

Raising Readers Backpack

Congratulations! By checking out and using this backpack from **Capital Area District Libraries**, you are helping your child develop important literacy skills. Although these skills are very important, they can also be fun to learn.

In fact, every time you use one of these five simple practices with your child, you are helping him or her develop into a lifelong learner: **reading, writing, talking, singing** and **playing**.

Here are some ideas for using the items in this backpack:

- Read the books together, pointing out new words as you go along.
- Write some of the letters or words you see in the book.
- Talk with your child about the items in the kit. Ask what he or she thinks the stories might be about.
- Listen to the music on the CD or watch the DVD together. Play with the toys included in the backpack.
- After finishing one of the stories, imagine what might happen next.

Read • Write • Talk • Sing • Play

This tip sheet stays with the backpack. For a copy of your own, visit any CADL branch or cadl.org/raisingreaders.

MATH

BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

NUMBERS/SHAPES:

See what numbers or shapes you and your child can spot throughout the day. Have your child find a rectangle in a store or a triangle at the park. How many “7”s or “3”s are there in a page of coupons? Soon your child will be finding numbers and shapes everywhere!

PATTERNS:

Start a simple pattern for your child (such as a red Lego-blue Lego-red Lego-blue Lego-red Lego, or clap-pat-clap-clap-pat-clap). Describe the pattern out loud, and then have your child repeat it back. Do this a few times, and then ask your child “what comes next?”. See what other patterns your child can find around them during daily activities.

SORTING/GRAPHING:

Take a pile of your child’s toys (or books or crayons or clothes). Help your child sort them into groups by color (or by size, shape, or type). Have your child create a “graph” on a sheet of construction paper and mark how many items are in each group. Ask them which group is bigger or smaller. Ask them to compare two groups and see which one has more. How did they figure that out?

Put everything back into a pile and sort them a different way. Repeat as many times as you want.

