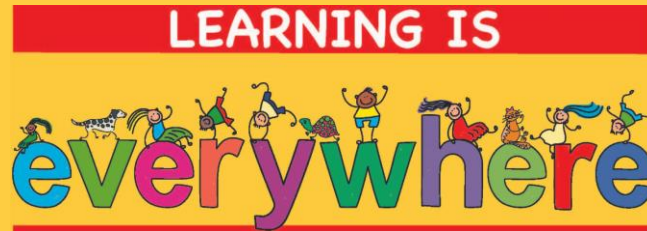


June 2025

Fun activities, aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards, to help prepare children for school success!

[View as Webpage](#)



We're Learning in the Neighborhood!

Babies

Encourage your baby to explore different textures by providing them with items to feel, like bare feet in the grass or hands touching trees. Talk about what they are feeling and use words to describe the item (soft, rough, hard, smooth, etc.). Tell what they are feeling as it relates to their neighborhood. "These trees are in our backyard and give us shade from the sun." If you cannot take your baby outside, bring the outside in. Put grass in a plastic container. Allow them to play with their fingers or toes. Pick up a blade of grass and tickle hands, arms, legs, feet, or face. Smell the grass and talk about the color. [Read more!](#)

Toddlers

Encourage your toddler to stop (just for a second or two!) and listen to the noises around them. What do they hear? Help identify the noises they are hearing. Listen for birds singing, dogs barking, or church bells ringing. Try a verbal and/or visual cue to stop and listen. You may need to guide the listening, "What is that? I hear a bird. Do you hear it? Where is it?" Listen to those sounds you may not hear at home or in the community. (Traffic, church bells, horns, etc.) [Read more!](#)

Preschoolers

Compare large and small as your preschooler moves throughout their neighborhood. Help them decide if items are larger than they are (like a tree) or smaller (like a dandelion) by having them stand next to the item. Now it's your turn. Have them help you decide if items are larger or smaller than you. [Read more!](#)

Kindergartners

Go for a walk with your kindergartner and help them identify different items beginning with each letter. Can those more difficult letters (like Y or Z) name items they'd like to see that start with those letters? (Wouldn't they want to play with a yo-yo?) Take along homemade flashcards or a list of the letters of the alphabet so they have a reference to the letter and the object that starts with the letter. Have them match the card with the correct letter to the object. [Read more!](#)

9 Books About the Neighborhood

My Neighborhood by Johnny Bregar
Keat's Neighborhood by Ezra Jack Keats
Curious George Neighborhood Friends by H. A. Rey
Welcome to My Neighborhood by Quiara Alegria Hudes and Shino Arihara
What Do You See in Your Neighborhood? by Bracha Goetz
Only One by Marc Harshman
Jobs Around My Neighborhood by Gladys Rosa-Mendoza
Night on Neighborhood Street by Eloise Greenfield
In Lucia's Neighborhood by Pat Shewchuk

[Print this list!](#)



Resources for Families

Get ready for a fun adventure with the Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip!

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is taking families on a virtual [Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip](#)! This summer, families, teachers, and early childhood partners are invited to join the journey and explore exciting ways to support young children's love of reading and learning.

You'll discover incredible facts about Pennsylvania's rivers, lakes, and amazing wildlife. You'll also find fun hands-on activities with your child, book suggestions to enjoy together, and helpful tips matching the PA Early Learning Standards.

Don't forget to download the [Travel Journal](#) in English or Spanish to keep track of the books you read and draw pictures of your favorite moments. Let's hit the road and make learning fun—all summer long!

Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning

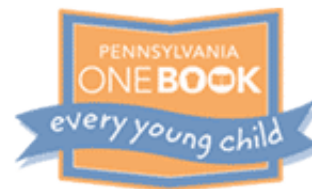
SUMMER LEARNING AND LITERACY ROAD TRIP



Pennsylvania
Office of Child Development
and Early Learning

Get ready to read, learn and have fun! Use this map with the Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip! Each week, learn about Pennsylvania's water ways and animals native to Pennsylvania, get book recommendations, and find fun activities to do.

Supporting Your Child's Early Literacy with the PA One Book Program



Families, child care providers, libraries, and community organizations all play a vital role in nurturing a love of reading in young children. The PA One Book program offers a variety of free, engaging resources to help support early literacy and encourage meaningful reading experiences.

Each year, the program features a carefully selected book for young children and a collection of easy-to-use tools to bring the story to life. Available resources include:

- Printable Activity Guides with fun, age-appropriate learning activities
- NEW! Hosting a PA One Book Reading event in your community
- Printable Bookmarks to encourage children to read
- Printable Stickers to celebrate participation and make reading even more fun

These resources are designed to be used at home, in classrooms, during library storytimes, and at community events. Together, we can inspire a lifelong love of books and learning in Pennsylvania's youngest readers.

To explore this year's book and download free materials, visit the [PA One Book website](#).

Tune In! A Book-Based Music Adventure

Imagine making music with your body, inventing simple instruments with recycled materials, playing conductor, building community through call-and-response singing and group dances, creating a music time capsule, drawing to music, designing an album cover, exploring voices and songs of social change, and writing original jingles, parodies, and raps.



Tune In gives kids a chance to learn more about music and music genres, to hear about great performers and composers, and to write lyrics and compose songs. It features music from around the world — from classical to salsa to hip hop.

Tune In combines hands-on activities with great fiction, poetry, and picture book biographies — books such as *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* and *Celia Cruz: Queen of Salsa* — inspiring kids to read about musicians and composers from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Kids will have a chance to record original music and take the stage through a welcoming Open Mic. Kids and adults are also invited to create a collage-style Music Mural together that documents all the explorations, discoveries, and joy of the 5-day camp.

Tune In is designed for educators, summer program leaders, and families — and it's free! Join in to explore, create, read, write, and learn — all about music. [Learn more!](#)

Reading Rockets National Summer Learning Initiative: Start with a Book



Families and early childhood educators can sign up now for reading and learning tips via text, in English or Spanish, from Reading Rockets. Receive three messages per week, featuring hands-on activities to keep kids reading, creating, exploring, and learning all summer long.

Text (855) 773-1019 toll-free with the words READING for tips in English and LECTURA for tips in Spanish. Messaging rates may apply.

Plan Now for July 4 Pennsylvania State Parks Fish-For-Free Day

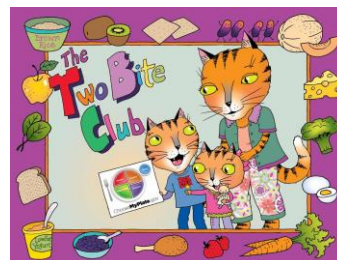
A Fish-for-Free Day is a great way for families to catch the fun of fishing! The July 4, 2025, Fish-for-Free Day allows anyone (Pennsylvania resident or non-resident) to legally fish on Pennsylvania waterways with no fishing license required. All other fishing regulations still apply.



Don't have the equipment for fishing? Check out the [Borrow a Rod & Reel Fishing Tackle Loaner Program](#). The public can go to the locations identified and borrow rods, reels, and a tackle box full of hooks and other terminal tackle. This equipment is borrowed in much the same way books are borrowed from a library. Those wanting to borrow gear complete a form, and the loan is made. At the end of the loan period, the equipment is returned to the site.

Two-Bite Club

Getting kids to try a variety of foods may feel like a daunting task to some. If you deal with picky eaters, try introducing them to MyPlate's Two-Bite Club, developed by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The resource has a printable book encouraging kids to try new foods and provides fun certificates to celebrate new tasting milestones. [Available in English and Spanish.](#)



Pennsylvania's KinConnector

Pennsylvania's [KinConnector](#) provides guidance, advice, and support for kinship care families throughout Pennsylvania in numerous ways, including:

- Connecting caregivers to health, financial, and legal services.
- Connecting Caregivers to training and parenting support, identifying local physical or behavioral health services.
- Identifying support groups and guiding caregivers on how to apply for federal, state, and local benefits such as CHIP and Social Security, and other services designed to support caregivers; and
- Providing access to a compassionate KinConnector who will listen and provide supportive guidance.



Tree Trekkers: A Book-Based STEAM Adventure!

What “wood” we do without trees? Tree Trekkers gives kids a chance to learn all about trees — their role in the ecosystem and climate change, their characteristics and life cycles, their many benefits to humans and other species, the stories they tell us about our history, and how trees, forests, and parks have inspired art, music, and literature. [Download the free toolkit.](#)



Whole Body Health

June's Health Trends in Early Childhood: Summertime Play – Staying Safe and Cool

Stay informed. Stay prepared. Make a difference.

Each month, *Health Trends in Early Childhood* delivers timely, easy-to-understand insights on health issues that matter most for young children. We break down the facts, explain why they matter, and show how they affect children, families, caregivers, and communities—and most importantly, what you can do to help keep children safe and thriving.



In [the June issue](#):

- ◆ Why are young children spending *less* time outdoors?
- ◆ How does this affect their growth, health, and development?
- ◆ Tips for safe and meaningful outdoor play
- ◆ Trusted resources to help you learn more

Print it. Share it. Use it. This [one-page guide](#) is perfect for parents, educators, and caregivers. Plus, you can explore the helpful links for deeper learning. Together, we can build healthier futures—one child at a time.

Benefits of Barefoot Outdoor Play

Kids seem to naturally be drawn to bare feet. Like most things kids do, there are actually many benefits to spending time barefoot, especially outside. Celebrate today's National Barefoot Day on June 1, 2025, with [five great reasons to consider barefoot play outdoors this summer](#).



Keep Your Child Healthy and Protected!

Staying on track with your child's regular checkups and recommended vaccines is important. If your little one is behind on any shots—or even if they haven't had any yet—don't worry! You can still catch up, and it's easier than you might think. The good news is: there's no need to start over. Talk to your child's doctor and take the first step today. [Learn more](#).



Summer Safety

A few serious sunburns can increase your child's risk of skin cancer later in life. Protect your child's skin from the sun's harmful UV rays anytime outdoors with sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and shade. Get sun safety tips from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).



Pennsylvania's Promise for Children also has ways to keep your preschooler safe while having fun this summer season with [these six tips](#).

Preventing Food Waste

With food costs rising, families are looking for ways to stretch their budgets. [This resource](#) from the FDA outlines some strategies to minimize food waste, as well as a food storage chart to make sure your food stays fresh longer.



Juice and Your Child

How much juice should your child drink? The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children less than one year of age should not have fruit juice. Fruit juice offers no nutritional benefit to children less than one year of age. The evidence is clear that over-consumption of juice can lead to weight gain and tooth decay. [Click here](#) to see if and how much juice your child should drink.



June Calendar of Activities for Early Learning Professionals

Did you know that all Pennsylvania-certified child care programs are required to meet essential health and safety standards to operate? With June marking National Safety Month, it's the perfect time to take a fresh look at your program's safety practices and ensure your environment is ready for a safe, successful summer.

Explore the [June Calendar of Activities for Early Learning Professionals](#). It's packed with helpful tips, fun ideas, and resources to support school readiness and keep children and families safe and thriving all month long.



Our Favorite Pinterest Pins



[100 of the BEST Books for Preschoolers!](#)
[Activity-a-Day Summer Calendar & Weekly Plans](#)
[9 Tricks to Get Your Kids to Drink More Water](#)
[7 Ways to Handle a Toddler Tantrum in Public](#)
[29 Dollar-Store Finds That Will Keep Your Kids Busy All Summer](#)

Are you following the [STEM \(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math\)](#) board on Pinterest?

Do you have a preschooler?

Is your child starting preschool? [Sign up for the FREE monthly Kindergarten, Here I Come eNews!](#) Each month get activities, tips and resources you can use to help your child prepare for and transition into their Kindergarten year.

The PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) provides families access to high quality services to prepare children for school and life success.

Find more information about Quality Early Learning in Pennsylvania
[Pennsylvania Department of Education](#) | [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#)
[The Pennsylvania Key](#) | [Pennsylvania's Promise for Children](#)
[Early Intervention Technical Assistance](#)

We are where you are.



PA's Promise for Children | 200 N. 3rd St., 2nd Fl. | Harrisburg, PA 17101 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)