



# Learning To Love Literacy

A Family Newsletter  
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## February Fun:

- Count cinnamon candy hearts.
- **Make** heart shaped sandwiches or cookies reading the recipe together..
- **Create** homemade Valentine cards. Help your child cut, draw and print her name to tell who the card is from.
- **Write** a special message with white crayon on paper plates. Reveal the message by painting over it with red watery paint.
- **Draw** half a heart on folded paper and help your child cut it out and open it up to see a heart.
- **Make** red & white play dough and use heart shaped cookie cutters.
- **Count** how many cards your child receives. Glue them on to a large piece of paper to create a placemat. Ask your child to print his name then laminate it and use at meal time.

## Rhyming & Alliteration

...early literacy skills

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
It's time for bed  
And I love you!

Say "red rhymes with bed, they both end in ed. What else rhymes with red?" **Make new rhymes.**

### Alliteration fun:

Red Rambling Roses  
Happy Healthy Hearts  
Valentines Vanishing  
Big Boisterous Bear hugs

Say "Happy Healthy Hearts all start with *hhh*" What letter makes a *hhh* sound? **Praise!**

Reading is about  
falling in love with books  
and building loving relationships  
between parent /caregiver and child.



## Books You'll Love...

When Momma Comes Home Tonight

-Eileen Spinelli

Love You Forever

-Robert Munsch

Mama's Bed

-Jo Ellen Bogart

Mama, Do You Love

Me?

-Barbara M. Joosse

Guess How Much I Love You

-Sam McBratney



## Children as Writers

*"I wrote a letter to my love and on the way I dropped it. A little monkey picked it up and put it in his pocket!"*

Childhood singing games such as this can often lead to other activities to boost your child's literacy skills. Singing, rhyming, turn-taking and writing are all part of this game. Singing and rhyming is not only fun, it helps children play with and isolate sounds in words. Writing is a process that also starts in the early years and improves with practice. Learning to write well can help your child be a better reader. Writing is a good way for children

to learn to organize their ideas, express their thoughts and be totally creative. You are your child's primary role model. He sees you as a writer when you write grocery lists, notes, recipes, "To Do" lists, emails and text messaging. He begins to see writing as meaningful. Your child will go through many stages of writing beginning with scribble writing consisting of irregular wavy lines on a page. As he moves to the next stage you will see him creating mock letters—individual marks and shapes made to resemble letters. Soon random strings of letters show up on the

page and usually these multiple letters are written without any phonetic spelling. He still hasn't made a connection between the names of the letters and the sounds they make. These squiggles and marks are a very important early attempt at written language. As he becomes aware of the connection between letters and the sounds they represent, he will show you how he writes the sounds. Using mostly consonants such as "lv" for the word *love*, words are simplified. This experimental spelling invites him to actively think about the letter-sound relationship. Write-on!