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.
I’m a little mermaid
(tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)
I’m a little mermaid, see my tail,  
My friends are the dolphins, And so are the whales. 
I live in the ocean so big & blue,  
I love to swim with the little fish, too.
I’m a little merman, strong and brave,  
See my big ol’ tail, I can make it wave. 
I live in the ocean so big & blue.  
I love to play with the little fish, too.

Five little mermaids
Five little mermaids were swimming near the shore;  
One took a dive and then there were four. 
Four little mermaids were swimming out to sea;  
One went for food, and then there were three. 
Three little mermaids, “Now what shall we do?”  
One swam away, and then there were two. 
Two little mermaids were having great fun;  
But one took a plunge, then there was one. 
One little mermaid, “I like the warm sun.”  
Away she went and then there were none.

The Waves on the Sea
(to the tune of “Wheels on the Bus”)
The waves on the sea go up and down, up and down, up and down, up and down all day long. 
The shark in the sea goes snap, snap, snap… 
The Fish in the sea go swish, swish, swish… 
The Boats in the sea go toot, toot, toot… 
The gulls on the sea go swoop, swoop, swoop… 
The mermaids in the sea go splash, splash, splash…

Under the Sea
Talk with your child about where they think mermaids live. Discuss what other creatures would live in the sea with mermaids.

Letter M
What letter does Mermaid start with? M! Look in a book, around the room, outside, etc. and find other things that start with the letter M.