December 2026 Early Learning Calendar

Encourage a love of learning in your child by doing one fun activity each day. *Visit griver.org or your local library for more ideas, books and programs to do with your child.*

GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY

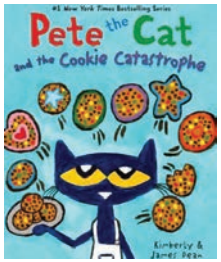
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Explore Smell the spices in your kitchen. Which one do you like best?	2 Read How old are you? Read (at least) that many books today.	3 Count Find and count five red things in your house.	4 Talk Name words that begin with the /d/ sound.	5 Play Play Hide and Seek with a friend – inside or outside.
6 Move Can you move like a penguin? How about a polar bear? Or a seal?	7 Count Count the stripes on a candy cane.	8 Talk Would you rather visit a cold place or a warm place? Why?	9 Read Read Stacey Speaks Up by Stacey Abrams to celebrate the author's birthday.	10 Play Pretend you are a monkey. How would you move? How would you sound?	11 Visit your library today. Check out a collection of nursery rhymes.	12 Explore Go outside and look at the stars in the night sky.
13 Play Pretend you work at a grocery store. Use recycled cans and boxes from the kitchen.	14 Move Do the actions as you say the nursery rhyme, "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe."	15 Explore Help a grown-up make cupcakes on National Cupcake Day.	16 Talk Name five words that rhyme with "star."	17 Read Read a book about Pete the Cat to celebrate creator James Dean's birthday.	18 Move Move your whole body as you say the nursery rhyme, "Hickory, Dickory, Dock."	19 Visit your library today.
20 Explore Sprinkle some birdseed outside in a safe place, and watch the birds that come to eat.	21 Talk Tell a grown-up: When you are worried, what are two things you can do to feel better?	22 Read Read Bear's Nap by Emily Gravett for a silly bedtime story.	23 Count Ask a grown-up to help you count the number of people in your family.	24 Move Have a "holiday hop" as you dance to your favorite tunes.	25 Read Turn off the TV today. Read books and play games instead!	26 Play Create an indoor obstacle course with chairs and pillows.
27 Count Look at a 2026 calendar. How many days are left in the year?	28 Play Mix up the pieces of two puzzles; then sort them by puzzle.	29 Move Scribble with yellow crayon on a star shape.	30 Explore Use building blocks with a friend, and try to copy one another's design.	31 Count It's New Year's Eve! Count backwards from 10, and cheer at the end!	Every CHILD Ready to READ @ your library	

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.

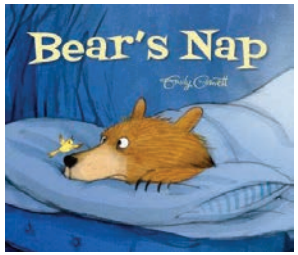
December Booklist:



Stacey Speaks Up
by
Stacey Abrams



Pete the Cat and the Cookie Catastrophe
by
Kim Dean



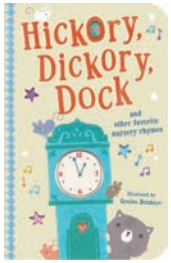
Bear's Nap
by
Emily Gravett



Harold Hates to Hibernate
by
Vern Kousky



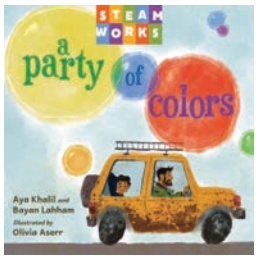
A Happy Place
by
Britta Teckentrup



Hickory, Dickory, Dock
by
Genine Delahaye
(board book)



Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes
by Salley Mavor



A Party of Colors
by
Aya Khalil
(board book)

December Songs/Rhymes:

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hickory, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck **one**, *(hold up one finger)*
The mouse ran down,
Hickory, dickory, dock!
Continue singing/chanting the rhyme as you count up to five, and give a clap on each verse!

**Find this song on these recordings:*
Preschool Favorites (Music CD Children Pre)
Hickory, Dickory, Dock by Megan Borgert-Spaniol (Kit E Bor)

One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

Count on your fingers and pretend to do actions indicated.
One, two, buckle my shoe.
Three, four, knock at the door.
Five, six, pick up sticks.
Seven, eight, lay them straight.
Nine, ten, a big fat hen!

GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY
Explore...learn...connect...

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, or the Beanstack Tracker app. Or, sign up at your local library and find out how they award small prizes.