



**BOOKS TO READ!**

- Bear Feels Scared* by Karma Wilson
- Boo's Dinosaur* by Betsy Byars
- Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
- George and Martha* by James Marshall
- Henry and Mudge: The First Book* by Cynthia Rylant
- How Do You Hug a Porcupine?* By Laurie Isop
- How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills
- I Will Surprise My Friend! (An Elephant and Piggie Book)* by Mo Willems
- Making Friends* by Fred Rogers
- Mr. Gumpy's Outing* by John Burningham
- My Friend Rabbit* by Eric Rohmann
- One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo
- A Weekend with Wendell* by Kevin Henkes
- Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka

**Jump into Books!**

- Page by Page, Page by Page
- Come Along and Set the Stage
- Climb Up Jack's Beanstalk
- Hear Aesop's Animals Talk
- Watch the Hungry Caterpillar walk
- And become engaged!
- Page by Page, Page by Page
- Come Along and Set the Stage
- Thing One or Thing Two
- Horton Hears a Who
- Fish Colors of Red or Blue
- Page by page!

**Everyday Fun to Get Your Child Ready to Read**

Many of the daily activities included in this calendar can be adapted for you and your baby. The point of the activities is to have fun learning – feel free to change them to better suit you and your little one. Keep in mind that learning to read begins now – way before your child ever starts school.

Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are by doing the following together everyday:

- Talking
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing
- Playing

# December: Friends

**South Carolina Spotlight:** Betsy Byars has written over sixty books for young people. Her first book, *Clementine*, was published in 1962 and since then she has authored many award winning books including the Newbery Medal winner *The Summer of the Swans*. Betsy lives with her husband Ed on an air strip in the upstate of South Carolina.

**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

<p>Talk about why friends are important.</p>	<p>Make up a rhyme about friends and clap out the beat.</p>	<p>The word friend begins with the letter F. What other things begin with F?</p>	<p>Write a poem about a chubby little snowman.</p>	<p>Discuss ways your child can be a good friend to someone.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Insert a friend's name when singing BINGO: I have a very special friend And can you guess her name-o? J-U-L-I-E J-U-L-I-E J-U-L-I-E And Julie is her name-o!</p>	<p><b>Visit Your Library!</b> Check out some books about friends. If possible get <i>How Rocket Learned to Read</i> and <i>One Cool Friend</i> from this month's booklist.</p>
<p>Ask your child what animal they would like to bring home from the zoo if they were allowed. If you have a copy, read <i>One Cool Friend</i>.</p>	<p>Make up a story about friends by taking turns and each telling a part.</p>	<p><b>Science Day!</b> Pretend to be snowflakes, snowballs and snowmen, and then melt. Talk about how temperature affects snow.</p>	<p>Have your child learn about a friend by asking them questions about their family, pets, likes and dislikes.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Take turns being the leader and march in a circle singing: Follow the leader wherever he goes What he does next, nobody knows!</p>	<p>Invite one of your child's friends over to play or meet them and their parents at a park or the library.</p>	
<p>Tell a story about a special meal you shared with friends, then make a meal together.</p>	<p>Talk about what qualities a good friend should have.</p>	<p>Read one of your library books together. Point out the author's and illustrator's names.</p>	<p>Talk about winter in South Carolina and how it compares to winter in other places.</p>	<p><b>Dough Friends!</b> Make salt dough or play dough and use it to shape the letters in the name of a friend.</p>	<p>Make a holiday or winter card for a friend.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Will you be a friend of mine, A friend of mine, a friend of mine? Will you be a friend of mine and (insert an action) around with me? (Name) is a friend of mine, friend of mine, friend of mine. (Name) is a friend of mine who (insert an action) around with me!</p>
<p>Help your child practice zipping or buttoning their coat. Talk a walk outside together.</p>	<p><b>Mother Goose Time!</b> Three little kittens they lost their mittens, And they began to cry, Oh, Mother Dear, we sadly fear Our mittens we have lost. What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens! Then you shall have no pie.</p>	<p>Draw pictures of your friends and cut them out. Make them into puppets by taping them to popsicle sticks or straws. Put on a puppet show about your friends.</p>	<p>Help your child cut out paper snowflakes. Tape them to the window or string them together to make a garland to hang.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> Sing <i>It's a Small World</i>.</p>	<p>Are you having a special family celebration? Talk about your family's celebrations and traditions.</p>	
<p>Talk about how animals can be our friends too. Talk about pets you have or other animals your child knows.</p>	<p><b>Bath Time!</b> Bring some favorite toys or action figure friends into the bathtub. See which float and which sink.</p>	<p>Tell your child a story about one of your friends when you were their age.</p>	<p><b>Song Day!</b> I'm a great big snowman, tall and fat. Here is my tummy. Here is my hat. Raisins for my eyes, and a carrot for my nose, I'm all snow from head to toe!</p>	<p>Help your child come up with a New Year's resolution.</p>	<p>Talk about New Year's Eve and practice counting backwards from ten.</p>	<p>Read a book and substitute your child's name and friends' names for the characters in the story.</p>