It is important that all Illinoisans possess the literacy skills necessary to achieve their full potential. Literacy means more than just being able to read. It means being able to understand, being able to put your words in writing and being able to communicate with others in various ways.

The Illinois State Library’s Calendar of Reading & Activities emphasizes all types of literacy skills. This calendar can help you create a foundation of literacy leading to great thoughts, dreams and lasting memories for you and your family.

Included is suggested reading materials for young children through young adults. In addition, there are activities and games for everyone to enjoy.

The Illinois State Library Literacy Office has developed this calendar for you to use year after year. The days and dates do not match any one year. The calendar is designed to be copied and used by your family and friends. Together, we can help all citizens obtain the skills they need to be active, productive members of our community.
SNOWMAN MOBILE

Cut out these pattern pieces from construction paper and assemble with string.

Have child draw a face and buttons.
**January Special Days**

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Recommended Reading**

- **January**
  - *Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King*  
    - Author: Jean Marzollo  
    - "The book told about someone (Martin Luther King, Jr.) who helped his community and made history."
    - Edgar, age 8, Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley
  
- *The Exiles*  
  - (ages 9-12)  
  - Author: Hilary McKay
  
- *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*  
  - (ages 9-12)  
  - Author: Richard Peck

**Letters to Talk About**

**A**

- Help make a snack; clean and cut up an apple and dip in peanut butter.
- Read *America A Patriotic Primer*, by Lynne Cheney

**F**

- Measure your feet. Trace your child’s feet and your feet on paper and let them color the tracings.
- Talk about the letter F, and look for things that contain the letter F. Remember to get words and pictures for your book.

**Books I read in January**

- *Pudgie little snowman*
  - Had a carrot nose
  - Along came a bunny
  - And what do you suppose
  - That hungry little bunny
  - Looking for some lunch
  - Ate the little snowman’s nose

- *Nibble, Nibble, Crunch!!!*
  - From: The St. Clair County Adult and Family Education Newsletter January/February 2003

- *Snow Cones*
  - • Crushed ice  
  - • Fruit juice  
  - • Cups

- Visit the library and read *Animals in Winter*, by Henrietta Bancroft.
- Make snow cones (see recipe).
HEART MOBILE

Construction paper  String
Scissors            Glue
Coat hanger

Cut out paper hearts of various sizes (as many as you want). Attach different lengths of string to the hanger. Glue two hearts together back to back at bottom of each string making sure the string is in between the hearts.
**February Special Days**

- Groundhog Day
- Valentine’s Day
- Presidents Day

---

**Recommended Reading**

- **Madeline**
  Author: Ludwig Bemelmans
  "It's a book about a little girl."
  — Justine, Chester Public Library, on the reason she likes this book

- **Cupid Doesn't Flip Hamburgers** (ages 9-12)
  Author: Debbie Dadey
  *The Bad Beginning — A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 1* (ages 9-12)
  Author: Lemony Snicket

- **February**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share the newspaper with each other; look for all the pages that have color on them and save them.</td>
<td>Talk about the letter G. How does it sound? Think of things that start with G and look for words and pictures.</td>
<td>Make Valentine cards. Use magazines or newspapers torn into pieces for decoration.</td>
<td>For Groundhog Day, read Geoffrey Groundhog Predicts the Weather, by Bruce Kocielnik.</td>
<td>Visit the library and read Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli.</td>
<td>Visit the library and read March, by Ellen Jackson.</td>
<td>Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Dipped Marshmallows**

- 1 bag large marshmallows
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsp. vegetable oil
- chocolate chips
- assorted sprinkles

Melt chocolate chips and oil together over low heat (about 1 min. in microwave). Have your child dip each marshmallow into the chocolate about halfway, then dip and roll in the sprinkles. Place on a cookie sheet to harden.

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**Talk about Breakfast**

Which one of the following do you like the best for breakfast—cereal, eggs, pancakes, waffles or toast.

Why is it your favorite? What else do you eat for breakfast?

---

**Love Love Love**

(Sung to 3 Blind Mice)

Love, love, love, Love, love, love, See how it grows, See how it grows.

I love my friends and they love me, We love others and then, you see, There’s more than enough for a big family

Love, love, love, Love, love, love,

---

**Talk about the letter G.** How does it sound? Think of things that start with G and look for words and pictures.

---

**Talk about the letter V.** Think of names that contain the letter V.

What shall I be? Let your child tell you what they want to be and find a book to share or draw a picture.

---

**Let's pretend.** Let the children wear their swimsuits in the bathtub and pretend they are at the beach. You can relax in the sand and watch them play.

Visit the library and read *February*, by Ellen Jackson.

Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.

Let's pretend. Let the children wear their swimsuits in the bathtub and pretend they are at the beach. You can relax in the sand and watch them play.

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Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.

---

**Make snowballs out of paper and play catch with them. You can also use cotton balls taped together.**

**Help make something you would eat for breakfast—pancakes, eggs, cereal—but eat it at lunch.**

**Visit the library and read Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books, by Kay Winters, and George Washington’s Teeth, by Deborah Chandra.**

**Visit the library and read Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli.**

**Make a heart mobile.** (see sample)

**Visit the library and read February, by Ellen Jackson.**

**Visit the library and read Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli.**

**Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.**

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**Make Valentine cards. Use magazines or newspapers torn into pieces for decoration.**

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**Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.**

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**Make a heart mobile.** (see sample)

**Visit the library and read February, by Ellen Jackson.**

**Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.**

---

**Look at your tree and write about what it is doing.**

**Visit the library and read *February*, by Ellen Jackson.**

**Visit the library and look for books that contain the letter G in the title. Check them out and enjoy.**

---

**Winter Special Days**

- Groundhog Day
- Valentine’s Day
- Presidents Day

---

**Love Love Love**

(Sung to 3 Blind Mice)

Love, love, love, Love, love, love, See how it grows, See how it grows.

I love my friends and they love me, We love others and then, you see, There’s more than enough for a big family

Love, love, love, Love, love, love,
ST. PAT’S SHAMROCKS

Place salt in zip-lock baggie, add a few drops of green food coloring and shake (this is fun for kids to do).

Give children a shamrock and let them spread glue thinly all over shamrock using fingers or Q-tip.

Give children a small bowl with green salt in it, let them sprinkle over glue, let dry.

Salt
Green food coloring
Glue
White paper or poster board
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Letter P Day. Have peanut butter sandwiches and look for words and pictures for your book.</td>
<td>Visit the library and check out <em>Leprechaun Gold</em>, by Teresa Bateman.</td>
<td>Make a shamrock. (see sample)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Visit the library and check out <em>You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together</em>, by Mary Ann Hoberman.</td>
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<td>Tell your child a story, nursery rhyme, poem or song that was your favorite when you were their age.</td>
<td>Make a kite and go outside to fly your kite.</td>
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<td>Decorate a window or mirror. Cut pictures out of magazines or newspapers and make a scene of your favorite time of year.</td>
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<td>Look at your tree. Is it starting to have buds on the limbs? Draw a picture of the tree.</td>
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<td>Read the newspaper with your child and let them cut out pictures and words with the letter I or P.</td>
<td>Write a poem using the letters I and P.</td>
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<td>Have a treasure hunt. Hide objects somewhere in the house and give clues to find them.</td>
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**Shamrocks, Shamrocks, Shamrocks,**
On Ireland’s hills, Greenest of green
Over rocks and rills
Good luck do they bring, For one and all
On St. Patrick’s Day
We can see them all.

**Magical Leprechaun Pudding**
• Vanilla pudding
• Yellow and blue food coloring
• Clear zip-lock baggie
• Bowl or cup and spoon
• Green sugar crystals

Spoon pudding into baggie. Add a few drops of yellow and a few drops of blue food coloring. Close the bag and gently squish the bag until the “magic” begins. The pudding should turn green. Cut a small hole in the corner of the baggie and squeeze the pudding into cup or bowl, add green sugar crystals and enjoy!!

**Talk about the milk group**
Are these foods from the milk group — milk, yogurt and cheese? Which kind do you like? Can you think of other milk group foods?

**Books I read in March**
- *The Mouse and the Potato*, by Thomas Berger
  “I like this book because it is funny.” — Leslie, Kankakee Community College on the reason she likes this book.
- *The St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock Mystery* (ages 9-12)
  Author: Marion M. Markham
- *The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle and Other Surprising Stories about Inventions* (ages 9-12)
  Author: Don Wulffson
- *March Special Days*
  St. Patrick’s Day

**RECOMMENDED READING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT</th>
<th>P &amp; I</th>
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<td><strong>&amp;</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>I</strong></td>
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</table>
### What Makes a Rainbow?

- **Author:** Betty Ann Schwartz
- **Description:** The book teaches kids and their parents about the colors of the rainbow. The book also provides many repetitious phrases that allow families to partake in reading it. The book also teaches about various animals represented by the colors of the rainbow.
- **Quote:** “The book teaches kids and their parents about the colors of the rainbow. The book also provides many repetitious phrases that allow families to partake in reading it. The book also teaches about various animals represented by the colors of the rainbow.”
- **Note:** Denise, Chinese Mutual Aid Association

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### Colors up in the Rainbow

- **Red and orange, green and blue, shiny yellow, purple too.**

### Gelatin Rainbow Snack

- **Ingredients:** Clear plastic cups, Jell-O (cherry, orange, lemon, lime, blue, and grape)
- **Instructions:**
  1. Make all six colors.
  2. After the Jell-O has set, spoon one spoonful of each flavor into clear cups.
  3. Top with a cloud of whipped cream.

### Talk about grains

- **Bagels, biscuits, cornbread, crackers, noodles, pasta, rice, tortillas — can you think of any more grains? What is your favorite grain?**

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### Books I read in April

- **April Fool’s Day (Rookie Read-About Holiday),**  by Melissa Schiller
- **Mud Flat April Fool,**  by James Stevenson
I’m Trying So Hard
I’m trying so hard to be really good, and
do all the things I know that I should.

But, I’m just a kid, Mom, I’m messy and
slow, I don’t eat my veggies, and I’ll clean
my room, I know!

And I don’t pick my toys up, and I don’t
like my bath, I’m trying to learn my
spelling, and I need help with my math.

So, you’re stuck with me, Mom, and I’m a
lot of work, I know. But I’m sure that you
will help me as I learn new things and
grow.

I won’t always be so messy. Some day I
might be neat. And then I won’t hide my
veggies every time I eat!

My room might end up tidy, I won’t
complain about a bath. Some day I’ll
teach you how to spell and I’ll be a genius
at my math.

But that might take a long, long time,
cause, I’m still a kid you see. I’ve got to
grow up for a while, then I’ll make you
proud of me.

So, thanks for understanding, like Mothers
always do, and for taking me the way I
am, I will always love you!
**Books I read in May**

- *A Gift for Mama* (ages 9-12)
  Author: Esther Hautzig

- *My Life in Dog Years* (ages 9-12)
  Author: Gary Paulsen

**May Special Days**
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day

**Recommended Activity**

Going with Mom to the park is Azuncena’s of Aurora Public Library, favorite activity. Azuncena says, "Sometimes we walk and sometimes we drive to the park. We like to play together at the park."

**LETTERS TO TALK ABOUT**

**M & O**

- Talk about the letter M. Can you think of someone who loves you whose name starts with M?
- Take a walk in your neighborhood. What is your neighborhood like? Who lives next door?
- Look for pictures and words that contain the letter O. Put them in your letter book.
- Visit the library and check out *Mama, Do You Love Me?*, by Barbara M. Joosse.
- Make a list of 5 places in your neighborhood that you can go for free.

**MAY**

- Go to the grocery store and see how many fruits and vegetables you can name.
- Have your favorite vegetable today. Do you like fresh, canned or frozen vegetables best?
- Take a walk in your neighborhood. What is your neighborhood like? Who lives next door?
- Start saving plastic milk caps. You will need them in a few months.
- Visit the library and share a favorite book with your Mom.

**Butterfly Sandwich**

- Bread
- Peanut butter
- Raisins
- Favorite jelly or jam

Make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Cut into four triangles and arrange in butterfly shape. Use raisins to create antennae.

**Let’s Talk About Vegetables**

What is your favorite vegetable — carrots, celery, peas, beets, cauliflower? What colors are these vegetables?

**Make a Mother’s Day bookmark.** *(see directions)*

- Take your Mom to the park, the backyard or the living room for a picnic. Bring something to sit on.
- Talk about the letter O. Can you think of something that starts with the letter O?
- Look for pictures and words that contain the letter O. Put them in your letter book.
- Have fun with the Mother’s Day Word Search.

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

- Read the newspaper and find words and pictures that contain the letter M.
- Have your favorite vegetable today. Do you like fresh, canned or frozen vegetables best?
- Visit the library and check out *Mama, Do You Love Me?*, by Barbara M. Joosse.
- Talk about the letter M. Can you think of someone who loves you whose name starts with M?
- Take a walk in your neighborhood. What is your neighborhood like? Who lives next door?

**May Special Days**
- Mother’s Day
- Memorial Day
FATHER'S DAY CROSSWORD & BOOKMARK FOR DADDY

**TIE**
**PIPE**
**FISHING**
**POP**
**SHIRT**
**GREATEST**
**LOVE**
**GRANDPA**
**PAPA**
**SPECIAL**

---

**Bookmark for Daddy**

Cardstock colored paper
Ribbon or tassel
Hole punch

Cut cardstock into 4 pieces the short way (the size of a bookmark). Give each child a rectangle. Punch a hole in the top with a hole punch. Have them copy the short poem to the right or let them write their own. Help children place fingerprints in various places and make pictures out of them using colored pens (a sun is made by drawing the rays around the print). If you have access to a laminating machine, laminate the bookmark. Tie a ribbon or tassel through the hole.

These are my fingerprints tiny and small.

To place in your book Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Reminding you the whole year through, the best gift of all — Is my love for you.

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**June Special Days**
- Father's Day
- Flag Day

**Recommended Reading**
- **Holes** (young adult)
  - Author: Louis Sachar
- **Dragon in the Clouds** (ages 9–12)
  - Author: Rosemary Nelson
- **Football Fugitive** (ages 9–12)
  - Author: Matt Christopher
- **The Weather Sky** (ages 9–12)
  - Author: Bruce McMillan

**Books I read in June**

**Letters to Talk About**

- **Go outside and look at the clouds. What do you see?**
- **Check your tree and make sure you write in your tree journal. Is it getting tall?**
- **Read the newspaper with Dad and look for words and pictures that start with the letter D.**
- **Visit the library and read The Fishing Summer, by Teddy Jam.**
- **Make a list of 5 places you can spend money in your neighborhood.**
- **Make pork chops, hot dogs or hamburgers on the grill.**
- **Visit the library and sign up for the summer reading program. Check out a book about birds.**
- **Make a collage for Father's Day. Linda from Kankakee Community College says you need pictures of your father and yourself, popsicle sticks, fabric, glue and markers.**

**Dad Poem**

I sure am glad,
You are my Dad.
You are true blue,
Do I love you!

**Basic Pancakes for Dad**

3 cups flour
1 t salt
1 1/2 T baking powder
2 eggs
2 cups milk
2 T oil

Mix dry ingredients then add eggs and milk and gradually add oil. Pour into heated pan into small circles. Flip them when small bubbles form on top. You can add blueberries or cooked rice or 2 tsp. of cinnamon and 2 Tbs. of sugar. To make these more special for Dad, top them off with some whipped cream, sliced strawberries or bananas!

**Talk about Meats**

Do you like hamburgers, hot dogs, pork chops or roast beef? What is your favorite meat? Do you know someone who does not eat meat?

**Recommended Activity**

- **Letters & D**
- **Make silly faces. Stand with each child in front of a mirror and see who can make the scarriest, happiest, saddest face.**
- **Think of things you play with outside that start with the letter B. Remember to look for pictures and words for your book.**
- **Make a cloud picture using paint, crayons, cotton balls or whatever you wish. Read The Cloud Painter, by Eileen J. Doran-Smith.**
- **Go fishing! If you can't fish for real fish, play the card game Go Fish.**
- **Make a bookmark for Daddy. (see directions)**
- **Have fun with the Father's Day Crossword.**
- **Go to the park and play at the playground. Explore and see what you can find.**
- **Visit the library and check out Dad's Dinosaur Day by Diane Dawson Hearn.**
- **Go outside and look at the clouds. What do you see?**
- **Make a bookmark for Daddy. (see directions)**
- **Read Cloud Cuckoo Land, by Bernard Lodge, and Cloud Dance, by Thomas Locker.**
- **Visit the library and sign up for the summer reading program. Check out a book about birds.**
- **Make pork chops, hot dogs or hamburgers on the grill.**
Ball Catcher

2 plastic milk cartons or laundry detergent bottles
Sharp scissors
Colored electrical tape or masking tape that can be colored — red, white and blue
Crayons — red, white and blue
Ball to play with

• Wash the milk cartons and let dry.
• Use the scissors to cut the milk cartons. First cut off the bottom, then cut a U shape under the handle. Make sure you don’t cut into the handle so you can hold on to the ball catcher.
• Use the colored electrical tape or masking tape and decorate the milk cartons.
• Have fun playing catch and toss with these fun toys.

Make your own Flag

12”x18” paper or poster board  Markers
Scissors  Tape

Write your name (really big) in the middle of the paper. Decide what things are important to you — family, friends, hobbies, team sports, pets, church, etc.

Pick a symbol to stand for each thing and draw them on the flag. Try to think of as many things as you can about yourself so the flag will be bright and colorful. You also can cut out and glue on pictures from a magazine.

Hang your flag someplace special.
**July Special Days**

- **Independence Day**

**July**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make Ball Catchers, then go out and play ball. (see directions)</td>
<td>Go outside and play 4 square, hopscotch or draw with chalk on the sidewalk.</td>
<td>Make a bookmark with your favorite J word or picture. Look for pictures and words for your letter book.</td>
<td>Celebrate Independence Day. Read <em>Hurray for the Fourth of July</em>, by Wendy Watson.</td>
<td>Go swimming, run through the sprinkler or play with squirt bottles.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Talk About: Make lemonade and have lemonade sitting on a blanket outside. Tell stories that you make up.</td>
<td>Check your tree. How tall has it grown? Don’t forget to write in your tree journal.</td>
<td>Go to a museum. If you don’t have one nearby, think about what a museum would have in it and pretend you are at one.</td>
<td>Talk about the letter Q. Find pictures and words with the letter Q.</td>
<td>Visit the library and read <em>Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind</em>, retold by Caron Lee Cohen.</td>
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**Letters to Talk About**

- *Clifford, The Big Red Dog* — Author: Norman Bridwell
  - “I like the Big Red Dog.”
  - Ricardo, Aurora Public Library
  - “My daughter likes dogs.”
  - Jennifer, Aurora Public Library

- *It’s the Fourth of July!* (ages 9-12)
  - Author: Stan Hoig

- *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (young adult)
  - Author: Ann Brashares

**Fourth of July Fun Drink**

- Milk
- Seedless red cherries with stems
- Vanilla ice cream
- Whipped cream (in a can)
- Red, white and blue edible sprinkles
- Blue food coloring
- Ice cubes
- Straws

Blend 2 scoops of ice cream and 2 cups of milk in a blender for 30 seconds. Add a couple ice cubes and a few drops of blue food coloring and blend another 30 seconds. Pour into a tall clear glass. Add whipped cream and sprinkles and top with a cherry.

**Talk about Fish**

Do you eat fish — catfish, shrimp or tuna? What kind do you like and how do you like it cooked?

**Books I read in July**

- *It’s the Fourth of July!* (ages 9-12)
  - Author: Stan Hoig

- *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (young adult)
  - Author: Ann Brashares

- *Our Country’s Flag*
  - Please sit down, everyone, I’m going to tell a story About our country’s famous flag — Its nickname is Old Glory. Stars and stripes are on our flag, They’re red and white and blue. It tells the world that we are free And proud to be here too!
Sunbrella

old umbrella
assorted colors of ribbon

Take an OLD umbrella and have an adult cut out the cloth in between the spokes. When you open the umbrella, it should have open areas for the sun to come in! Tie about 5-10 pieces of ribbon to each end of the spokes. When you finish, you will have a sunbrella.

Watermelon Slices

8-inch cardboard circle cut into 4 pieces
6-inch red tissue paper or construction paper cut into 4 pieces
5-10 watermelon seeds or black construction paper cut like seeds
light green marker or crayon
glue

Serve watermelon and have children save the seeds. Cut out cardboard circle and tissue paper circles, then cut each into fourths. Color the cardboard with a light green marker or crayon. Glue the red tissue or construction paper piece to the cardboard. Glue watermelon seeds or black construction paper seeds to the red tissue or construction paper piece and let dry.
### Letters to Talk About

**C**
- Visit the library and check out the book *Jack’s Garden*, by Henry Cole.

**H**
- Visit the library and check out *The Big Dipper*, by Franklyn M. Branley.

### Favorite Books

**Froggy Learns to Swim**
- Author: Jonathan London
- “Froggy is silly.” — Derek, Chester Public Library

**Wishing on a Star**
- Ages 9-12
- Author: Fran Lee

**Niagara Falls or Does It (Hank Zipzer, 1)**
- Ages 9-12
- Author: Henry Winkler

### Special Days

**August Special Days**

**Back to School**

### Activities

**Sunday**
- Go to the library and make a map showing how to find your favorite book. Share the map with a friend and see if he/she can find the book.

**Monday**
- Go to the grocery store and look for foods that are poultry. Make sure you look all over the store.

**Tuesday**
- Take the book *Daddies are for Catching Fireflies*, by Harriet Ziefert, outside and read it laying under a tree.

**Wednesday**
- Is it hot or cold today? See what you can find that is hot or cold. Look inside and outside.

**Thursday**
- Go to a pond, lake, creek, river or stream and explore! What do you find and see?

**Friday**
- Go camping. If you can’t sleep outside, have a campout in the house.

**Saturday**
- Go to the library and make a map showing how to find your favorite book. Share the map with a friend and see if he/she can find the book.

### Under the Sea

- Berry Blue Jell-O
- Package of any gummy water creatures
- Package of mini marshmallows (for bubbles)
- Clear cups


### Talk about Poultry

- What is poultry? Do you eat chicken or any other kinds of poultry?

### Books I read in August

- *Wishing on a Star* (ages 9-12)
- Author: Fran Lee

- *Niagara Falls or Does It* (Hank Zipzer, 1) (ages 9-12)
- Author: Henry Winkler

### Summer

- I love summer! Summer is hot. It’s sun and shade. It’s water to wade. It’s frogs and bugs. It’s grass for rugs. It’s eating outside. It’s a tree-swing ride. It’s tomatoes and corn. It’s dew in the morn. It’s dogs and boys. And lots of noise. It’s a hot sunny sky. It’s summer. That’s why... I love summer.
FALL CROSSWORD

FALL  HARVEST  RAKE  FOLIAGE  ACORN  SQUIRREL  ORANGE  SCARECROW  YELLOW  LEAVES

HELP THE BIRD FIND THE TREE
**September Special Days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Pumpkin Poem**<br>One day I found two pumpkin seeds. I planted one and pulled the weeds. It sprouted roots and a big, long vine. A pumpkin grew; I called it mine. The pumpkin was quite round and fat. (I really am quite proud of that.) But there is something I'll admit that has me worried just a bit. I ate the other seed you see. Now will it grow inside of me? (I'm so relieved since I have found. That pumpkins only grow in the ground!)<br><br>**Pumpkin Rice Krispies**<br>• Food coloring (orange and green)<br>• Rice Krispie Treats recipe<br>• Brown icing<br>• Marshmallows<br>• Butter<br><br>Follow the recipe for Rice Krispie Treats. Dye marshmallows orange as they melt. Roll them into balls to create pumpkin shapes. Make a small batch and dye the marshmallows green. Shape into a stem and place on top of the orange ball. When cool, make pumpkin faces with the brown icing. Chill to set the icing and enjoy! | **Talk about healthy snacks**<br>Apples, bagels, cheese, milk. Can you think of anymore? What is your favorite snack? Is it a healthy snack? | **Books I read in September**

| Liliana’s Grandmothers<br>Author: Leyla Torres<br>Jorge, Zoraida and Federico of Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley identify with this book because they take a vacation to Mexico every two years to visit their grandmothers. | Hoot (young adult)<br>Author: Carl Hiaasen<br>Kids’ Paper Airplane Book (ages 9-12)<br>Author: Ken Blackburn<br>String Music (ages 9-12)<br>Author: Rick Telander | **September Special Days**

| Labor Day |
**COLUMBUS DAY WORD SEARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATLANTIC</th>
<th>FERDINAND</th>
<th>INDIES</th>
<th>NINA</th>
<th>SANTA MARIA</th>
<th>SPAIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAIM</td>
<td>GOLD</td>
<td>ISABELLA</td>
<td>PINTA</td>
<td>SCURVY</td>
<td>SPICES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCOVERY</td>
<td>HARDTACK</td>
<td>NEW WORLD</td>
<td>SAILORS</td>
<td>SHIPS</td>
<td>VOYAGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Watch for Something New**

Sit in a circle. Discuss that sailors were on a ship for many days with nothing to see but water and sky. They were constantly watching for something different.

Observe everyone in the circle: what are they wearing, how are they sitting, and where they are sitting. Place head in lap and close eyes.

Adult changes something in the circle. Open eyes. What is different?

OR

Every day for a week take a walk or look out the same window. Discuss observations that were not noticed the previous day.
### October Special Days
- Columbus Day
- Halloween

### October Readings
- **Green Eggs and Ham**
  - Author: Dr. Seuss
  - “My daughter would like to be Dr. Seuss someday. She doesn’t like eggs either.”
    —Berenice, Aurora Public Library
- **Morning Girl** (ages 9–12)
  - Author: Michael Dorris
- **The View from Saturday** (ages 9–12)
  - Author: E.L. Knoigsburg

### Apple Sailboat Snack
- **Apple sliced**
- **Cheese**
- **Raisins**
- **Toothpick**

Slice the apple in half or quarters, core and remove seeds. Cut a triangle shape in a piece of cheese. Put a toothpick into the triangle shaped cheese and stick into the apple. Add a few raisins around the apple.

### Columbus Day Snack

- **Make a fall wreath.**
- **Go outside and collect acorns, leaves, sticks, pinecones, rocks, etc. and glue on a cardboard circle.**

### Columbus Day Across the world, Columbus,
You dreamt your wild schemes.
You slept on decks
Of sailing ships;
You nailed the wooden beams.
You coaxed west wind
Into the sails;
You mended tattered seams.
Across the world,
Columbus,
You brought your wild dreams.

By Myra Cohn Livingston,
from the book Celebrations

### Columbus Day Word Search

Find the words in the Columbus Day Word Search:

- Apple Sailboat Snack
- Apple sliced
- Cheese
- Raisins
- Toothpick

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By Myra Cohn Livingston,
**WINTER CROSSWORD**

ICE  
SNOWMAN  
HOCKEY  
SHOVEL  
HAT  
SNOWBALL  
ICEBERG  
COAT  
ICICLES  
FROST

---

**Tree of Thankfulness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Clothespins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markers</td>
<td>Glue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction paper</td>
<td>Tree branch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find a branch that has fallen off a tree. Cut leaves out of construction paper. Have family and friends write what they are thankful for on a leaf. Glue the leaves to the branch using a clothespin to keep it in place until it dries. You also can make a hole in the leaves and hang them on the tree with string.

**Thankful Turkey**

Large piece of paper  
Markers  
Feathers cut out of paper and colored with assorted colors  
Glue

Draw a large turkey body and feet on the piece of paper and color it brown. Each evening at supper for about 10 days before Thanksgiving ask everyone in the house to list something they are thankful for on a feather. Glue feathers on each night you write something. Hang the turkey up for everyone to see.
**Angel Cat**  
*Author: Michael Garland*  
“We like this book because it is a good book. And the cat saves the family from the fire in the end.”  
— Debra of Kankakee Community College

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit the library and find a book about Veterans Day. Ask the librarian for help.</td>
<td>Go to the library and find a book about Veterans Day. Ask the librarian for help.</td>
<td>Make a Tree of Thankfulness. (see directions)</td>
<td>Talk about the letter W. Don’t forget to cut out pictures and words.</td>
<td>Do you know someone that served in the military and is a veteran? Ask them what it was like.</td>
<td>Visit the library and check out <em>Sandwich Cookie Turkeys</em> by Joy Cowley.</td>
<td>Make a Sandwich Cookie Turkey. (see directions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk about the letter Y. Remember your pictures and words.</td>
<td>Complete the Winter Crossword.</td>
<td>Take your bath without being told. Ask someone to read <em>The Fish Is Me! Bathtime Rhymes</em>, by Neil Philip or <em>I Can Take a Bath!</em>, by Shigeo Watanabe.</td>
<td>Take a walk and look at your tree. Make notes in your tree journal.</td>
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<td>Visit the library and check out <em>Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey</em>, by Joy Cowley.</td>
<td>Visit the library and check out <em>Sandwich Cookie Turkeys</em> by Joy Cowley.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sandwich Cookie Turkeys  
- Sandwich cookies  
- Icing  
- 5 candy corn pieces  
- Small cinnamon candy  
- Candy sprinkles  

Open the cookie, and place a dab of icing off-center on the inside. Replace the cookie pieces so they are at an angle (<). On the top of the cookie on the angled edge, stick on 5 candy corn pieces with icing, pointing toward the center of the cookie to form the tail. On the center of the cookie, place another dab of icing to make the turkey’s head. Two little white dots on the head make the eyes, and 3 cinnamon candies below the head make the turkey’s waddle. Use chocolate icing on chocolate cookies or vanilla icing on vanilla cookies. | Talk about the food groups  
Which food group is your favorite — grain, vegetables, fruits, milk or protein? How many food groups are there? | It gets dark early so stay inside. See what shadows you can make on the wall with a flashlight shining on the wall. | Ask an adult what favorite thing they liked to do when they were your age. | Help an adult. Read *Helping Values to Live By*, by Jane Buerger and Jennie Davis. | Visit the library and check out *Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From*, by Franklyn M. Branley. | Visit the library and check out *Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From*, by Franklyn M. Branley. |
| Do you have any turkey leftover? Ask if you can help make turkey salad. Go to the library to find a recipe. | Ask someone to read *I Am Thankful* by Shigeo Watanabe. | Make a Thankful Turkey. (see directions) | Help an adult. Read *Helping Values to Live By*, by Jane Buerger and Jennie Davis. | Visit the library and check out *Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From*, by Franklyn M. Branley. | Visit the library and check out *Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey*, by Joy Cowley. | Visit the library and check out *Day Light, Night Light: Where Light Comes From*, by Franklyn M. Branley. |

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**November Special Days**  
Thanksgiving Day  
Veterans Day  

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**Books I read in November**

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**Angel Cat**  
*Author: Michael Garland*  
“We like this book because it is a good book. And the cat saves the family from the fire in the end.”  
— Debra of Kankakee Community College

---

**The First Thanksgiving** (ages 4-8)  
*Author: Jean Craighead George*  
**Puppies, Dogs and Blue Northers: Reflections on Being Raised by a Pack of Sled Dogs** (ages 9-12)  
*Author: Gary Paulsen*  

---

**I Am Thankful**  
I am thankful for pets. I am thankful for school; I am thankful when I can swim in a pool. I am thankful for home and the food that I eat. I am thankful for all the new friends that I meet. I am thankful for health and for my family. I’m especially thankful that I am just me!  

---

**Sandwich Cookie Turkeys**  
- Sandwich cookies  
- Icing  
- 5 candy corn pieces  
- Small cinnamon candy  
- Candy sprinkles  

Open the cookie, and place a dab of icing off-center on the inside. Replace the cookie pieces so they are at an angle (<). On the top of the cookie on the angled edge, stick on 5 candy corn pieces with icing, pointing toward the center of the cookie to form the tail. On the center of the cookie, place another dab of icing to make the turkey’s head. Two little white dots on the head make the eyes, and 3 cinnamon candies below the head make the turkey’s waddle. Use chocolate icing on chocolate cookies or vanilla icing on vanilla cookies.  

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**Talk about the food groups**  
Which food group is your favorite — grain, vegetables, fruits, milk or protein? How many food groups are there?  

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**Letters to Talk About**

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**W & Y**

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**Recommended Reading**

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**Angel Cat**  
*Author: Michael Garland*  
“We like this book because it is a good book. And the cat saves the family from the fire in the end.”  
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**Snowman Soup**

Was told you’ve been real good this year. Always glad to hear it!
With freezing weather drawing near, you’ll need to warm the spirit.

So here’s a little Snowman Soup complete with stirring stick.
Add hot water, sip it slow. It’s sure to do the trick!

**Snowman Soup**

1 individual pack hot chocolate mix
3 Hershey’s chocolate kisses
15 mini marshmallows
1 candy cane
1 mug, canning jar or styrofoam cup
1 candy cane
Tag

Assemble these items in plastic wrap or plastic baggie. Tie with pretty ribbon.
Place in mug or other container, slide candy cane in and attach poem.
**SUNDAY**
- Read the newspaper and look for pictures and words with the letter Z. Add to your letter book and see what letters have the most and the least pictures and words.

**MONDAY**
- Draw a picture of your favorite time of year and wrap it up and give it to a friend.

**TUESDAY**
- Go to the library and find a book with the letter X in the title. Look for pictures and words to add to your letter book.

**WEDNESDAY**
- Go outside and play in the snow. Make sure you dress warm. When you come in do the Winter Word Search.

**THURSDAY**
- Take a walk and look at your tree. Write in your tree journal. What month did your tree have the most changes?

**FRIDAY**
- Visit the library and read Best Friends, by Mirian Cohen.

**SATURDAY**
- Make snowman soup. (see directions)

**December Special Days**
- Little snowflakes hiding in a cloud.
- Little snowflakes soft and round.
- Little snowflakes falling for me.
- How many snowflakes do you see?

**Gingerbread Houses**
- Shared by Debra and Drew of Kankakee Community College

- School-size milk carton
- Frosting
- Graham crackers
- Gum drops
- Mints
- Assorted small candy

- Frost the graham crackers and place on milk carton. Add candy to decorate the house.

**Books I read in December**
- The Train to Timbuctoo
  Author: Margaret Wise Brown
  Brittny of Chester Public Library calls it her “Buc and Too book” and knows it by heart. They have two copies so one can stay home and the other can go to the babysitter.

- Samantha’s Winter Party: American Girls Short Stories (ages 9-12)
  Author: Valerie Tripp

- Tangerine (young adult)
  Author: Edward Bloor