

Hometown Adventures

Objective: To observe and celebrate the wonders in our own communities

See Also: *Adventures Close to Home* chapter in the 2024 CSLP manual (pgs. 159 - 163)

Try Again: During times of community celebrations, at the beginning of a program cycle

Books:

The Babies on the Bus by Karen Katz

Hello! Hometown Heroes by Toni Armier

Kick Push by Frank Morrison

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña

Off-Limits by Helen Yoon

Rock Your Mocs by Laurel Goodluck

Stay, Benson! by Thereza Rowe

Strollercoaster by Matt Ringer

We Sang You Home by Richard Van Camp

The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards, rhymes, etc.:

To the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” (pg. 161, 2024 CSLP manual)

Playing in my backyard, my backyard

My backyard

Playing in my backyard

So many things to do

Watch the birds and flap my wings

Flap my wings, flap my wings

Watch the birds and flap my wings

So many things to do.

Verses:

Pick up twigs and put them back down

Dig in the dirt and plant a seed

Play a game and run all around

To the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot.” See video from Jbrary on YouTube here: <https://bit.ly/3PxVppj> (pg. 162, 2024 CSLP manual)

I’m a little dump truck full of rocks (arms wide)
Here is my engine, here is my box (arms in front, then arms in back)
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)
I’m a great big dump truck full of rocks
Here is my engine, here is my box
When the crew is ready hear me shout (hands around mouth)
Pull the lever and dump me out (pull lever in air)
Shhhhhhhh (lean back, point both thumbs behind you)

Community art project: (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Set out a selection of art supplies from your library’s craft stash. Ask participants to create works of art (either together or individually) and display the art on a library bulletin board, at a local parks & rec center, Boys & Girls Club, or other community partner’s space.



Library tour: Lead participants on a library tour throughout your building. Be sure to include behind-the-scenes spaces, such as materials sorting places and the staff break room. Point out items in your library that are unique and special. For inspiration, check out the video, [Journey of a Library Book](#), by Hannah Klapperich-Mueller from the Mt. Horeb (WI) Public Library.

Movie: Show *A House for Hermit Crab* (Weston Woods DVD)

Message for parents & caregivers: Children learn that all places are special and full of wonder and adventure when we celebrate our local communities.

Adventures in Art & Music

Objective: To encourage children and their grown-ups to explore their creativity

See Also: 2020 CSLP Manual, *Imagine Your Story*

Try Again: During Youth Art & Music in Our Schools month (both in March)

Books:

The Artist by Ed Verne

Boogie, Boogie y'all by C.G. Esperanza

Charlie Parker Played Be-Bop by Chris Raschka

Draw Me a Star by Eric Carle

Hands by Lois Ehlert

Imagine! by Raúl Colón

The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

My colors, my world/Mis colores, mi mundo by Maya Christina Gonzalez

Naaahsa Aisinaki! / Naaahsa is an Artist! By Hali Heavy Shield

A Parade of Elephants by Kevin Henkes

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards,

rhymes, etc.:

Sing and Sign: There's a Little Song a Singing in My Heart

https://youtu.be/-VkPPo_169g?si=u2UMYHpDY_Rpy9mo

Water Xylophone



(From the 2022 Summer Library Program Manual, *Oceans of Possibilities*)

Add different colors of food coloring and levels of water to six matching ma-son jars or glass bottles. Children hit the jars with wooden spoons or sticks. Talk about pitch, and ask children to predict what sounds the jars will make.

One Hour Polka Music for Kids: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMOtW4kS_p4

[American Indian Studies resources](#) from the Department of Public Instruction (WI)

[Sacred Little Ones Project: We Will Make a Path for Our Children](#)

Early Learning lesson plans from the College of the Menominee Nation's early childhood program. Includes art and cultural activity ideas.

Parachute/blanket movement: toss some bean bags into the middle of a blanket or parachute. Turn on the music and encourage participants to grab the edges of the blanket or parachute to make the beanbags wiggle and move up & down.






Book extenders using *A Parade of Elephants*

Make your own parade:

- Play some marching band music and march to the beat
 - UW Marching Band [recordings](#)
- Provide child-sized instruments and have a parade
- Invite high school music students to play their school song
- Act out the story, ending with bedtime
- Take photos and post on your library's social media

One Elephant Went Out One Day flannel board story: https://youtu.be/6hA_QvJs_dE

Make a set of flannel board elephants that matches the colors of the elephants in the book. Cut out flannel numerals and replicate the chart that is in the book and count elephants, 1 – 5:

One,	
two,	
three,	
four,	
five.	

Message for parents & caregivers: Encourage your child to clap, jump, or dance to the rhythm of favorite nursery rhymes in the language you speak as a family. This helps children hear the rhythm of language.

Outdoor Adventures

Objective: To encourage children and their grown ups to explore the outdoor world all around them.

See Also: *Go Outside! Adventures in Nature* chapter in the 2024 CSLP manual (pg 63 - 69)

Try Again: At times of seasonal transitions

Books:

Amara's Farm by Ja-Nay Brown Wood

Billie and Bean in the City by Julia Hansson

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert

Let's Go on a Hike! by Katrina Liu

Max's Rainforest Adventure by Hannah Jardine

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Wonder Walkers by Micha Archer

Zoe and the Fawn by Catherine Jameson

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards, rhymes, etc.:

Sing: *And The Green Grass Grew All Around*

And the Green Grass Grew All Around is an example of a cumulative song. This type of listen and repeat song is great for early language and literacy development. Not only does it encourage active listening, it rewards participants who quickly learn the refrain, which is sung in unison. Begin singing the song slowly to help listeners learn the words, melody, and rhythm. At the end of the song play around with the refrain's rhythm and volume - sing it fast, slow, loud, quiet, etc. Using traditional songs and rhymes in programs for young children reminds grownups of the songs they may have sung as children and this supports repeated singing at home. Did you learn hand motions to this song when you were a child? If so, add them or look for [YouTube videos](#) that include hand motions or signs.

Do: Chia seed garden (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

- Collect small glass jars before the program - glass yogurt jars work great. At the program help participants:
 - decorate the jars with stickers, googly eyes, glass markers, etc;
 - fill the jars with a bit of potting soil, and
 - Sprinkle a tsp or so of chia seeds over the soil
 - Participants can take the jars home or provide space at the library for a chia pot garden and ask kids to water the plants when they visit the library
 - Remind grownups that chia seeds are edible and full of protein - they are fun to eat when they're stirred into yogurt and allowed to sit overnight.



Message for parents & caregivers: Caring for a small plant encourages empathy, compassion, and responsibility. Even something as small as caring for a few chia seed sprouts is an exciting adventure for young children.

STEAM Adventures

Objective: To introduce STEAM and early science concepts to children and their grownups.

See Also: *Solve This!* chapter in 2024 CSLP manual (pgs 129 - 134)

Try Again: During times of the year when the “big kids” are working on science fair activities

Books:

Black Bear, Red Fox by Julie Flett

Bonnie’s Rocket by Emmeline Lee

Kimchi, Kimchi Every Day by Erica Kim

Lots of Spots by Lois Ehlert

Mapping Sam by Joyce Hesselberth

Milo Is Missing Something by Vern Kousky

My Mama is a Mechanic by Doug Cenko

One-osaurus, Two-osaurus by Kim Norman

Stella Keeps the Sun Up by Clothilde Ewing

Usha and the Big Dipper by Amita Jagganath Knight

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards, rhymes, etc.:

Fingerplay: Five Little Tomato Plants

- *Five little tomato plants in the hot, hot sun* (hold up five fingers)
- *Their heads droop down, one by one.* (make your fingers droop)
- *Down, down, down falls the gentle rain* (wiggle fingers as you move your hands downward)
- *And the five little tomato plants stand up straight again.* (hold up fingers straight again)

Adaptations: replace another type of plant for tomato, provide small slices of fresh tomatoes or whole or sliced grape/cherry tomatoes as a snack, plant tomato seeds in small cups. Consider repeating this activity after reading *Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert.

Do: Mulberry paper greeting cards (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Erica Kim uses traditional Korean paper made from mulberry leaves. In the book *Kimchi, Kimchi Everyday*. Provide scraps of [mulberry paper](#), glue sticks, and cardstock paper folded to a standard greeting card size. Help participants tear and glue scraps of paper to the front in interesting designs to the front of the card. Provide markers & pencils for participants to write messages inside the card to grandparents, friends or a favorite children's book creator, such as Erica Kim. Bonus: also provide envelopes and stamps.

Do: Cyanotype prints (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Go outside and provide sheets of [Cyanotype/Nature Print paper](#). Provide small items for participants to use for their prints or encourage them to collect leaves, grass, stones, and other small natural items if they are available in your library's outdoor space. Follow the easy manufacturer's instructions to create the prints. Send prints home with participants or use them as bulletin board backgrounds or other decorative ways in your library.



Message for parents & caregivers: We all learn through our hands. Provide opportunities for your children to experiment with art and craft supplies and provide help only if they ask for it. Process is much more important than perfection!

Adventures in My Mind

Objective: To encourage imagination in the minds of everyone

See Also: *Dream it Up! Adventures in Imagination* chapter, 2024 CSLP manual (pgs 98 - 103)

Try Again: In September at back-to-school time

Books:

Bowwow Powwow by Brenda J. Child

How to Eat a Book by Kelly Macleod

If You Were a Dog by Jamie Swenson

Knight Owl by Christopher Denise

The Nice Dream Truck by Beth Ferry

Pete's a Pizza by William Steig

Something Great by Jeanette Bradley

Star Fishing by Sang-gun Kim

Star Stuff by Rand Burkert

What Can You Do With a Rock? by Pat Zietlow Miller

What if... by Samantha Berger

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards, rhymes, etc.:

Sing and sign: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Sing the traditional song through in its entirety a few times. Teach participants some [basic American Sign Language signs](#) and sing and sign the song.

Do: Starlight dance party (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Hang fairy lights around your program space. At the end of storytime stream some songs about stars and imagination and get up and dance. Shawn's favorite songs about stars for preschool dance parties are *Starlight* (Madonna), *Another Star* (Stevie Wonder), *Counting Stars* (One Republic), *All Star* (Smashmouth), *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* (Caspar Babypants), *A Sky Full of Stars* (Coldplay), *Shining Star* (Earth, Wind, & Fire), *Walking on the Moon* (The Police or reggae version by Cas Haley), *The Final Countdown* (Europe), *Starchild* (Level 42). Provide streamers and scarves for additional ways for expressive movement.

Do: Community Rocks (Great project for teen volunteer assistance)

Set out rocks and art supplies (paints, stickers, googly eyes, etc.). Help participants decorate their rocks and encourage them to place the rocks in their neighborhoods or even the library.



Message for parents & caregivers: Music helps children develop language and inspires creativity. Play music while you cook, clean up, play with blocks, and draw.

Adventures in Kindness

Objective: To model kindness, empathy, and compassion in everyday life.

See Also: The *All Together Now* CSLP manual (2023)

Try Again: In February or during times of cultural holidays

Books:

Cozy by Jan Brett

Hi Pizza Man! by Virginia Walter

How do Dinosaurs Show Good Manners? by Jane Yolen

I Call My Hand Gentle by Amanda Haan

My Heart Fills with Happiness by Monique Gray Smith

Our Little Kitchen by Jillian Tamaki

Pete the Cat's Groovy Guide to Kindness by Kim & James Dean

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld

Shy Willow/La tímida Willow by Cat Min

Zoe and the Fawn by Catherine Jameson

Activities & transitions between books: fingerplays, songs, flannel boards, rhymes, etc.:

Friends, Friends fingerplay from [Mr. B's Buzz Fingerplay](#)



Sing and Sign: There's a Little Song a Singing in My Heart

https://youtu.be/-VkPPo_169g?si=u2UMYHpDY_Rpy9mo

***I Call My Hand Gentle* story extenders**

- Trace children's hands on white paper, ask them to decorate with crayons
- Provide accu-cut hand shapes cut from different colors of construction paper and decorate
- Use children's hand art to decorate the library, hang in restrooms as hand-washing reminders



Pizza Pie play

Cut a flannel circle into 2, 3, or 4 even pieces. Demonstrate putting the pie together to make a whole circle and then taking it apart. Have several circles and pieces to hand out to participants for their own experimentation. Be consistent with felt colors, i.e., all 4-piece circles are blue, 3-piece circles are red, 2-pieces are yellow. Can you put different colors together to make one whole pie?

Provide paper plates, crayons, markers, stickers, paper, glue, craft foam, etc. Encourage children to create their own sweet, savory, or pizza pies. Finished projects can be used for display and decoration.

Provide play dough, rolling pins, and cookie cutters and make a pie-making station for participants to create their own pies. Take pictures!

Message for parents & caregivers: Young children learn best when they feel safe, cozy, and loved. Read with your child on your lap and make reading time a special time between you and your little one.