



## RESOURCE PACKET

NWDSA (abi)  
northwest down syndrome association

PROGRAMS OF NW DISABILITY SUPPORT

# **Introduction**

You know more about your child than anyone else, and you are already helping your child get ready to read. Whether your child is a newborn or four years old, it is never too early to help them develop early literacy skills.

Play is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills. Play helps children feel a sense of accomplishment and builds self-confidence. This resource packet is full of fun activities & ideas, as well as great books and other resources to kick off your summer literacy fun.

We hope you and your child have lots of fun playing & learning!

# Summer Literacy Activities

## 1. Sensory Bin Letters

For a hands-on literacy activity, you can make your very own sensory bin right at home. Put any kind of sensory substance in a large container. A few examples include water, shaving cream, rice, sand, and much more. Once your bin is full, place some letter cut outs within your chosen sensory substance. Together you and your child can use your hands to explore the substance and find all of the letters. As you find each letter make sure you talk about the name and sound attached to it, this is a great activity to help develop letter recognition!

## 2. Name Puzzles

For this activity we are focusing on two things: children's names and puzzles. When you put these two concepts together, you get a creative literacy activity. For this project all you will need is two pieces of paper, coloring utensils, and scissors. Using the materials, you will create your own puzzle. On each of the pieces of paper you will draw the exact same shape, one shape will be the puzzle's base, and the other will become the puzzle's pieces. Once you have cut out one of the shapes, have your child color it however they would like. Once your child is finished, you will cut that shape into different pieces, and by adding one letter of your child's name on each puzzle piece, your student will be incorporating literacy name practice into puzzle time.

## 3. Chalk Letters

It is amazing the lessons you can put together with some chalk, and some water! This activity focuses on letter recognition. This is a perfect activity to do on a beautiful day, to get outside, and to get some fresh air. All you need to do to get ready is head outside, and draw letters all over your space, then bring the kids out, and see if they can find them all! If your kiddo is a little more hands-on, you can incorporate a spray bottle, call out a letter, and once they find it they use the spray bottle to make it disappear! This is a great way to work on letter recognition, as well as fine motor skills!

## 4. Literacy Scavenger Hunt

This is a simple, quick, and fun way to get children up and moving, all while working on letter recognition. All you will need is paper, markers, and some tape. Using the necessary materials you will create letters to tape up around your house. Once the letters are up your child can start hunting! Every time they find a letter, talk about the name, and the sound it makes to continue developing letter recognition. If your child is not ready for letter recognition this activity can also be done with colors and shapes!

## **5. Leaf Name Collage**

After letter recognition, learning to recognize, and spell one's name is the next step. This activity combines nature, and children's names together. Using a piece of paper, markers, glue, and leaves, children will be able to create a fun piece of name art. All you need to do to prepare for this project is write your child's name in bubble letters on the piece of paper. Together you and your child can go outside, and start collecting leaves, plants, and flowers that you like. Once you have a good collection head inside to complete your masterpiece. The items you have collected outside are for the inside of the letters, using glue, place them inside the letters to create a really fun piece of art!

## **6. Alphabet memory game (plates)**

Most people have played a game of memory, and that is the inspiration for this activity. Using paper plates you can create your own memory game using the letters of the alphabet. All you will need is 48 paper plates (each letter has two plates), and a marker to write with. Find a big space to set up and begin your game! This is a fun, and easy way to help your child develop letter recognition skills.

## **7. Create a Story**

This activity is all about imaginations, and conversation. There is no one way to create a story, but one way you could is by asking your child to pick three things: a person/animal, place/activity, and a thing. Once you have the three items you and your child can work together to create a story using the three choices. In creating a story of their own, children can work on storytelling and print awareness skills.

## **8. Point to the Cup Game**

Learning to point, and learning to understand what pointing means, can be tricky. In the view of the child, put an object/toy, etc. under one of three cups. Ask, "Where is the bear? Is it here?" (Model pointing to one cup). "Or here?" (point to another cup). "Or here?" (Point to the third cup). Encourage your child to point to the correct cup using hand-over-hand prompting if needed. The second the child points or attempts to point to the correct cup, immediately reward her by giving her the object. If the child reaches, rather than points, for the correct cup, pretend ignorance and lift the wrong cup, asking again for a pointing response. All you need for this activity are 3 solid colored plastic cups, small items to hide under the cups (Hot Wheels cars, small toys, etc).

## 9. Indoor/Outdoor Obstacle Course

Create ways for your child to go over, under, around, through different materials. Examples: **under** lawn chairs, tables; **over** blocks, pillows; **through** the sprinkler, swimming pool; **jump** over a hula hoop, rope, off a step, etc. Children love to help set up obstacle courses, so let them help. Add animal sounds to your obstacle course...roar like a lion, moo like a cow, etc. Pair this activity with the book *Going on a Bear Hunt*.

## 10. Fun with Ice

Collect some small objects (plastic animals, small blocks, etc.) and put them in a container that will fit in your freezer. Add water & freeze them within the iceberg. Take the ice out on a warm summer day & place in a larger container or in a child's swimming pool. Give your child a spoon, a squirt bottle with water, etc., so they can try to melt & chisel the ice. Talk with them about what is hiding in the ice, how long it will take to get them out, vocabulary words like melt/freeze, etc.

## 11. Bubble Fun!

Pairing bubble play with language development is a perfect combo. Modeling vocabulary (bubbles, blow, pop, run, chase, etc.), concepts (up/down, blow, high/low, open/close, big/little), and following directions (pop the bubble, chase, blow) is a fun way to spend a summer day.

### **Homemade bubble recipe:**

Pour ½ cup of dish soap into a large cup

Add ½ cup of water to dish soap in the cup

Gently stir your mixture

Go outside and have fun! Store what you don't use in a tightly sealed container.

## 12. Make a Summer Treat!

Make a smoothie, fruit salad, sandwich, etc. Work with your child to decide what materials you need, write down a recipe with some visual directions to follow, make & enjoy your treat. Take it outside, lay a blanket on the grass & have a picnic.

# Picture Book Suggestions

1. *All By Myself* - by: Mercer Mayer
2. *Attack of the Underwear Dragon* - by: Scott Rothman
3. *CoQui in the City* - by: Nomar Perez
4. *Dragons Love Tacos* - by: Adam Rubin
5. *Eat Pete!* - by: Michael Rex
6. *Going on a Bear Hunt*-by Helen Oxenbury
7. *Goldfish on Vacation* - by: Sally Lloyd-Jones
8. *Grumpy Monkey* - by: Suzanne Lang
9. *I Went Walking* - by Sue Williams
10. *Jabari Jumps* - by Gaia Cornwall
11. *Jump, Frog, Jump!* - By Robert Kalan
12. *Let's Taco about How Great You Are* - by: Bob Holt
13. *Milo Imagines the World* - by Matt de la Pena
14. *Mouse's First Summer* - by: Lauren Thompson
15. *The Night is Yours* - by: Abdul-Razak Zachariah
16. *Piglette* - by: Katelyn Aronson
17. *Quit Calling Me A Monster!* - by: Jory John
18. *The Relatives Came* - by: Cynthia Rylant
19. *Roller Coaster* - by: Marla Frazee
20. *The Sandcastle That Lola Built* - by: Megan Meynor
21. *The Very Busy Spider* - by Eric Carle
22. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* - by Eric Carle
23. *Who Will You Be?* - by: Andrea Pippins
24. *Who Sank the Boat?* - By Pamela Allen
25. *The Wonderful Things You Will Be* - by: Emily Winfield Martin

# Additional Resources

1. [Connecting Core Words, Aided Language Modeling, and Literacy](#)
2. [Multnomah County Library Summer Reading Program](#)
3. [Recorded Story Times on YouTube](#)
4. [Multnomah County Library Parents Page](#)
5. [Multnomah County Library Reopening information](#)
6. [Home Learning Support Resources](#)
7. [Multnomah County Library Summer Virtual Programming](#)
8. [PBS Kids](#)
9. [Reading Rockets](#)