

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 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.

Please return backpack to checkout desk.

COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS

BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

Talk about the words “cowboy” and “cowgirl.” Sound out the different parts of the word “cow-boy” - say them separately and then together again, first slowly and then faster. Clap once for each syllable of the word. Do the same thing with words like “rancher, lasso, horses.”

Help your child think of other compound words like “rainbow, footprint, keyboard, railroad, rattlesnake, and grasshopper.” Say them in parts and then together, clapping out the sounds.

Help your child think of words that rhyme with “cow” like “bow, sow, now, how, plow” - make up silly rhymes with these words. Try rhyming “boy” too!

Help your child think of other types of animals you might find on a ranch (coyote, rattlesnake, bison, steer). Learning these unusual words is a great way to expand your child’s vocabulary!

Read the books in this backpack together. Be enthusiastic and get your child involved when you read books together.

Rhyme

This Little Cow (count on fingers)

This little cow eats grass

This little cow eats hay

This little cow looks over the hedge

This little cow runs away

And this BIG cow does nothing at all
(touch thumb)

But lie in the fields all day! (lay thumb
down)

