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 DVD.
- After finishing one of the stories, imagine together 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](http://cadl.org/raisingreaders).

Please return backpack to checkout desk.
**DOWN ON THE FARM BACKPACK ACTIVITIES**

**Act** out the parts in the book *Barnyard Dance* by Sandra Boynton

Example: “bow to the horse” Bow to the cow” Bow to your child and have him bow back. “Twirl with the pig if you know how”, Take your child by the arm and twirl.

**Little Boy Blue**
Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn *(pretend to blow horn)*  
The sheep is in the meadow *(point left)*  
The cow is in the corn *(point right)*  
Where is the boy who looks after the sheep? *(hand over eyes – look around)*  
He’s under the haystack, fast asleep. *(hands under cheek, eyes closed)*

**What Farm Animals Say** *(sing to “Mary had a little lamb”)*  
Little pigs say oink, oink, oink  
Oink, oink, oink  
Little pigs say oink, oink, oink  
Oink, oink all day long.

Additional verses:  
Baby cows say moo, moo, moo  
Horses gallop all around, all around  
Chickens scratch for corn and seeds  
Lambs say baa and run around  
Kittens meow and chase the mice  
Doggies bark and chase the cows

**Milk, Milk, Milk Your Cow** *(sing to “row, row, row your boat”)*  
Milk, milk, milk your cow  
While sitting on a stool  
Pulling, squirting, pulling, squirting  
‘till the bucket’s full