Ask for these picture books at the library and enjoy reading them at home
Week 1: Squishy Colours

Your child learns through their senses. This activity provides a satisfying sensory activity. Let your child tell you what colours they want to add to their bag. Seal up the bag carefully and let your child choose the colour of tape too. Let your child explore the sealed bag’s texture and how it changes shape when it is pressed. Press your child’s name initial letter into the bag and let them feel its shape. Continue with other letters or whatever shapes your child wants to make. Make one at home!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you need</th>
<th>What you do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Ziploc freezer bag</td>
<td>● Squeeze a blobs of gel into the bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Clear hair gel</td>
<td>● Add a few drops of food colouring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Food colouring</td>
<td>● Seal up the bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Duct tape</td>
<td>● Squish!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rotating Station Week 2: Sensory Box

Place an object in the box without your child seeing the object. Encourage your child to put their hand in the box and use words to describe what they are feeling. Help them come up with different ways to describe what they are feeling until they guess what it is or you tell them the object’s name. Swap the object for another one and continue playing. This game will help your child learn new words and new ways to describe things. Make your own Sensory Box at home!
Week 2: How to Make a Sensory Box

What you need

- Shoe box with lid
- Sandpaper
- Cotton ball
- Marble
- Pine cone
- Other textured stuff

What you do

- Cut a hole in the top of the box
- Hide one object at a time in the box
- Have child feel the object and guess what it is
Rotating Station Week 3: Play Dough

Following a recipe together supports print awareness as you demonstrate that print has meaning. Talking to your child about the play dough’s properties is also great for introducing and reinforcing vocabulary as you talk about the dough’s temperature, colour, consistency, texture and all the different shapes you make with it. Show your child how to make individual letters out of play dough and use them to write words, including your child’s name. Let your child explore the play dough and follow their lead when deciding what else to make. *Take the recipe home!*
Week 3: How to Make Play Dough

What you need

- 1 Cup Flour
- ¼ Cup Salt
- Liquid colour
- ⅔ Cup Water (max)
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- Large mixing spoon
- Bowl & large measuring cup

What you do

- Mix the flour & salt in a bowl
- Measure the water out of recently boiled kettle into measuring cup
- add the oil and Kool-Aid liquid or food coloring.
- Slowly pour wet into the dry and mix slowly until a ball of dough forms and the color is evenly spread. Your dough should be soft but not wet.
- Play!
Rotating Station Week 4: Make a Face

Knowing the names of their feelings and how to talk about their emotions will help your child communicate their needs as help them to learn how to self-regulate. Self-regulation takes a long time to develop as children learn to focus attention, control emotions and manage behaviour without needing help from an adult. This fun activity will also help your child practice their fine motor skills as they learn to describe various feelings on the faces they create. *Make more paper faces at home!*
## Week 4: How to Make a Face Puppet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you need</th>
<th>What you do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Round circles of card stock taped onto popsicle sticks</td>
<td>● Encourage child to pick eyes, noses and mouths for their face puppet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Pre-cut eyes, noses, ears and mouths of different shapes and sizes, other paper</td>
<td>● Help child glue the facial features on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Googly eyes</td>
<td>● Ask child to describe the emotion this face is feeling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Glue sticks &amp; scissors</td>
<td>● Repeat with another puppet!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rotating Station Week 5: Make a Vehicle

Knowing shapes and directions like left, right, up, down, and being somewhat familiar with what bigger words like horizontal, vertical and diagonal mean are important skills for children to have as they learn to print letters and words. Lots of kids are also motivated by “things that go” and this activity will give them a chance to create something while learning about shapes and directionality at the same time. Encourage your child to talk about their choices, describe their vehicles and help them move it around. *Make more vehicles at home!*
Week 5: How to Make a Vehicle

What you need
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Paper in various shapes, colours and sizes including round shapes for wheels.
- Paper fasteners

What you do
- Encourage child to choose various shapes and colours of paper to design a unique vehicle
- Use glue to put car together (help child only if they need it)
- Help add wheels with the paper fasteners
Paper Creation

Making marks on paper is the very beginning of writing. Experimenting with writing supports other literacy skills too. Cutting with children’s scissors also helps build the little muscles in your child’s hands and fingers which helps them to get coordinated enough to learn to write later on. Allowing free time to explore with crayons, markers, paper, scissors and glue helps to develop all the motor and cognitive skills your child will need to learn to write when they start school.
Blocks

Large blocks are easy for small hands to build with. Your child can create whatever objects or structures they imagine. Whatever they make “becomes” what they have imagined (for example, a car or a train). This is an example of *symbolic thinking*, when one thing stands in for another. Playing like this helps to build the foundation for early literacy learning because *letters are symbols* that fit together in specific ways to form printed words.
Stories!

Reading books and telling stories is one of the best things parents and caregivers can do to support early literacy growth. When you read to your child, pause frequently to ask questions and to encourage your child to help tell the story in their own words. Use toys and puppets too! Whenever you want throughout the day, cuddle up and read a story to your child or help your child re-tell a favourite story in their own words. Bedtime is a great time for calming, quiet stories too.
Rhymes and Songs

Hello everyone, hello everyone  
Hello everyone, it’s nice to see you here  
Hello XX, Hello XX, Hello XX,  
It’s nice to see you here.

This is big big big  
This is small small small  
This is short short short  
This is tall tall tall  
This is yes yes yes  
This is no no no  
This is fast fast fast  
This…. is….slow…

Bend and stretch reach for the sky  
Stand on your tippie toes oh so high  
Bend and stretch reach for the stars  
Whoosh there goes Jupiter  
Whoosh there goes Mars

We wave our scarves together  
We wave our scarves together  
We wave our scarves together  
Because it’s fun to do  
(Repeat with: shake, wiggle, throw etc.)

Popcorn kernels, popcorn kernels  
In the pot, in the pot  
Shake them, shake them, shake them  
Shake them, shake them, shake them  
‘til they pop!  
‘til they pop!

Two little hands go clap clap clap  
Two little feet go tap tap tap  
Two little fists go thump thump thump  
Two little legs go jump jump jump  
One little body turns slowly around  
And everybody sits back down

The Goodbye train is coming,  
See you soon!  
The Goodbye train is coming,  
See you soon  
The Goodbye train is coming  
The Goodbye train is coming  
The Goodbye train is coming  
See you soon!

The Goodbye train is coming,  
See you soon!  
The Goodbye train is coming,  
See you soon  
The Goodbye train is coming  
The Goodbye train is coming  
The Goodbye train is coming  
See you soon!