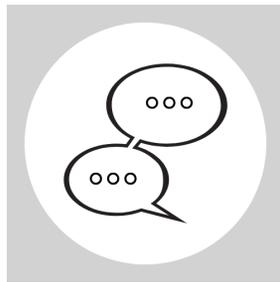


# CHALLENGE: BABIES, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOLERS

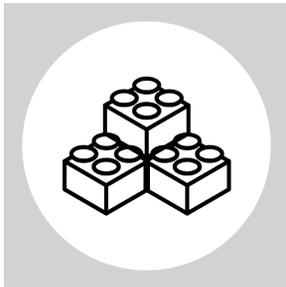
Color in the badges below as you earn them!

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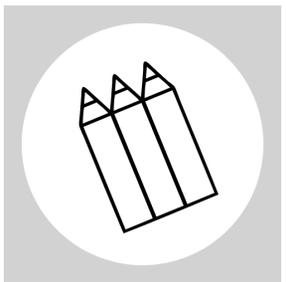
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CONGRATULATIONS!  
YOU'VE COMPLETED  
THE CHALLENGE!

# IMAGINE YOUR STORY!

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## Summer Reading Program 2020

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June 15, 2020-  
August 14, 2020

Early Literacy Challenge: Babies,  
Toddlers, and Preschoolers

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## MORE ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

Thank you for participating in the Public Library of Brookline's Summer Reading Program! This year, participants will complete activities and earn badges, all while building academic, social-emotional, and literacy skills.

There are two ways to participate! Track your own progress with this log book or register on Beanstack to join our community-wide effort to work towards a donation to the Brookline Food Pantry. You register, the Friends of the Brookline Public Library donate!

Participants who register online and track activities with Beanstack will also have the chance to be entered into our weekly raffles to win gift cards to local businesses!

To register for Beanstack directly, visit [www.brooklinelibrary.beanstack.org](http://www.brooklinelibrary.beanstack.org). For more information about the challenge, summer programs, and supplemental resources, visit [brklib.com/summer20](http://brklib.com/summer20).

Thank you to the Friends of the Brookline Public Library for their generous support of this program. The more participants who register, the closer we get to our goal donation of \$1,500 to the Brookline Food Pantry!

**Wherever you participate, we hope you have fun and stay safe.**

*Warmest wishes, the youth services staff of the Public Library of Brookline*

## BADGE 5: WRITING

Children become aware that printed letters stand for spoken words as they see print used in their daily lives. Drawing helps develop the motor skills and connections needed to **write** letters later on.

Complete **five out of ten** activities in a badge category to earn the badge. Earn all five badges to complete the challenge!

- Draw a picture!** Writing doesn't have to be just words. Drawing is also a way for children to practice the fine motor skills required for writing.
- Draw a picture of something you did during the day!** This helps your child engage in self-reflection and also encourages them to think about past, present, and future.
- Practice writing your name!** Write your child's name for them and have them trace your letters. Practice writing with different colors and tools, as well as on different surfaces-- you can even write in the air!
- Draw the same picture twice using different tools!** Introduce large writing tools, like jumbo crayons or sidewalk chalk, which are easier for small hands to grip. You can also have your child experiment with paint, colored pencils, or markers.
- Go on a letter or shape hunt!** Letters are made of shapes, and identifying shapes is an important part of learning the alphabet. While reading a book or walking down the street, search for letters and shapes.
- Make your own book!** Encourage your child to create a few drawings for a book. If your child has the language, ask them to describe what's happening in their pictures and record their words.
- Write with your finger!** Your child doesn't always have to use paper for writing and drawing. Instead, try pouring flour or shaving cream on a table and let your child write and draw with their fingers!
- Draw a self-portrait!** Once your child has drawn a self-portrait, help them write the letters of their name. This will foster an association between themselves and their name, as well as pictures and words.
- Draw together with a family member!** Work together on the same picture to create a joint masterpiece. You can also draw side by side, but use your own paper and encourage them to make their artwork their own.
- Present your drawing!** Talk with your child about their drawing. If they have the language, ask them why they colored it a certain way, or pay them a specific compliment, such as, "I love how detailed you drew this tree."

**Congratulations! You've earned the badge!**

# BADGE 4: READING

*Reading together develops vocabulary and comprehension, nurtures a love for reading, and motivates children to want to learn to read.*

Complete **five out of ten** activities in a badge category to earn the badge. Earn all five badges to complete the challenge!

- Read a story!** Children of all ages benefit from being read to. Even when your child is too wiggly to look at the book, reading to them while they move and play exposes them to the wonderful world of listening to stories.
- Make reading an interactive experience!** Combining playtime with reading is a great way to engage your child. You can act out the story, use toys and other props, speak in different voices for the characters, or make up a new ending.
- Explore a book!** Encouraging exploration helps them learn what books are and how they function. Ask your child to guess what a book is about based on the cover, or flip through the book with them and describe the illustrations.
- Find words in your kitchen!** Whether you're running an errand, having fun, or are just at home, words can be found everywhere. Point out words with your child to help them learn that words exist both in books and in the world around them.
- Pick a time to be your family reading time!** To have the greatest impact, reading should be a regular and expected part of your child's life. After breakfast, before lunch, or bedtime are all great opportunities for reading.
- Read a book in a silly voice!** Exaggerating sounds and voices will not only keep your child interested, but it will also help them understand emotion and dialogue.
- Re-read a book!** Even if it's the same book you've read earlier, letting your child pick what book to read, keeps them interested in the reading process. Re-reading is helpful for word recognition and allows your child to become more familiar with the pattern and rhythm of text.
- Go on a picture walk.** Explore the pictures in a book before you read it. Ask your child to guess what is happening and to make predictions based solely on the pictures. This helps with comprehension and critical thinking skills.
- Read a nonfiction picture book!** Stories about real life are great tools to learn more about your interests or discover new ones. Try to broaden your child's horizons by introducing books that cover new topics and perspectives.
- Read together with your whole family!** You are your child's best role model. Your child watches you closely, even when you're reading. Children who see caregivers reading are more likely to want to read themselves.

*Congratulations! You've earned the badge!*

# BADGE 1: SINGING

*Singing develops language skills. It slows down words so children can hear the different sounds and helps them learn new vocabulary and information.*

Complete **five out of ten** activities in a badge category to earn the badge. Earn all five badges to complete the challenge!

- Sing your favorite song with a grownup!** Never believe that you can't sing! Your voice is the most beautiful sound to your child.
- Play music while you play!** Background music is fun for all ages and allows your child to explore sound, rhythm, and vocabulary all while enjoying playtime. That's a lot of learning at one time!
- Sing a song with repetition!** Repetition helps children learn. What better way to practice than with a fun song? Repeating the same songs on a daily basis will help your child learn sounds and words.
- Make up a song about something you do every day!** Washing hands and preparing dinner become joyous when combined with music. Making up songs with your child fosters imagination and togetherness.
- Sing a song that uses your body, like "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes!"** Combining songs with hand motions and dance keeps your child engaged while practicing motor skills and developing body awareness.
- Play a song guessing game!** Leave out a word or phrase of a familiar song and let your child fill it in. You can also hum a song and ask your child to guess the title.
- Make or play an instrument!** Pull out an instrument or make your own. Use pots and pans or other household items to create a simple rhythm instrument.
- Play "Freeze Dance!"** Sing or play music while your child dances and instruct them to freeze every time you pause the song. Not only will they practice following directions, they'll also practice matching sounds to actions while having fun!
- Sing a song to a friend or loved one over the phone or on video chat!** Singing helps us connect with other people and express ideas. Singing is also a great way to learn new concepts. "Wheels on the Bus" shows how things work, and "This Old Man" teaches numbers!
- Attend a virtual storytime or singalong!** Sing along with a librarian, teacher, or performer to encourage your child to do the same! Check out our calendar at [brklib.com/events](http://brklib.com/events) and subscribe to our newsletter for more information.

*Congratulations! You've earned the badge!*

## BADGE 2: TALKING

*Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills. Children learn about language by listening to caregivers talk and joining in the conversation.*

Complete **five out of ten** activities in a badge category to earn the badge. Earn all five badges to complete the challenge!

- Talk to a grownup about what you did during the day.** Is your child talking? Ask them to narrate what they're doing. Not quite yet? Narrate your work. The more words babies hear while they're young, the more ready they'll be to talk and read as they grow.
- Tell a family member about your favorite toy!** Learning to describe objects with more detail helps expand your child's vocabulary. For a child who is not speaking yet, you can describe their toys and actions as they play.
- Count your fingers and toes out loud.** Counting together as you dress your child or change their diaper is a great way to incorporate number comprehension into your daily routines. Use numbers or words like "more" or "less" while playing with them.
- Talk to a family member about how you are feeling today.** Having conversations with your child about their feelings helps them identify the language they need to express their emotions. Not talking yet? Tell your child how you're feeling and why.
- Ask your grownup something you're curious about!** Questions are a great way to stimulate conversation and build on your child's natural curiosity. Answer any questions your child might have and explore other topics that might interest them.
- Make a decision about your day.** Offering limited choices helps children gain a sense of control. Let older kids make a lunch choice and ask them to tell you about their decision, or with younger kids, ask them a "this or that?" question.
- Show someone you love them without talking.** Communication isn't just about speech; talk to your child without words! Touch, cuddles, and hugs are the earliest forms of communication with your child.
- Ask a grownup to explain a word you don't know.** Introduce new words to your child and tell them what they mean. You can use gestures and props to act out words, too! Expanding your child's vocabulary is one of the key ways you can get your child ready to read.
- Tell a family member about five of your favorite places to visit or foods to eat.** Strive for five! Keep a conversation interchange going five times. Not all of them have to be questions!
- Talk with a family member about what you like to do.** If your child is able to talk with some words and sentences, ask them specific questions to keep the conversation going; if your child is communicating differently, engage with their gestures and sounds, giving them enough time to respond in any way they can.

*Congratulations! You've earned the badge!*

## BADGE 3: PLAYING

*Play is one of the best ways for children to learn language and literacy skills. Different play-based activities help them put thoughts into words and encourages conversations with playmates.*

Complete **five out of ten** activities in a badge category to earn the badge. Earn all five badges to complete the challenge!

- Dance, run, and get your body moving while you play!** Get up and move with your older child, or allow your baby to move about as much as possible. Children need time to physically explore their environment. Remember that everything is new!
- Play with something messy!** Give your child materials that will allow them to explore their senses. Sand, water, foods- these are all things that can be explored with multiple senses!
- Play dress up or make believe!** Preschoolers especially love imaginative play. Dressing up, assuming new roles, and acting out fun or scary adventures are all ways to use imagination.
- Teach your grown up how to play a game!** Ask your child to teach you how to play their favorite game. If your child is not speaking yet, you can narrate their play yourself. This will expand your child's vocabulary and help them learn to describe their actions.
- See if your bath toys float or sink during bath time!** Play can happen any time, anywhere. Use playtime as a chance to explore how things work.
- Stack a tower as high as you can!** Children are hard at work discovering how items function. Let them chew, drop, shake, roll, and stack things as much as possible to find out how they work.
- Play Peek-a-Boo (or Simon Says)!** Play in which your child mimics your actions helps them to develop social and motor skills.
- Play "I Spy" while on a walk or at your house.** Games like I Spy can help your child develop awareness of the world around them. You can find a way to play these games wherever you are! If your child is a little young, identify the objects that they point at.
- Create a toy out of a box.** The best toys are 90% child and 10% toy. Things like balls, flashlights, boxes, and laundry baskets can bring just as much joy as traditional toys.
- Play Follow the Leader.** Games like this help to develop important kindergarten readiness skills like taking turns, following directions, and making choices.

*Congratulations! You've earned the badge!*