a "Touch and Feel" book. Talk about the different textures.



Lap Game: "London Bridge" Bounce baby on lap then lower baby between knees.



Read a book about shapes and have your child trace the shapes with their finger.

Read a board book that has pictures of babies.

Position a mirror by your baby during tummy time.

Download a song from *Freegal* on evld.org and sing it to your child.

Practice a tickle rhyme like "Here is the Beehive."

Play up and down rhymes like "Let's Go Riding on an Elevator."

Bounce your child to the rhythm of your favorite song.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

