

Fun at the Library!

Activity Guide

Public libraries provide many great free resources for early readers and their families, including storytimes, homework help, free Wi-Fi and computer access, after-school programming, and of course, books! Libraries are excellent places to visit when you and your children want to pick out new books or just want to get out of the house. You can learn more about the official programming and resources provided by most public libraries in our blog post, [“Leveraging Your Local Library’s Literacy Resources.”](#)

This guide includes several simple activities you can do at the library with your early readers to help them practice foundational literacy skills. Each foundational skill is described below. Plus, download our printable activity guide and scavenger hunt bookmark, found at the end of this resource, to help your child keep track of their library finds!

Scavenger Hunt!

Grade level: kindergarten

Skill: alphabetic knowledge

Encourage your child to find books that include certain letters on the front cover.

For example:

**Find a book with an R in the title*

**Find a book with no Es in the title*

**Find a book by an author whose first and last name start with the same letter*

**Find a book written by an author whose name starts with the same letter as yours*

123, ABC

Grade level: kindergarten

Skill: alphabetic knowledge

Ask your children to identify and count different types of letters on a book’s cover.

For example:

**Count the number of vowels on the cover of a book*

**Count the number of capital letters on the cover of a book*

Sorting Skills

Grade level: 2

Skill: sorting

Select a number of picture books and lay them out on the ground or table. Ask your children to sort the books according to different criteria.

For example:

**Sort 10 books into alphabetical order*

**Sort 10 books by size*

**Sort 10 books by number of pages*

Judge a Book by Its Cover

Grade level: all

Skills: vocabulary and oral language

Ask your children to describe the picture on the cover of a book using as many words as they can. Alternately, select a number of similar-looking picture books and lay them out on the table. Have your child select one without disclosing to you which one they picked and have them describe its cover to you. Then, it is your job to guess which book your child is describing based on the details they provide. This encourages your children to practice their vocabulary and oral language skills as they guide your guesses.

What's the Story?

Grade level: all

Skills: making predictions, vocabulary, and oral language

Ask your child to make predictions about a book based on information from the title or cover. For further vocabulary and language practice, encourage them to make up a story based on their prediction.

For example:

**What do you think this book will be about based on the cover?*

**What do you think this book will be about based on the title?*

About the Skills

Alphabetic Knowledge

Alphabetic knowledge includes several different skills, including the ability to identify, pronounce, and write all 26 letters of the alphabet. Learning to identify letters is not all that is required for students to master alphabetic knowledge, but it is an important first step.

Sorting

In order to read efficiently, children must possess the ability to quickly recognize the patterns in letters and words. Sorting games are a great way for caregivers to help build early skills in pattern recognition and categorization in pre-reading children.

Vocabulary

A child's vocabulary includes all the words and concepts that they can understand and utilize, both through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. For pre-reading students, vocabulary can be practiced through various oral language activities.

Oral Language

Oral language skills refer to a child's speaking and listening abilities. As oral language serves as the basis for written language, it is important for hearing and speaking children to develop these skills at an early age. Oral language can be practiced through lots of different activities, including storytelling and everyday conversations.

Making Predictions

In order to make predictions, students need to successfully integrate background knowledge and newly learned content. Asking students to make predictions based on a text can be an excellent way to monitor their comprehension. Thus, encouraging pre-readers to practice these skills with read-alouds, pictures, or short passages of text helps them build the critical thinking skills they will need to become successful readers later on.

FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Activity Guide

123, ABC

- Count the number of vowels on the cover of a book
- Count the number of capital letters on the cover of a book

Sorting Skills

- Sort 10 books from A-to-Z
- Sort 10 books from biggest-to-smallest
- Sort 10 books from longest-to-shortest

Reminders

- ★ Be respectful of other people who are using the library.
- ★ Put away any books you don't want to check out.
- ★ If you have any questions, ask a librarian!

Judge a Book by Its Cover

- Find a book and describe the cover using as many words as you can.
- Make up a story based on the cover of a book you haven't read. What do you think it is about?
- Make up a story based on the title of a book you haven't read. What do you think it is about?

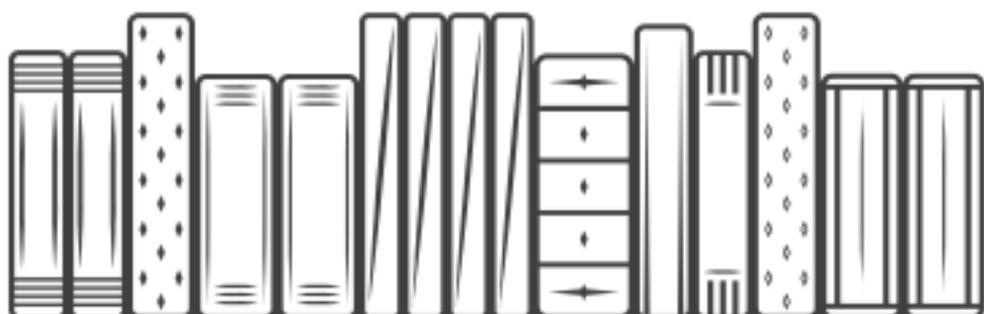
What's the Story?

- Predict what a story will be about based on its cover.
- Predict what a story will be about based on its title.
- Predict what a story will be about based on its first sentence.
- Predict what a story will be about based on its last sentence.

Library Scavenger Hunt



- Find a book with an "R" in the title.
- Find a book with a "Y" in the title.
- Find a book with no "E"s in the title.
- Find a book that starts with "T."
- Find a book that ends with "S."
- Find a book by an author whose first and last name start with the same letter.
- Find a book by an author whose name starts with the same letter as yours.
- Find a book with more than 6 vowels in the title.
- Find a book with more than 10 consonants in the title.
- Find a book with more than 7 capital letters on the cover.



Library Scavenger Hunt

Find a book that starts with each letter of the alphabet!



A ____

N ____

B ____

O ____

C ____

P ____

D ____

Q ____

E ____

R ____

F ____

S ____

G ____

T ____

H ____

U ____

I ____

V ____

J ____

W ____

K ____

X ____

L ____

Y ____

M ____

Z ____

