

# Growing Hearts, Minds, and Souls: A Summer Guide for OLL's Incoming Kinder Bees



## Recommended Books to Read Together This Summer

These books support social-emotional growth, early literacy, vocabulary development, and a love of reading.

### Friendship, Feelings & School Readiness

- *The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!* by Mo Willems
- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg
- *Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by D.J. Steinberg
- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing

### Early Literacy Favorites

- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* by Mo Willems
- *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney
- *Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson

### Timeless Picture Books

- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

### Nature, Curiosity & Wonder

- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown
- *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner
- *A Seed Is Sleepy* by Dianna Hutts Aston
- *Hello, World! Backyard Bugs* by Jill McDonald



# Learning Websites for Your Upcoming Kindergarten

These websites provide high-quality, developmentally appropriate learning experiences.



## Literacy & Reading

### Starfall

Practice letters, sounds, and early reading skills.

<https://www.starfall.com>

### Storyline Online

Enjoy wonderful books read aloud by celebrated storytellers.

<https://www.storylineonline.net>

### Teach Your Monster to Read

Fun games that build phonics and early reading skills.

<https://www.teachyourmonster.org>



## Math & Problem Solving

### ABCya!

Educational games for early math and literacy.

<https://www.abcya.com>

### PBS Kids

Learn with favorite characters while building math, reading, and science skills.

<https://pbskids.org>



## Science & Exploration

### National Geographic Kids

Explore animals, nature, and fascinating facts.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

### Highlights Kids

Read, play, investigate, and create.

<https://www.highlightskids.com>



## Creativity & Discovery

### Switch Zoo

Create and learn about animals while exploring science concepts.

<https://switchzoo.com>

### Crayola Create & Play

Creative art activities and projects for young learners.

<https://www.crayola.com>

# Summer Learning Checklist: Incoming Kindergartners

## Language & Literacy

- Read together for 15–20 minutes each day
- Retell a favorite story in your own words
- Practice recognizing and writing your first name
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs
- Clap syllables in words (butterfly, watermelon, dinosaur)
- Talk about letters and sounds you see around you
- Visit the library regularly - Sign up for the [Lake Oswego Summer Reading Program](#)

## Fine Motor Skills

- Draw pictures and tell stories about them
- Color, paint, and create with art supplies
- Use scissors safely with adult supervision
- Build with blocks, Legos, or playdough
- Complete puzzles and mazes
- Practice buttoning, zipping, and opening lunch containers

## Early Math

- Count objects to 20 and beyond
- Sort items by color, size, or shape
- Compare groups: Which has more? Which has fewer?
- Identify shapes in the world around you
- Play board games and card games
- Notice numbers in everyday life

## Independence & Social Skills

- Practice taking turns and sharing
- Follow 2–3 step directions
- Clean up toys and materials independently
- Practice asking for help respectfully
- Learn how to carry a backpack and lunchbox
- Use kind words with family and friends
- Talk about feelings and ways to solve problems

## Play, Explore & Grow

- Play outside every day
- Go on nature walks and observe God's creation
- Build forts, create inventions, and use your imagination
- Help with simple household chores

- Try a new activity or food
- Spend time playing with friends and family

### ★ Bonus Challenges

- Learn your parents' first and last names
- Learn your home address and phone number
- Write a letter or draw a picture for a loved one
- Keep a summer nature journal
- Tell a complete story with a beginning, middle, and end

**The best kindergarten readiness skill of all? A curious mind, a kind heart, and a love of learning! We can't wait to welcome your child to the Kinder Beehive this fall! 🐝💛**



**Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Brocka**