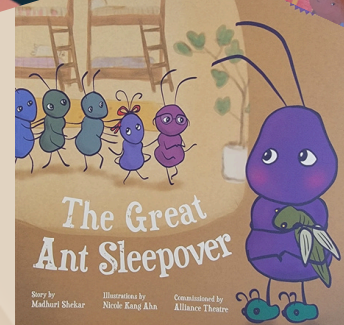




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FAMILY LITERACY



SUMMER 2025

AGES 0-8

ACTIVITY GUIDE

FOR PARENTS & EARLY EDUCATORS

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FAMILY LITERACY EVENTS

SUMMER 2025

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Family Literacy Events

This guide was created to help children and families bring the joy of books to life through fun, hands-on activities. Each activity is inspired by the stories featured during our MSRC Family Event and is designed to spark imagination, build early literacy skills, and create meaningful moments together. Whether you're reading at home, in the classroom, or out in the community, these activities will help young readers connect more deeply with each story and discover the magic of reading.

Our Family is Growing (ages 0-2)

***Our Family is Growing** tells the story of young Layla, who is excited to be a big sister. She learns that welcoming a new baby takes love, patience, and creativity. This activity guide offers engaging ways to help infants and toddlers explore themes of family, emotions, and new experiences through sensory play, movement, and bonding activities.*

The Great Ant Sleepover (ages 3-5)

***The Great Ant Sleepover** is the story of a young ant, Anton, who is nervous about sleeping away from home for the first time. His cousin Atta helps him feel better about his night out in the big kids' room. This activity guide provides engaging activities to help children explore themes of bravery, friendship, and new experiences.*

Hey, Georgia (ages 4-8)

***Hey, Georgia** by Malcolm Mitchell is a vibrant celebration of the Peach State, literacy, and the adventures that reading can bring. This activity guide includes engaging activities tailored for children ages 4-8, divided into specific age groups to support learning and creativity.*

Our Family is Growing (1/2)

1 Storytime Snuggles

- **Goal:** Promote bonding and early literacy skills.
- **Materials:** Book, soft blankets, stuffed animals.
- **Instructions:**
 - Read Our Family is Growing while cuddling with your child.
 - Use a gentle voice and point to the pictures as you read.
 - Encourage toddlers to mimic expressions or actions from the story.
 - Let infants explore the book by touching the pages.

2 Baby Care Play

- **Goal:** Help toddlers understand and practice caring for a baby.
- **Materials:** Baby doll or stuffed animal, small blanket, toy bottle, soft brush.
- **Instructions:**
 - Encourage toddlers to "care" for the baby doll by feeding, rocking, or tucking it in.
 - Talk about how older siblings can help with simple tasks like handing a blanket or singing a lullaby.
 - Sing a soothing song together while rocking the baby doll.

3 Sensory Basket: Big Sibling, Little Sibling

- **Goal:** Provide sensory exploration and introduce the concept of different sizes.
- **Materials:** A basket with pairs of soft toys (big and small), textured fabrics, and baby-safe rattles.
- **Instructions:**
 - Let children explore the textures and compare "big" and "little" objects.
 - Say phrases like "big sister, little baby" while showing the objects.
 - Encourage toddlers to sort or match similar textures.

Our Family is Growing (2/2)

4 Family Photo Exploration

- **Goal:** Build family connections and support emotional recognition.
- **Materials:** Printed family photos or a photo album.
- **Instructions:**
 - Show pictures of family members and name each person.
 - Talk about the baby coming soon (if applicable) and how everyone loves and helps each other.
 - Encourage toddlers to point to or hold a favorite picture.

5 Musical Movement: Rock the Baby

- **Goal:** Develop motor skills and reinforce nurturing behaviors.
- **Materials:** Soft music or lullabies.
- **Instructions:**
 - Hold your baby or toddler and sway gently to the music.
 - Encourage older toddlers to rock a doll or stuffed animal to the rhythm.
 - Use simple motions like clapping or tapping to the beat.

6 Peekaboo with Baby

- **Goal:** Strengthen social-emotional skills and introduce the idea of caring for a younger sibling.
- **Materials:** Light blanket or scarf.
- **Instructions:**
 - Play peekaboo with your child, hiding behind the blanket and then revealing yourself.
 - Say, "Where's the baby? Here's the baby!" to introduce the idea of playing with a younger sibling.
 - Encourage toddlers to take turns hiding and revealing their faces.

The Great Ant Sleepover (1/2)

1 Storytime Discussion: How Do You Feel?

- **Goal:** Help children express their emotions about new experiences and discuss ways to feel safe and comfortable.
- **Materials:** Book, emotion chart or emoji cards.
- **Instructions:**
 - After reading the story, ask children:
 - Have you ever felt nervous about sleeping away from home?
 - What helps you feel safe in a new place?
 - Show emotion cards and ask children to pick one that represents how Anton felt at different points in the story.

2 Ant Adventure Obstacle Course

- **Goal:** Encourage gross motor skills and teamwork.
- **Materials:** Pillows, tunnels, stepping stones (or paper plates), small tents or blankets.
- **Instructions:**
 - Create an "Ant Adventure" obstacle course where children pretend to be ants crawling through tunnels (blankets or tunnels), stepping over logs (pillows), and climbing hills (small ramps).
 - Encourage children to help each other complete the course, just like Atta helped Anton.

3 Design a Cozy Sleepover Spot

- **Goal:** Foster creativity and a sense of comfort.
- **Materials:** Blankets, stuffed animals, pillows, building blocks or recycled materials.
- **Instructions:**
 - Have children design their own cozy sleepover spot using blankets and pillows.
 - Provide building blocks or recycled materials for children to construct a mini sleepover tent or bed for a small toy.
 - Discuss: What would you bring to a sleepover to feel safe and happy?

The Great Ant Sleepover (2/2)

4 Friendship Bracelet Craft

- **Goal:** Encourage fine motor skills and symbolic connection to friendship and support.
- **Materials:** Yarn, pipe cleaners, beads, or cut-up straws.
- **Instructions:**
 - Have children create a friendship bracelet using yarn and beads or pipe cleaners and cut-up straws.
 - Discuss how Atta helped Anton feel safe and how friends and family can support each other.
 - Encourage children to exchange bracelets with a friend or family member as a symbol of comfort and encouragement.

5 Sleepover Snack Time: Ant Trail Mix

- **Goal:** Encourage healthy eating and hands-on engagement.
- **Materials:** Pretzels, raisins, cereal, mini crackers, cups or bags.
- **Instructions:**
 - Let children create their own “ant trail mix” by combining different small snacks.
 - Talk about how ants find food and work together as a team.

6 Bedtime Routine Matching Game

- **Goal:** Help children understand bedtime routines and feel more comfortable with sleepovers.
- **Materials:** Printable cards with bedtime activities (brushing teeth, reading a book, hugging a stuffed animal, turning off the lights).
- **Instructions:**
 - Mix up the cards and have children place them in the correct order of a bedtime routine.
 - Discuss how bedtime routines help us feel safe and ready for sleep, just like Anton learned.

Hey, Georgia (1/2)

1 Georgia Storytime & Discussion

- **Goal:** Introduce young learners to Georgia's culture and the joy of reading.
- **Materials:** Book, Georgia-themed props (peach, peanuts, state flag).
- **Instructions:**
 - Read Hey, Georgia aloud and pause to discuss the pictures.
 - Ask: What places in Georgia do you recognize? What adventure would you like to go on?

2 Peach State Art (Ages 4-5)

- **Goal:** Foster creativity through art.
- **Materials:** Construction paper, markers, tissue paper, glue.
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a peach collage with torn tissue paper.
 - Encourage children to decorate their artwork with words related to reading and adventure.

2 Exploring Georgia's Landmarks

- **Goal:** Introduce children to famous places in Georgia.
- **Materials:** Pictures of landmarks (Stone Mountain, Tybee Island, Savannah).
- **Instructions:**
 - Show pictures and discuss what makes each place special.
 - Ask: If you could visit one, where would you go and why?

3 Peachy Counting Game

- **Goal:** Strengthen math skills.
- **Materials:** Paper peaches, numbers.
- **Instructions:**
 - Count peaches together, adding and subtracting for simple math practice.

Hey, Georgia (2/2)

4 Georgia Trivia Game

- **Goal:** Enhance knowledge of Georgia's history and culture.
- **Materials:** Trivia cards with simple questions. (You can make them)
- **Instructions:**
- Ask fun questions about Georgia and reward correct answers with stickers or points for a prize.

5 Act It Out: Georgia Stories

- **Goal:** Build confidence and creativity.
- **Materials:** Simple props.
- **Instructions:**
- Act out scenes from Hey, Georgia or create a new story about the state.

6 Writing Prompt: My Georgia Adventure

- **Goal:** Develop storytelling skills.
- **Materials:** Journals, pencils.
- **Instructions:**
- Children write about a fictional adventure in Georgia.

Conclusion

Thank you for joining us in this important endeavor to increase the early literacy skills of Georgia's children. Your dedication and support are invaluable in making a difference in their lives. Keep reading, keep imagining, and keep growing—together.

[Click here for the survey!](#)

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