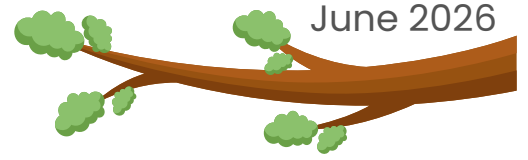


EARLY LITERACY

AT WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY | WARRENLIB.ORG/KIDS

June 2026



Literacy Tip

Visit warrenlib.org/kids for librarian-curated reading suggestions for all ages and interests.

Taking literacy outdoors with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers is all about sensory exploration, rhythm, and building early vocabulary. Let's think of nature as a giant, interactive picture book! Flip the page to see some of our favorite outdoor literacy activities and book recommendations.

Special Events

Registration is required for these programs. Visit warrenlib.org to learn more and register.



Scan to see the full early literacy calendar

Terrific Tunes! with Mr. Raymond

Ages 1-5. Sing along and explore music.

Hofman Branch
Mon, June 1, 10am or 11am

Northeast Branch
Tues, June 2, 10:30am

Summer Fun Storytime

Ages 3-6. Seasonal stories, songs, and more!

Hofman Branch
Mondays, 10:00-11:00
June 15, 22, 29

Silly Songs with David Jack

Ages 3-8. Dance, sing and have a blast!

Hofman Branch Gazebo
Tues, June 30, 10:00am

Trail Tales: Salamanders!

Ages 3-6. Join Warren County Park Naturalist Ms. Jenn for story and craft.

Hofman Branch
Thur, June 4, 10:00am

Unearth a Story with Zoophoria

Ages 4+. Hands-on adventure with reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

Southwest Branch
Fri, June 26, 11:00am

Gardner Branch
Fri, June 26, 2:00pm

Donuts with Dad

Families. Bring your special grownup for a fun donut storytime and craft!

Gardner Branch
Sat, June 13, 10:00am

Read with a Dog

Ages 3+. Pick your favorite book to read to a dog.

Read to a Pup

Northeast Branch
Sat, June 20, 11:00am

Summer Storytime

Ages 3-5. Stories, rhymes, and a craft with Ms. Amy. Siblings are welcome!

Gardner Branch
Fri, June 26, 10:00am



All branches will be closed Friday, June 19 in recognition of Juneteenth.

Summer Kickoff

Summer at the Library begins June 22! This annual series of summer challenges and programs promises fun and for all ages. Visit warrenlib.org/summer to learn more about the kickoff programs as well as the summer challenges for each age group.

Storytimes

Short books, songs, movement, and rhymes. Registration is helpful but not required.

Stories, songs, movement, rhymes, and crafts. Registration is required.

GARDNER BRANCH

BOOKS & BOUNCES

Ages 0-2

Will return in September!

MOVE & MAKE STORYTIME

Ages 3-5

Fri, 10:00-11:00
June 5, 12

HOFMAN BRANCH

LAPSIT STORYTIME

Ages 0-2

Will return in September!

STORYTIME THEATER

Ages 3-5

Will return in September!

NORTHEAST BRANCH

TODDLER STORYTIME

Ages 1-3

Tues, 11:00-11:30
June 9, 23

PRESCHOOL PALS STORYTIME

Ages 3-5

Fri, 10:30-11:30
June 5, 12, 26

SOUTHWEST BRANCH

BUDDING BOOKWORMS

Ages 1-3

Thurs, 10:00-10:30
June 4, 11, 18, 25

CRAFTY BOOKWORMS

Ages 3-5

Weds, 11:00-12:00
June 3, 10, 17, 24

Playdates

Open play in the Children's Area with children and their caregivers. A great extension or alternative to story time!

All Ages
Fridays
11:00-12:00

All Ages
Mondays
11:00-12:00

All Ages
Hour after story times

All Ages
Hour after Budding Bookworms and hour before Crafty Bookworms



Richard D.
Gardner Branch
2 Shotwell Dr
Belvidere



Catherine Dickson
Hofman Branch
4 Lambert Rd
Blairstown



Northeast
Branch
40 Hwy 46 W
Hackettstown



Southwest
Branch
404 Rte 519
Stewartsville

Taking Literacy Outdoors

SENSORY & SOUND

Texture Touches: Carry your baby to different trees and plants. Touch rough bark, smooth leaves, or soft grass while repeating descriptive words: "Rough bark, soft leaf."

Mimic Nature Sounds: Sit quietly and listen. Imitate the sounds you hear together, like "Whoosh" for wind, "Tweet" for birds, or "Vroom" for passing cars, to build early phonemes.

Tummy Time Reading: Prop up a board book on a blanket during tummy time. The novel outdoor environment keeps babies engaged with the pages longer.

MOVEMENT & VOCABULARY

Find It Game: Bring a favorite animal board book outside. Read a page, then challenge your toddler to find something the same color or shape in the yard, connecting words to real objects.

Chalk Letter Stomp: Draw large, bright letters on the pavement with sidewalk chalk. Call out a letter or its sound, and have your child run, hop, or stomp on it.

Mud & Stick Scribing: Grab a sturdy stick and show your toddler how to make marks, lines, or squiggles in loose dirt or mud. Draw pictures and tell stories using this natural medium.

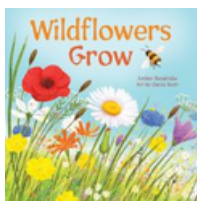
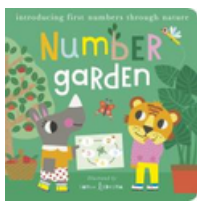
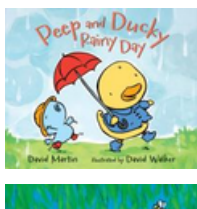
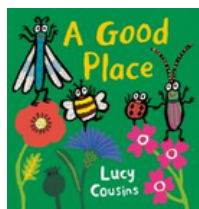
LETTERS & STORYTELLING

Letter Hunt: Look for objects that look like letters (a curved twig for "C", a fork in a branch for "Y"). You can also gather items that start with a specific sound, like collecting leaves for "L".

Water Writing: Fill a pail with water and grab a paintbrush. Encourage your child to "paint" letters or trace shapes on a warm sidewalk before they disappear.

Pass-the-Stick Story: While walking, pass a smooth stick or stone back and forth. Take turns adding one sentence at a time to create a silly, improvised story based on things you pass by.

Outdoor Stories



Scan for more!

