

December 2025



Matheson Memorial Library
101 N. Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-723-2678 www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us

Early Literacy (Read, Write, Sing, Play, and Talk)
activities you can do at home, school, or the library. For more ideas, visit
<https://www.pinterest.com/elkhornlibrary/activity-calendars/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30 Word of the Week is: Sibilant A sibilant is a soft, hissing sound.	1 READ Sam's Super Seats by Keah Brown	2 WRITE Draw different kinds of places to sit.	3 SING "Sing" with Sesame Street	4 PLAY with playdough and make lots of snakes.	5 TALK Look for S shapes all around you. Make a "sss" sound each time you see one!	6 Think about the places you visit; are there seats there? What kind of seats would you add for people to use?
7 Word of the Week is: Precipitation This means rain, snow, or anything else wet that falls from the sky.	8 READ Best in snow by April Pulley Sayre	9 WRITE Cut out snowflakes with scissors	10 SING "I live inside a snowglobe" by Laurie Berkner	11 PLAY Make your own snow with baking soda.	12 TALK about snow. Do you remember the last time it snowed? What do you like to do in the snow?	13 Bring it all together and play in the snow. If there is no snow, make snowflakes and snowballs out of recycled paper.
14 Word of the Week is: Surprise What is your favorite kind of surprise?	15 READ Surprise dinosaur! by Lucas Klauss	16 WRITE or draw a story with a surprise ending.	17 SING Pop goes the nursery rhyme by Betsy Bird	18 PLAY hide and seek.	19 TALK about a time you had a good surprise and a bad surprise. What made them good and bad?	20 Think of a good surprise for a friend, neighbor, or family member.
21 Word of the Week is: Avian Avian is a fancy word to use when talking about birds.	22 READ Bird count by Susan Edwards Richmond	23 WRITE down all the birds you see and draw pictures of them.	24 SING Listen to bird songs and try to mimic them.	25 PLAY Pretend you're a bird. Flap your wings, look for food, and make bird sounds.	26 TALK about your favorite birds. What do they do? When do you see them? What do they like to eat? How big are they?	27 Go for a walk and look for birds or join in a bird count.
28 Word of the week is: Vibrant "Those bright colors are especially vibrant."	29 READ A day so gray by Marie Lamba	30 WRITE a list of all the colors you know.	31 SING about the colors of the rainbow with Ms. Rachel and Sesame Street.	We hope you've had a great year of reading, writing, singing, playing, and talking together with your children and students. This is a great time to talk about what you'd like to learn in the new year, make a list of skills and subjects, and visit the library to find books and resources to help you learn!		

January 2026



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<p>As we start a new year, make a resolution to read, write, sing, play, and talk with your children and students every day. For more ideas and resources, you can visit the library in person or online!</p>				1 PLAY with paint.	2 TALK What are the different names for colors? Say words like violet, turquoise, and magenta.	3 Bring it all together and go for a walk outside, looking for all the colors you can see in winter.
4 Word of the week is: Community A community is a group of people who share a home, town, or do things together.	5 READ Wintercake by Lynne Rae Perkins	6 WRITE or draw about a winter tradition.	7 SING A duet with a friend.	8 PLAY a cooperative board game with a friend.	9 TALK about ways you can help your community in your home, school, or city.	10 Bring it all together and write a letter or draw a picture for a person in your community.
11 Word of the week is: Tale A tale is a fancy word for a story.	12 READ I want to read all the books! by Debbie Ridpath Ohi	13 WRITE Draw along with How to draw a brave chicken by Ethan Berlin to practice your fine motor skills.	14 SING A song that tells a story. Jane Cabrera has lots of songs in book form.	15 PLAY Act out a favorite story. Don't forget to make costumes and use different voices!	16 TALK about the stories your family tells. Do you know a story about yourself?	17 Visit the library and play your way through the Land of Stories!
18 Word of the week is: Slide "Can you slide down a slide?"	19 READ Bunny slopes by Claudia Rueda	20 WRITE Use sticks to make patterns in the snow	21 SING or recite the Five little snowmen rhyme	22 PLAY Read Wake up moon by Lita Judge and play outside like the animals do.	23 TALK about how the bunny in the story keeps going even when she falls down.	24 Go sledding, skiing, or just sliding on the ice or snow.
25 Word of the week is: Catastrophe "It was such a big disaster, it was a catastrophe."	26 READ Blizzard by John Rocco	27 WRITE Use squirt bottles with food coloring to write or draw in the snow.	28 SING A song that makes you feel warm and cozy.	29 PLAY outside and look for branches, leaves, or other signs of storms.	30 TALK about storms. What is your plan to be safe in a storm? What do animals do in a storm? Where do storms come from?	31 Bring it all together and make a shelter for animals in a storm. It can be as simple as a brush pile!

February 2026



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1 Word of the week is: Vocal Vocal is another way to say voice. We talk with our vocal cords.	2 READ What does little crocodile say? by Eva Montanari	3 WRITE Listen to music then write or draw how it makes you feel.	4 SING “Down on Grandpa’s farm” and add more animals and sounds.	5 PLAY Get some empty plastic jars and put loose parts in them. Shake them to make a sound.	6 TALK Read Chicken Talk by Carole Schaefer and talk about the different sounds animals make around the world.	7 Bring it all together and take a listening walk. Be very quiet and see what sounds you can hear.
8 Word of the week is: Collaboration Collaboration means working together.	9 READ One fox by Kate Read	10 WRITE or draw a story with a friend.	11 SING a counting song.	12 PLAY hide and seek with a group.	13 TALK about when you need help. What kind of help can you give others?	14 Bring it all together and help a friend or family member.
15 Word of the week is: Forbidden Something that is forbidden is against the rules.	16 READ Off-limits by Helen Yoon	17 WRITE Create an art project with office supplies or recycled materials.	18 SING along with “Mama don’t allow” by Fox & Branch	19 PLAY Mother May I?	20 TALK about rules. Have you ever broken a rule? What happened? Why do we have rules?	21 Ask for permission to do something unusual like stay up late, play in a weird place, or sleep outside of your bedroom.
22 Word of the week is: Speckled Speckled is a fancy way to say spotted.	23 READ Lots of spots by Lois Ehlert	24 WRITE Use q-tips to make your own patterns with washable paint.	25 SING along with music by the Polkadots.	26 PLAY a jumping game. Put polka dot carpet circles or paper circles on the floor and jump from one to another.	27 TALK about the dots you see around you. What different colors and patterns of dots do you see?	28 Bring it all together and have a dot party. Make pancakes and decorate paper plates.

February can be cold and dreary but don’t let that get you down! Bundle up and explore the sights and sounds of winter outside, get together with friends at the library, and cozy up to read together. Exploring outside can help build vocabulary, coordination, motor skills, and critical thinking, so spend time playing outdoors even in the winter!

March 2026



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1 Word of the week is: Nocturnal Nocturnal animals are awake at night.	2 READ Night animals by Gianna Marino	3 WRITE Draw pictures of nocturnal animals.	4 SING A lullaby or bedtime song.	5 PLAY Hide-and-seek in the dark!	6 TALK about the animals that live in your area. Which ones are awake at night?	7 Take a walk in the dark. Do you hear or see any animals?
8 Word of the week is: Share We share our toys with our friends.	9 READ Crunch by Carolina Rabei	10 WRITE a story about a time you shared with someone.	11 SING a sharing song from Sesame Street.	12 PLAY a cooperative game; You can find these in the library's circulating STEAM collection.	13 TALK about how we share. How can you say "no" or "later?" What do you do if someone doesn't want to share with you?	14 Visit the library with friends and share some fun in the play area!
15 Word of the week is: Collage An art style involving putting together pieces, usually paper, to make a picture.	16 READ The very hungry caterpillar by Eric Carle	17 WRITE Join us at the library for a Very Hungry Caterpillar Celebration at 9:30am and practice your fine motor skills!	18 SING Eric Carle's story From Head to Toe with Miss Nina.	19 PLAY with collage art like Eric Carle.	20 TALK Read Eric Carle Loves Animals and talk about animals you love.	21 Have your own Eric Carle party with stories and art projects!
22 Word of the week is: Bipedal People are bipedal because they walk on two legs.	23 READ Busy feet by Marcia Berneger	24 WRITE Make outlines of your feet with markers on paper. Cut out your footprints.	25 SING a marching song and follow your footprints across the floor.	26 PLAY A game with running jumping, or moving on your feet. How can you adapt it for friends who can't use their feet?	27 TALK about the different ways we move our bodies. How do you move throughout the day?	28 Find a place you can go barefoot and play on different surfaces.

As we get ready for spring, spend time observing the weather changes and talk about the changes you can't see. What is happening underground and underwater? Don't forget to play outside, read stories, and look for signs of spring! Check out the NATURE/SEASONS neighborhood for books about spring and the seasons.

April 2026



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March 29 Word of the week is: Rhythm A rhythm is a pattern of sounds.	March 30 READ The oboe goes boom boom boom by Colleen af Venable	March 31 WRITE Borrow a recorder from the library and use your fine motor skills to practice playing.	1 SING Check out a song in a book and sing along to the words.	2 PLAY Look around your home or school for items that can be musical instruments and experiment with sounds.	3 TALK Read Before Music by Annette Bay Pimental and talk about how instruments are made.	4 Watch a concert online or in-person.
5 Word of the week is: Blossom This is another word for a flower.	6 READ Bloom boom by April Pulley Sayre	7 WRITE Draw pictures of flowers.	8 SING "The green grass grows all around"	9 PLAY Make pretend flowers out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners.	10 TALK about the different colors of your favorite flowers.	11 Go for a walk and look for flowers, blossoms, or shoots coming up!
12 Word of the week is: Pollinator Plants need pollinators to produce fruit.	13 READ Begin with a bee by Liza Ketchum	14 WRITE and draw your own story of an insect that sleeps in the garden.	15 SING Join us for our annual 4K party and learn all about insects, including the sounds they make.	16 PLAY Sing and dance to You are a honey bee by Laurie Ann Thompson	17 TALK about the insects that sleep in the winter and how they help our gardens and the birds in the spring.	18 Take a walk and look for places where insects might still be sleeping.
19 Word of the week is: Cooperation Cooperation means working together.	20 READ The little green hen by Alison Murray	21 WRITE Draw your own Little Hen story.	22 SING "The more we get together"	23 PLAY with friends and build something together.	24 TALK about the story. Which animals helped Little Green Hen? Which ones did not?	25 Help a family member or friend!
26 Word of the week is: Symbiotic This is a fancy word for cooperation!	27 READ Carl and the meaning of life by Deborah Freedman	28 WRITE Use paint, sand, or flour to make "worm trails."	29 SING "Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley grow" and act out the words.	April is a good time to start thinking about gardens! Don't dig them up yet - pollinators are still sleeping - but check out books from the library about plants and look for a space to try growing things at the library or in the community.		

May 2026



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<p>It will be summer before we know it and kids will be out of school, but remember that learning happens all year round! Reading, writing, singing, playing, and talking with children is the best way to prepare them for formal education and increase their literacy skills.</p>				<p>April 30 PLAY</p> <p>a game outside that needs people to work together.</p>	<p>1 TALK</p> <p>about what symbiotic creatures you see outside. How do they work together?</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Plant something that will help birds, insects, or animals.</p>
<p>3 Word of the week is: Resilient</p> <p>When we are resilient, we keep trying, even when something doesn't work.</p>	<p>4 READ</p> <p>Weeds find a way by Cindy Jenson-Elliott</p>	<p>5 WRITE</p> <p>or draw a story about a time you kept going, even when it was hard.</p>	<p>6 SING</p> <p>"The little engine that could" by Burl Ives</p>	<p>7 PLAY</p> <p>Find some weeds and see what you can make out of them.</p>	<p>8 TALK</p> <p>about the plants in a garden. Which ones are weeds? How do you decide which is a weed?</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Take a walk and identify the plants you see. Can you find any native plants?</p>
<p>10 Word of the week is: Homonym</p> <p>Homonyms sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings.</p>	<p>11 READ</p> <p>Knot cannot by Tiffany Stone</p>	<p>12 WRITE</p> <p>a list of homonyms. Illustrate it!</p>	<p>13 SING</p> <p>Use your list of homonyms to make up a silly song.</p>	<p>14 PLAY</p> <p>with words! Use your homonym list to make silly sentences.</p>	<p>15 TALK</p> <p>About the things that make you special.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Take a walk and look for homonyms outside.</p>
<p>17 Word of the week is: Knead (a homonym with need!)</p> <p>A rhythmic squishing motion.</p>	<p>18 READ</p> <p>The only way to make bread by Cristina Quintero</p>	<p>19 WRITE</p> <p>Make "snakes" out of clay or dough and form them into letters.</p>	<p>20 SING</p> <p>Pat-a-cake</p>	<p>21 PLAY</p> <p>Make pretend bread with playdough or mud.</p>	<p>22 TALK</p> <p>about how the bread we eat is made. What kind of breads does your family eat or make?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bring it all together and bake some bread!</p>
<p>24 Word of the week is: Expectation</p> <p>A hopeful guess about what might happen in the future.</p>	<p>25 READ</p> <p>The very impatient caterpillar by Ross Burach</p>	<p>26 WRITE</p> <p>Read Chester Van Chime who forgot how to rhyme by Avery Monson.</p>	<p>27 SING</p> <p>"Samantha the butterfly" by Fox and Branch</p>	<p>28 PLAY</p> <p>Read Guess again! by Mac Barnett with a friend and take turns trying to guess the answers.</p>	<p>29 TALK</p> <p>about the book. What did the caterpillar expect to happen? What did you expect?</p>	<p>30</p> <p>What do you expect to happen this summer? Make a list!</p>

June 2026



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May 31 Word of the week is: Brave What do YOU think it means to be brave?	1 READ Kaia and the bees by Maribeth Boelts	2 WRITE or draw a story about something that scares you. How can you overcome or handle your fears?	3 SING a song that makes you feel brave.	4 PLAY Imagine something scary is with you. Act out ways you can be brave.	5 TALK with a grown-up you trust about what to do when you're afraid.	6 Bring it all together and do something brave; try something new!
7 Word of the week is: Prehistoric Events that happened before recorded history.	8 READ Triceratops follows its herd by Marie Bollmann	9 WRITE or draw a story about dinosaurs.	10 SING Here we go digging for dinosaur bones by Susan Lendroth	11 PLAY with dinosaur toys from the library, home, or school.	12 TALK to a friend or grown-up about your favorite prehistoric creature.	13 Bring it all together and do a dinosaur dig in your own backyard or at a park.
14 Word of the week is: Canine Dogs and their relatives are canines.	15 READ This little pup by Laura Bryant	16 WRITE or draw a story about a dog	17 SING "How much is that doggie in the window?"	18 PLAY Pretend to be a dog. What sounds will you make? How will you walk around? Don't get too into the part and eat dog food!	19 TALK to a dog! Dogs are great listeners.	20 Go for a walk, with your dog, if you have one and look for dogs in your neighborhood!
21 Word of the week is: Feather Learn about feathers by reading Feathers by Melissa Stewart	22 READ A house for every bird by Megan Maynor	23 WRITE Dip a feather in paint and draw with it.	24 SING "I know a chicken" by Laurie Berkner	25 PLAY Cut feathers out of paper and color them.	26 TALK about the birds you see outside. What kinds are there? What are they doing?	27 Borrow a birdwatching kit from the library and watch the birds.

Remember that writing skills for young children don't need to use a pencil or focus on letters. Let them draw with their fingers in flour, paint, or mud, and practice their fine motor skills by using scissors, droppers, or doing art like coloring or painting. Don't forget to sign up for summer reading at the library and join in with our programs for all ages!

July 2026



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June 28 Word of the week is: Perspire When it's very hot, people perspire or sweat.	June 29 READ Hot Dog by Doug Salati	June 30 WRITE Practice writing with wet chalk or water outside. Does it dry up in the sun?	1 SING "Mr. Sun" by Raffi	2 PLAY in the sun and in the shade. Can you feel the difference?	3 TALK about temperatures. Do you like hot weather? How do you feel when it's hot outside?	4 Bring it all together and play with shadows outside.
5 Word of the week is: Resilient To keep going even after you fail or hit an obstacle.	6 READ Don't worry little crab by Chris Haughton	7 WRITE Sketch a picture or draft a story. Take a break, then go back and work on it some more!	8 SING Sing along with Pete the Cat and his four groovy buttons by Eric Litwin.	9 PLAY Borrow a board game from the library and learn to play it with a friend or family.	1 TALK about a time you tried again after you failed. What did you do to keep yourself going?	11 Bring it all together and finish your story, then share it with your friends and family.
12 Word of the week is: Vehicle Any kind of transportation.	13 READ McToad Mows Tiny Island: A transportation tale by Tom Angleberger	14 WRITE Draw pictures of the vehicles you see every day.	15 SING The classic "Wheels on the Bus" with Raffi.	16 PLAY with cars and trucks. Use tape to make roads or a town.	17 TALK about how different vehicles work. Ask if you can look under the hood of a vehicle and see the engine!	18 Bring it all together and take a trip in a vehicle.
19 Word of the week is: Empathy Understanding and sharing others' feelings.	20 READ The rabbit listened by Cori Doerrfeld	21 WRITE or draw a story about how you could help a friend who is feeling sad.	22 SING "I feel better" by Caspar Babypants	23 PLAY together with friends and invite someone new to join you.	24 TALK about dealing with feelings. What things make you feel better? What things make your friends feel better?	25 Bring it all together and help someone in your family or community.
26 Word of the week is: Exuberant Excited, active, and lively.	27 READ Play like an animal by Maria Gianferrari	28 WRITE Use chalk or watercolors to make big, swirly drawings.	29 SING "The animal inside you" with Frances England	30 PLAY Simon Says with your friends or family. How loud and fast can you play?	31 TALK about the ways animals play. How do you play like an animal?	August 1 Bring it all together, go outside, and play with some animals - or pretend you are an animal!

August 2026



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2 Word of the week is : Determination Being determined means to keep moving towards your goal, no matter what!	3 READ All the way to the top by Annette Bay Pimentel	4 WRITE Learn to write a new letter or word.	5 SING “Keep on the sunny side” with Elizabeth Mitchell	6 PLAY Challenge yourself to finish a project or activity that is hard for you.	7 TALK about how you can keep going when you’re tired or discouraged. What are some ways you can stay determined to finish?	8 Work on a challenge with friends or family. Can you all work together to finish a big project like cleaning up your neighborhood?
9 Word of the week is: Celebrate People most often celebrate holidays and special events but you can celebrate anything!	10 READ Magnificent homespun brown by Samara Cole Doyon	11 WRITE Draw a picture of something special about you that you can celebrate.	12 SING Join Dan Zanes for “House Party Time”	13 PLAY a party game.	14 TALK about the holidays you and your family celebrate. What do other families celebrate?	15 Bring it all together and have a party!
16 Word of the week is: Cooperation Cooperation means to work together.	17 READ Bad Drawer by Seth Fishman	18 WRITE Work together with a friend to write and illustrate a story.	19 SING a song with a friend. Try singing a round if you have a group!	20 PLAY a game that requires cooperation. Check out a HABA game from the library!	21 TALK about the ways you can cooperate with your friends, siblings, and family. Pick a project to work on and make a plan together.	22 Bring it all together and complete your project. Maybe you can help a neighbor or your community.
23 Word of the week is: Rhythm A rhythm is a pattern of sounds.	24 READ and sing Hen in the Bed by Katrina Charman	25 WRITE Tape or tie ribbons to a stick. Practice making lots of swirling movements.	26 SING “Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes”	27 PLAY Sing and dance along to Jim Gill’s “List of Dances”	28 TALK about what movements you can make and create your own list of dances.	29 Have a dance party! Swirl your ribbons, sing along to the music, and make up your own dance moves.

Summer is a great time to enjoy lots of free play, reading, and interaction with your kids and students. Take walks and talk about what you see, read books and draw pictures of what you learned, make up silly songs and sing and dance together.

Enjoy free play time and let kids explore and use their imaginations.

Don’t forget to visit the library for books, kits, programs, and more!

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August 30 Word of the Week is: Lesson “My teacher taught us a lesson about frogs.”	August 31 READ First day around the world by Ibi Zoboi	1 WRITE or draw a list of things you want to learn in school this year.	2 SING The ABC song.	3 PLAY Get friends or stuffed toys and play school.	4 TALK with a grownup about what school was like when they were your age.	5 Ask a friend or grown-up to teach you something - how to play a game, cook, or make a craft.
6 Word of the Week is: Patient Being patient means waiting, without whining or complaining.	7 READ Light the sky, firefly by Sheri Mabry	8 WRITE Draw pictures of a firefly’s life cycle.	9 SING “Fireflies” by Laurie Berkner	10 PLAY Pretend you are waiting to change like the firefly in the story. How long can you sit still?	11 TALK Go on a walk and look for fireflies and other insects. Talk about what you see.	12 Find a place in your yard or neighborhood where leaves can stay for fireflies to overwinter. Put up a sign.
13 Word of the Week is: Teal Teal is a blue-green color. What other fancy color words do you know?	14 READ Wake up, color pup by Taia Morley	15 WRITE Use markers or crayons to draw a rainbow.	16 SING “De Colores” with Canticos	17 PLAY with colored blocks. Stack and sort them by color.	18 TALK Go on a walk and identify all the colors you see.	19 Make rainbows out of toys, art materials, or other things you have around the house.
20 Word of the Week is: Flood When there is a lot of water, there is a flood.	21 READ Noah builds an ark by Kate Banks	22 WRITE Draw a picture of your ark. What would you build it out of? Who would use it?	23 SING “Who built the ark?” By Raffi	24 PLAY with water in a sink or bathtub.	25 TALK about what you do in the rain. What do animals do in the rain? What would you do in a flood?	26 Build a boat out of recyclables, popsicle sticks, or bottles. Test it in the water and put some toys in to float.
27 Word of the Week is: Map A map is a guide. There are many different kinds of maps.	28 READ Mapping Sam by Joyce Hesselberth	29 WRITE Draw a map of somewhere familiar; your neighborhood, school, or home.	30 SING “Me on the map” by Brady Rymer from Press Play	Oct 1 PLAY Follow the map you drew. Where does it take you?	Oct 2 TALK about different kinds of maps. How many can you find at home, school, or the library?	Oct 3 Make a map of your day, using Mapping my day by Julie Dillemath

Practicing early literacy doesn’t need worksheets, homework, or a lot of time. These basic skills, which help kids learn to read, write, and be successful later on, can be incorporated in everything you do. When you are driving in the car, sing a song together. When you are at the grocery store, read the labels out loud. Encourage free play at preschool and at home.

October 2026



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4 Word of the Week is: Autumn Autumn is another name for the season of fall.	5 READ A fall ball for all by Jamie Swenson	6 WRITE Draw a picture of your favorite fall thing. Write a story about what you do in the fall.	7 SING “Falling Leaf” with Stephanie Leavell	8 PLAY outside in the leaves.	9 TALK Read How do you know it's fall? Then go on a walk and talk about all the signs of fall that you can see.	10 Have a fall party! Make leaf crafts, put up feeders for the birds, and eat fall foods.
11 Word of the Week is: Insomnia If you can't sleep, you have insomnia.	12 READ The problem with pajamas by Lauren Stohler	13 WRITE A bedtime story.	14 SING “Pajama Time” by Sandra Boynton from Philadelphia Chickens	15 PLAY Build beds for stuffed animals and toys out of blocks, popsicle sticks, or recyclables.	16 TALK about what you do at bedtime. What do animals do at night? Is it the same or different?	17 Read Forest School: The moonlit campout and have your own outdoor adventure after dark.
18 Word of the Week is: Solitude Solitude means being by yourself.	19 READ One can be by Pat Zietlow Miller	20 WRITE or draw a list of things you can do by yourself.	21 SING Make up a song and sing it by yourself.	22 PLAY by yourself and then play with a friend. How do you play differently alone and together?	23 TALK to someone you don't usually talk to.	24 Spend some time by yourself and some time with friends and family.
25 Word of the Week is: Scribble A scribble can be the start of letters, a story, or a picture.	26 READ A squiggly story by Andrew Larson	27 WRITE Check out a book that has a line or track to follow with your finger.	28 SING Alphabet Safari by Blake Hoena (song included in book)	29 PLAY with the magnetic letters at the library.	30 TALK about the words you see all around you on signs, at the store, and at home.	31 Go on a word hunt! How many words can you find?

There are lots of simple ways to prepare your children and students for writing that don't involve writing letters!

Have the child tell you a story and write it down for them, helping them learn to process words and ideas.

Let them scribble and pretend-write, an important step in building motor skills.

Do art projects using scissors, crayons, and paintbrushes to develop fine motor skills.

Learn about and handle shapes so that children will be able to identify letters later on.

Play with puzzles to learn sequencing.

November 2026



Matheson Memorial Library
101 N. Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-723-2678 www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us

Early Literacy (Read, Write, Sing, Play, and Talk)
activities you can do at home, school, or the library. For more ideas, visit
<https://www.pinterest.com/elkhornlibrary/activity-calendars/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Word of the Week is: Sequence A sequence happens when things are arranged in a specific pattern.	2 READ One day at the bottom of the deep blue sea by Daniel Bernstrom	3 WRITE or draw what you would do if a shark tried to eat you.	4 SING The Rattlin' Bog by Jessica Law	5 PLAY Read The animals would not sleep by Sara Levine then arrange your own toys in sequence.	6 TALK about the sequences in your day. What happens after you get up in the morning?	7 Write out instructions for playing a game or making something and then follow them.
8 Word of the Week is: Interactive An interactive book is one where you actively participate in the story.	9 READ Recess by Lane Smith	10 WRITE or draw your own interactive story.	11 SING "List of Dances" by Jim Gill	12 PLAY with your interactive story. Take turns doing the actions with friends.	13 TALK about how you could add actions to other books you read.	14 Visit the library to check out more interactive books from the EFUN/PLAY neighborhood.
15 Word of the Week is: Travel To travel is to go from one place to another. Where have you traveled?	16 READ Good luck, ice cream truck! by Sorche Fairbank	17 WRITE or draw a list of all the different vehicles you have seen.	18 SING "The wheels on the bus" by Raffi	19 PLAY with trucks or cars. What kind of vehicles can you imagine?	20 TALK about the cars and trucks you see while driving. Where do you think they are going? What is inside of them?	21 Travel in your neighborhood - go for a walk and look for different vehicles, buildings, and neighbors.
22 Word of the Week is: Omnivore An omnivore is a creature that eats both meat and plants.	23 READ Dona Esmeralda who ate everything by Melissa De La Cruz	24 WRITE a list of all your favorite foods.	25 SING a song from "Fun Food Songs" by Raffi	26 PLAY in your kitchen. Can you help fix a meal, wash dishes, or clean up?	27 TALK about what you will have for dinner. What is the food made out of? How do you fix it?	28 Bring it all together and help your grown-up cook a meal. What ingredients do you use? Can you try something new?

It can be hard to find time in the busy holiday season, but one of the best ways to encourage literacy in children is to model literacy for them. Let them see you set aside time to read yourself, and focus on simple things like talking and singing together while running errands, letting children have free play time, and encourage drawing and writing on their own for their own enjoyment.

December 2026



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Nov 29 Word of the Week is: Sibilant A sibilant is a soft, hissing sound.	Nov 30 READ Sam's Super Seats by Keah Brown	1 WRITE Draw different kinds of places to sit.	2 SING “Sing” with Sesame Street	3 PLAY with playdough and make lots of snakes.	4 TALK Look for S shapes all around you. Make a “sss” sound each time you see one!	5 Think about the places you visit; are there seats there? What kind of seats would you add for people to use?
6 Word of the Week is: Precipitation This means rain, snow, or anything else wet that falls from the sky.	7 READ Best in snow by April Pulley Sayre	8 WRITE Cut out snowflakes with scissors	9 SING “I live inside a snowglobe” by Laurie Berkner	10 PLAY Make your own snow with baking soda.	11 TALK about snow. Do you remember the last time it snowed? What do you like to do in the snow?	12 Bring it all together and play in the snow. If there is no snow, make snowflakes and snowballs out of recycled paper.
13 Word of the Week is: Surprise What is your favorite kind of surprise?	14 READ Surprise dinosaur! by Lucas Klauss	15 WRITE or draw a story with a surprise ending.	16 SING Pop goes the nursery rhyme by Betsy Bird	17 PLAY hide and seek.	18 TALK about a time you had a good surprise and a bad surprise. What made them good and bad?	19 Think of a good surprise for a friend, neighbor, or family member.
20 Word of the Week is: Avian Avian is a fancy word to use when talking about birds.	21 READ Bird count by Susan Edwards Richmond	22 WRITE draw all the birds you see and draw pictures of them.	23 SING Listen to bird songs and try to mimic them.	24 PLAY Pretend you're a bird. Flap your wings, look for food, and make bird sounds.	25 TALK about your favorite birds. What do they do? When do you see them? What do they like to eat? How big are they?	26 Go for a walk and look for birds or join in a bird count.
27 Word of the week is: Vibrant “Those bright colors are especially vibrant.”	28 READ A day so gray by Marie Lamba	29 WRITE a list of all the colors you know.	30 SING about the colors of the rainbow with Ms. Rachel and Sesame Street.	We hope you've had a great year of reading, writing, singing, playing, and talking together with your children and students. This is a great time to talk about what you'd like to learn in the new year, make a list of skills and subjects, and visit the library to find books and resources to help you learn!		

We're looking forward to another year building early literacy skills with the library!
Visit the library this spring break for programs and books to keep your mind and body busy!

We're looking forward to another year building early literacy skills with the library!

Think about incorporating early literacy skills into your school and family celebrations. Set aside time to read together, talk about traditions and how different families mark the change of seasons, sing familiar and new songs, and play group and family games.

April is a good time to start thinking about gardens! But don't dig them up just yet; pollinators are still sleeping! If you don't have planting space at home, look at community gardens or visit the library garden. Learn more about plants by checking out the NATURE/PLANTS neighborhood in the picture books or borrow books about gardening from the juvenile nonfiction in J 630 and outdoor experiments in J 507.

Did you know your library card works at neighboring libraries in Walworth, Racine, Kenosha, and Rock counties? You can request materials and pick them up at Elkhorn, but why not take a trip and investigate what other libraries have to offer, from programs to maker spaces to play areas!

This is a great month to visit some neighboring libraries! We are fortunate to have a wonderful variety of libraries with many different programs and resources in our area. Check out what early literacy resources they have to offer!
Whether you're exploring the community or traveling on vacation, start getting ready for school by talking about and practicing social-emotional skills including empathy, patience, resilience, and active listening.