5 Pre-literacy activities to do everyday with your child

1. Read
   Aim for 20 minutes a day! It doesn’t have to be all at once. It could be a book in the morning, one during bath time, and one before bed. Sign up for the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and learn more about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at kcpls.org > Explore > Services for Parents & Caregivers.

2. Sing
   Make up a silly song about getting the mail, bath time, or any other activity you do with your child.

3. Play
   Never underestimate the power of play! This is how children learn.

4. Talk
   While completing any daily task, explain it to your child in as much detail as possible.

5. Write
   Practice fine motor control by helping your child draw letters and shapes with their fingers.

All KCPL locations offer a variety of engaging programs for children of all ages. Go to kcpls.org/kids for details.

Our Locations
Visit kcpls.org for current hours.

- Main Library • 304-343-4646
  123 Capitol Street, Charleston
- Clendenin Branch • 304-548-6370
  107 Koontz Ave., Suite 100, Clendenin
- Cross Lanes Branch • 304-776-5999
  5449 Big Tyler Road, Cross Lanes
- Dunbar Branch • 304-766-7161
  301 12th Street Mall, Dunbar
- Elk Valley Branch • 304-965-3636
  313 The Crossings Mall, Elkview
- Glasgow Branch • 304-595-3131
  129 4th Avenue, Glasgow
- Marmet Branch • 304-949-6628
  9303 Oregon Avenue, Marmet
- Riverside Public • 304-949-2400
  1 Warrior Way, Suite 104
  Riverside High School, Belle
- St. Albans Branch • 304-722-4244
  602 4th Street, St. Albans
- Sissonville Branch • 304-984-2244
  1 Tinney Lane, Sissonville

Check out our online event calendar. We've got events for children, teens, and adults. All branches. All the time!

Grab ‘n Go Bags of Books!
for newborns, infants and toddlers

304-343-4646
www.kcpls.org
What are OWL bags?
OWL bags are an early literacy initiative developed by KCPL to introduce children to books and reading at an early age. Board books are great for babies because they are easy to hold, sturdy, do not tear, and are easy to clean.

How do they work?
OWL bags are designed for convenience; parents can get them pre-packed with 10 board books. When done, return the bag and grab another one filled with 10 more books!

Why read to your child?
- Increases parental bond. Your child is soothed by your voice.
- Increases vocabulary. The more words your child is exposed to, the better prepared they are to start reading on their own.
- Generates response. Your child will respond to your voice.
- Introduces emotion. Your baby learns about feelings through the different sounds and tones you use when reading.
- Exposure to shapes, letters, and colors. Your child will begin to develop recognition.

Tips for reading aloud:
- Make your voice higher or lower where appropriate. Use different voices for different characters.
- Ask questions or make comments on the pictures or text while reading. Your child might not be able to respond yet, but this lays groundwork for later.
- Babies love and learn from repetition, so don’t be afraid to read the same book many times.

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Ask a staff member for an application!
- OWL cards are free for anyone age 18 and older and are separate from a normal KCPL library card.
- Sign up for an OWL card regardless of the status of your normal KCPL card.

Only for bag checkout, limit 1 bag at a time.
- Cannot be used for computer time or checking out other KCPL materials.
- Regular library cards cannot be used to check out OWL bags.