

EARLY LITERACY

AT WARREN COUNTY LIBRARY | WARRENLIB.ORG/KIDS



Literacy Tip

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

Fingerplays and rhyming songs are a fun, low-pressure way to support language, literacy, motor skills, and social-emotional development all at once. Because they are playful and repeatable, they're easy to incorporate into everyday routines—at home, in the car, or anywhere you have a few minutes together.

Flip the page to see some of our favorite songs and rhymes, along with some lyrical book recommendations.

Special Events

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

Terrific Tunes! with Mr. Raymond

Ages 1-5. *Sing along and explore music.*

Hofman Branch
Mon, May 4, 10am or 11am

Northeast Branch
Tues, May 5, 10:30am

Piggy Bank Storytime

Ages 3-5. *Talking money with preschool!*

Hofman Branch
Thur, May 7, 10:00am

Alphabet Afternoons

Ages 4-5. *Hands on learning through stories, songs, and more!*

Gardner Branch
Mon, May 11, 2:00pm

Edible Arts Workshop

Ages 3-7. *Create a duck pond with candy, icing, and delicious treats!*

Hofman Branch
Sat, May 16, 11:00am

Mondays with Ms. Marlene

Ages 3-6. *Seasonal stories and activities.*

Hofman Branch
Mon, May 18, 10:00am

Read with a Dog

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

Read to a Pup

Northeast Branch
Sat, May 16, 11:00am

Paws for a Book

Hofman Branch
Tues, May 19, 4:30pm

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
Tues, 10:00-10:30
May 5, 12, 26

MOVE & MAKE STORYTIME

Ages 3-5
Fri, 10:00-11:00
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

HOFMAN BRANCH

LAPSIT STORYTIME

Ages 0-2
Weds, 10:00-10:30
May 13, 20, 27

STORYTIME THEATER

Ages 3-5
Thurs, 10:00-10:45
May 14, 21, 28

NORTHEAST BRANCH

TODDLER STORYTIME

Ages 1-3
Tues, 11:00-11:30
May 12

PRESCHOOL PALS STORYTIME

Ages 3-5
Fri, 10:30-11:30
May 1, 8, 15, 22

SOUTHWEST BRANCH

BUDDING BOOKWORMS

Ages 1-3
Thurs, 10:00-10:30
May 7, 14, 21

CRAFTY BOOKWORMS

Ages 3-5
Weds, 11:00-12:00
May 6, 13, 20

Playdates

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

Babies & Toddlers

Tuesdays,
10:30-11:30
(after story time)

Preschool

Fridays,
10:45-12:00
(after story time)

Babies & Toddlers

Wednesdays,
10:30-11:30
(after story time)

Preschool

Thursdays,
10:30-12:00
(after story time)

Babies & Toddlers

Tuesdays,
11:30-12:30
(after story time)

Preschool

Fridays,
11:15-12:15
(after story time)

Babies & Toddlers

Thursdays,
10:30-11:30
(after story time)

Preschool

Wednesdays,
10:00-11:00
(before story time)



**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



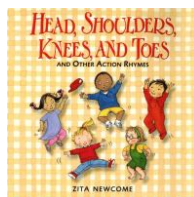
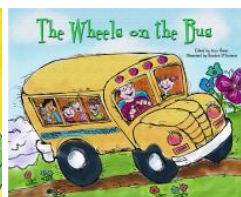
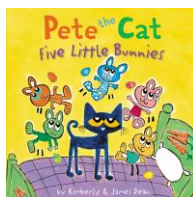
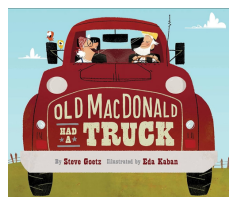
Rhyming Songs & Finger Plays

Fingerplays and rhyming songs may look like simple fun, but they're powerful learning tools for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

When children clap, wiggle, bounce, and sing along, they're building early language and literacy skills by hearing rhythms, rhymes, and repeating words. These patterns help children understand how language works and prepare them for reading.

At the same time, the movements support motor development and coordination, from simple finger motions to whole-body actions. Following along with songs also strengthens memory, listening, and attention skills as children begin to anticipate what comes next.

Just as importantly, these shared moments create connection and confidence—children feel secure, engaged, and excited to participate.



Scan for more!

Favorites

Here are some songs to enjoy at home! See these and more songs and fingerplays in action in the Storytime Songs playlist on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@WarrenCoLibrary).

Tickling song

Dance your fingers up.
Dance your fingers down.
Dance your fingers side to side.
Dance them all around.

Dance them on your shoulders.
Dance them on your head.
Dance them on your tummy.
And put them all to bed.

Face-to-face song

Acka backa soda cracker
Acka backa boo.
Acka backa soda cracker
up goes you.
Acka backa soda cracker
Acka backa boo!
Acka backa soda cracker
I love you!

Here is a Beehive

Here is the beehive, where are the bees?
(clench fist and bring out fingers quickly one by one)
Hidden away were nobody sees
Watch and you will see them come out of their hives,
One, two, three, four, five,
Buzz, buzz, buzz.

Bouncing song

Bumpin' up and down in my little red wagon.
Bumpin' up and down in my little red wagon.
Bumpin' up and down in my little red wagon,
Won't you be my darlin'.

One wheel's off and the axle's broken.
One wheel's off and the axle's broken.
One wheel's off and the axle's broken,
Won't you be my darlin'!

Five Green Speckled Frogs

(count down on your fingers as indicated)
Five green and speckled frogs,
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating the most delicious flies. Yum yum! (rub tummy)
One jumped into the pool, which was nice and cool,
And the there were four speckled frogs.
(Keep singing until there are no more speckled frogs)

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Zoom, zoom, zoom (rub hands)
I'm going to the moon (fly hands upward)
If you want to take the trip,
Climb aboard my rocket ship (pretend to climb imaginary ladder)
Zoom, zoom, zoom (rub hands)
I'm going to the moon!

