

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.

FESTIVALS

BACKPACK ACTIVITIES

Activity: Let your child get messy and colorful with sidewalk chalk or finger paints, encouraging them to mix and explore colors like Mintoo and Chintoo in Festival of Colors.

Activity: Have a tea party with your child, building on some of the traditions described in Thanking the Moon. Be sure to make a wish on the moon!

Activity: Practice playing a beat on various surfaces, like Natsumi with her taiko drum.

Craft: Cover an old container of oats with construction paper and decorate with stickers and pictures. Now you have your own drum to play! Try experimenting with the sounds that different objects make when you tap them on your drum.

Fingerplay: “Sun, Moon, and Stars”

Here is the sun, it’s big and bright (arms over head to make sun)

And here is the moon, with its glowing light (use hands to make a circle)

Here are the stars up in the sky, (point upward)

Twinkling brightly way up high. (flutter fingers)

Song: “If You’re Wearing Red Today”

If you’re wearing red* today, Red today,
red today, If you’re wearing red today,
Stand up and shout, “Hooray!”

* Repeat, naming a different color each time.

