Since April is **National Poetry Month**, here are two of my favorite poems for you! One is funny and one is more inspirational. Hope these cheer your day!

**Bananananananana**

I thought I’d win the spelling bee
And get right to the top,
But I started to spell “banana,”
And I didn’t know when to stop.

- William Cole

Listen to the MUSTN’TS, child,
Listen to the DON’TS
Listen to the SHOULDN’TS
The IMPOSSIBLES, the WON’TS
Listen to the NEVER HAVES
Then listen close to me-
Anything can happen, child,
ANYTHING can be.

- Shel Silverstein

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**Nonsense Songs and Rhymes**

As you are going about your day, it can be silly and fun for you and your children to say silly nonsense rhymes and songs together. One of my favorites to sing with my son has been, **Willaby Wallaby Woo** – my favorite version of this song is the classic sung by the wonderful Raffi. Here is a link to the song on YouTube - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P2LSwwPBuo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P2LSwwPBuo) Since this song involves using people’s names, it has been a great way for us to sing/think about our family and friends who we can’t visit right now.

- Willaby Wallaby Woo,
  An elephant sat on you
- Willaby Wallaby Wee,
  And elephant sat on me!
- Willaby Wallaby Wenry
  An elephant sat on Henry,
- Willaby Wallaby Wallison,
  An elephant sat on Allison!

**Repurpose Familiar Games**

Take inventory of all the games already in your home or center and think about using them for learning in other ways. Here are a few ideas!

- **Scrabble** - use the letters only to make words, phrases, or sentences on a table or spread across the floor. Children can make their names, names of friends, and favorite words.
- **Checkers** – spread red and black checkers across the floor in different patterns. What patterns can children create? Play the game “Tic Tac Toe” with checker pieces. This is a great game to work on taking turns...
Favorite Audio Books for Children

The Library has a good selection of downloadable audio books for children of many ages and you can see this selection of books from our page here - https://piercecounty.overdrive.com/library/kids You will need a Pierce County Library Card, access to the Internet, and a personal computer, smartphone or tablet. Here are a few of my favorites -

**Read Along Favorites for children ages 4-8** –
- Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin
- Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena
- Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate DiCamillo
- Scaredy Squirrel by Melanie Watt

**Chapter Book Favorites for children ages 9-13** -
- Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
- Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Fun Learning Ideas for April

**Creative Places to Read Everyday**

Children learn so much from books! Reading aloud to children, whether or not they are already experienced readers, is wonderful not only in the language they hear and in increasing their understanding of what they read – it is also a way they can connect to you and feel comforted during these times. Quiet reading and looking at books is also great for children in practicing being by themselves!

- Read outside – back yard, deck, balcony, etc.
- Set up a tent or build a fort and read in there…
  - Bring flashlights and snacks!
- Read to a family pet, if you have one
- Read to/with stuffed animals or favorite toys!
- Listen to audio books

**Indoor Scavenger Hunt**

Each day, challenge your children to go on a search around your home, looking for very specific things. For example –

- Things that are blue
- Things that begin with letter “A”
- Things that are round (sphere shaped!)
- Things you can eat!

Gather them altogether in a box or a bucket and talk about what you found. Children can sort the things they found also – from smallest to largest, by texture, by height, etc.