

**2026
Summer
Reading Program**
**For Tiny Tots
& Preschoolers**
Birth-Age 5
Starts June 1;
Ends August 8

- Use this game board or register online to record your reading and activities: thelibrary.org/summerreading
- Choose your child's path based on age and abilities! From birth, young ones learn vital skills that will help them learn to read when caregivers talk, sing, play and read with them.

Earn prizes when you complete the program:

- Infants to 2-year-olds: Complete 10 activities to earn your **Free Book and Summer Youth Passport**.
- Children ages 3-5: Complete 25 activities to earn your **Free Book and Summer Youth Passport**.
- All ages earn a **Fresh Start Fine Waiver Card** upon completing their first activity.
- Free Book and Summer Youth Passport can be picked up beginning June 8.

Parents: You can complete only one game board per child. After you complete this game board, complete up to nine Star Reader Challenges to earn entries for more prizes!



Funded by
**Friends
of the Library**

Additional funding from Missouri State Library

**START
HERE**

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**END
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UNEARTH A STORY™



3- to 5-
year-olds —
bring your
completed
game board to
any branch or the
Mobile Library
to get your
prizes!



Infants to
2-year-olds —
bring your game
board to any
branch or the
Mobile Library
to get your
prizes!

Last day to pick up Summer Reading Program prizes: Saturday, August 8.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Fine Waiver Card First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

UNEARTH A STORY™ at the Library!

Springfield-Greene County Library District
2026 Summer Reading Program for Tiny Tots
and Preschoolers Birth through 5 years

Important Dates:

- Starts June 1; Ends August 8
- Free Book and Summer Youth Passport can be picked up beginning June 8; Fresh Start Fine Waiver Card can be picked up beginning June 1.
- Last day to pick up prizes: August 8

- Read and do activities, using the game board to record your progress. Remember, reading, playing with books, looking at books and talking about books — these all count as activities!
- Receive a **Fresh Start Fine Waiver Card** after completing your first activity. Bring your completed game board to any library or Mobile Library and receive a **FREE BOOK** and a **Youth Summer Passport**.
- Continue reading & playing to earn more prizes! Complete up to nine Star Reader Challenges to be entered into drawings for end-of-summer prizes like a book tote, coupons for free books, admissions to local attractions and gift cards to local businesses!

ACTIVITIES

Reading, singing, playing and talking are fun activities to do with your little one that prepare them for learning to read. **Feel free to repeat the activities & create your own — repetition is important for learning!**

Ask your Librarian for more ideas to get your little one on the Road to Reading!

Especially for infants to toddlers:

- Explore different textures and talk about how they feel.
- Create a rhyme or song with your child's name in it and say it to them.
- Talk about the things you see around you in your house, outside and at the Library!
- Change the wheels on the bus to the members of your family, and what they say or do. For example, Mommy on the bus says, "Read, read, read."
- Talk about the different colors of food during mealtimes or grocery shopping.
- Make a book of photographs or drawings of family members (don't forget pets!) and read it together.
- Check out music on Hoopla and have a baby dance party.
- Check out a toy from the Library!
- Face-to-Face Chat Time: Lie on the floor together and copy your baby's sounds, expressions, or movements.
- Window Watch: Sit by a window and talk about what you see going by — cars, birds, people, clouds.
- Book Peek-a-Boo: Cover part of a picture with your hand and reveal it slowly while talking about it.
- Create your own: _____

- Create your own: _____

For preschoolers:

- Use a cup of water and a paintbrush to paint pictures and practice writing letters on a sidewalk.
- Make a sensory bin with dirt and other outdoor materials, and pretend to dig things up.
- Hunt for the first letter of your child's name in books, on signs in the store, and all around town: "Look, it's a 'T' for 'Teddy!'"
- Play together in the Play and Learn Center at your favorite library branch.
- Shape Hunt at Home: Find circles, squares, and triangles around the house.
- Shadow Play: Use sunlight or a lamp to make shadows and tell stories with them.
- Draw or name things that make sounds (cow, door, bell) and act them out.
- Pretend Store or Restaurant: Take turns being the customer and the worker — great for conversation skills.
- Try making a mud pie. Did you find any neat rocks or squiggly bugs while playing in the mud?
- Make letter or color-related scavenger hunts to put up around your house to promote early literacy.
- Dig a hole in the dirt or lift up some grass or leaves and take a look underneath. Name what you see there.
- Read a book you love together.
- Create your own: _____



Completed the program? Scan this QR code to take our survey.



Racing to Read is the Library's early literacy initiative that supports parents with great ideas for books and activities that give young children — as early as birth! — the skills they will need when it's time to learn to read.

- Create your own: _____



Springfield-Greene County Library District
4653 S. Campbell Ave. • Springfield, MO 65810



Additional funding from Missouri State Library

Want to participate online? Go to thelibrary.org/summerreading.