

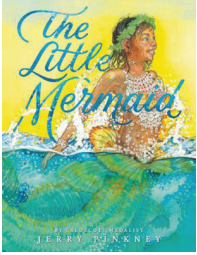
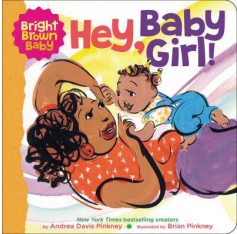



# December 2023 Early Learning Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Encourage a love of learning in your child by doing one fun activity each day. Visit <a href="http://griver.org">griver.org</a> or your local library for more ideas, books and programs to do with your child.</p>					 <b>Read</b> <sup>1</sup> Read one of Jan Brett's beautifully illustrated books to celebrate her birthday.	 <b>Explore</b> <sup>2</sup> Toss a cotton ball and a rubber ball in the air. Which one will land first? Why?
 <b>Count</b> <sup>3</sup> Count the number of hats in your house.	 <b>Talk</b> <sup>4</sup> Tell a friend about your favorite kind of cookie.	 <b>Move</b> <sup>5</sup> Work those finger muscles: scribble with yellow crayon on a star shape.	 <b>Play</b> <sup>6</sup> Pretend you are a mouse. How would you sound? What would you eat?	 <b>Count</b> <sup>7</sup> Find and count five red things in your house.	 <sup>8</sup> Visit your library. Are you registered for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten?	 <b>Move</b> <sup>9</sup> Can you do jumping jacks for one minute without stopping?
 <b>Count</b> <sup>10</sup> Make up your own game with a deck of playing cards.	 <b>Talk</b> <sup>11</sup> Can you find five things that start with the /d/ sound?	 <b>Explore</b> <sup>12</sup> Find things in your house that feel smooth and rough.	 <b>Play</b> <sup>13</sup> On National Horse Day, pretend you are a horse. How would you sound? How would you move?	 <b>Move</b> <sup>14</sup> Show a friend how you move your body when you feel happy.	 <b>Read</b> <sup>15</sup> Read, <i>Winter: A Solstice Story</i> by Kelsey Ebben Gross to prepare for the first day of winter.	 <b>Explore</b> <sup>16</sup> Scatter birdseed outside, and watch the birds that come to eat.
 <b>Talk</b> <sup>17</sup> Tell someone you love about ways you can help your neighbors.	 <b>Explore</b> <sup>18</sup> Stay silent for 30 seconds as you listen to the sounds in your home.	 <b>Move</b> <sup>19</sup> March in place while singing your favorite song.	 <b>Explore</b> <sup>20</sup> Build a play city out of boxes and blocks. What will you name it?	 <b>Talk</b> <sup>21</sup> Winter begins today! Tell someone what you love best about winter.	 <b>Read</b> <sup>22</sup> In honor of Jerry Pinkney's birthday, read <i>The Little Mermaid</i> .	 <b>Count</b> <sup>23</sup> Help your grown-up make cookies by measuring the ingredients.
 <b>Read</b> <sup>24</sup> Choose a book for YOU to "read" (or tell) to your grown-up at bedtime.	 <b>Play</b> <sup>25</sup> Turn off the TV today. Play games with your family, and wear pajamas all day!	 <b>Count</b> <sup>26</sup> It's Candy Cane Day! Hide candy canes and ask a friend to find and count them.	 <b>Play</b> <sup>27</sup> Ask a grown-up to give you a large box. What can it become?	 <b>Talk</b> <sup>28</sup> How many words can you name that rhyme with "sled?"	 <b>Play</b> <sup>29</sup> Practice cutting with child scissors and recycled gift wrap or newspaper.	 <sup>30</sup> Visit your library today. Check out a book about snow.
 <b>Count</b> <sup>31</sup> Count backwards from 10 to 1 to celebrate New Year's Eve.	<p>Every Child Ready to Read® is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.</p>					

# December Booklist:

 <p><b>Cozy</b> by Jan Brett</p>	 <p><b>If I Was a Horse</b> by Sophie Blackall</p>
 <p><b>Winter: A Solstice Story</b> by Kelsey Ebben Gross</p>	 <p><b>Whose Footprints Are These?</b> by Gerda Muller</p>
 <p><b>The Little Mermaid</b> by Jerry Pinkney</p>	 <p><b>Hey, Baby Girl!</b> by Andrea Davis Pinkney (board book)</p>
 <p><b>On the Shortest Day</b> by Laura Sulentic Fredrickson</p>	 <p><b>Whose Prints?</b> by Kari Allen (board book)</p>

# December Songs/Rhymes:

## Horses in the Barn

*(sung to the tune of: Wheels on the Bus)*

The horses in the barn go neigh, neigh, neigh;  
Neigh, neigh, neigh; neigh, neigh, neigh!  
The horses in the barn go neigh, neigh, neigh,  
All day long!

*Additional verses:*

The horses in the barn go gallop, gallop, gallop . . .  
The horses in the barn go snort, snort, snort . . .

## Five Plump Peas: A Fingerplay

Five plump peas in a pea pod pressed,  
One grew, two grew, so did all the rest.  
They grew, and they grew,  
And they never stopped.

*hold fist inside other hand  
slowly spread fingers*

They grew so fat that the pea pod popped! *clap hands loudly*



# Great River Regional Library 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Is your child registered for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten? Help your little one get ready to read by reading 1000 books before entering kindergarten! You'll build early learning skills while bonding with your child; it's a win-win! Sign up through our Beanstack site, [www.griver.beanstack.org](http://www.griver.beanstack.org), or the Beanstack Tracker app. Or, sign up at your local library and find out how they award small prizes.