Literacy
(listening, speaking, reading & writing… **having fun!)**

The following suggestions are intentionally playful. Above all, we want parents to experience activities like the following with a sense of joy and mutual exploration. In a recent article Gordon Neufeld stated that "Play is a sanctuary of safety; make your home more of a playground than a school." The following list aligns with this belief.

Carol Walters ~ district curriculum support teacher

Tumblebooks ~ https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=77

National Geographic for Kids ~
https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=77

Keep a daily journal
(drawings with letters or words for younger learners; drawings and writing for older children; explore feelings; write about daily activities)

Play board games together or create your own board game. Create rules to follow for games that were homemade.

Write notes to family members. Hide notes in places they are likely to find them.

Create art for your windows with messages of hope and well being for others to see and read.

Go for a walk with a family member. Look for homes that have artwork in the windows or sidewalk chalk messages. Have conversations as you find these examples. Use the ideas from this walk to create some of your own.

Play rhyming games. Start with a word like **at, tire, or cake**. Toss an object to the person who then states a rhyming word… at, bat, cat, fat, mat, hat, pat, rat, sat, vat. Discuss new and unfamiliar words (e.g. vat).

Tell stories. Stories have characters, a problem, and a solution.
(e.g. a monkey … in a city … wants to find its jungle home)

Use toys to create and act out a story that has characters, a problem, and a solution. Once the story is well rehearsed, create a video to watch with your family.

Take turns telling a story. One person starts, then stops and the next person continues.

Use scrap materials from around your home to create story characters. (egg cartons, plastic containers, pieces of fabric etc.) Use towels, dishcloths, t-shirts etc. to form the setting or location of your story (forest, beach, city, farm. jungle etc.)

As you create meals in the kitchen, invite your child to share the task by reading or following the recipe and directions.

Share a card game or learn a new one together using the internet to help with ideas.

Create a scavenger hunt with directions to go to the next place within your home.
e.g. Look for a clue in the front hall closet. In the closet, the note might say, Look under Sam's bed. etc.
The adult might write the first series of clues and hide them. Afterwards, invite the child's to create one of their own. For younger children, clues can be created as drawings too!

Use cushions to create a fort and play! When finished, write directions for others explaining how to build an awesome fort.

Find items around your home that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Can you find examples from all 26 letters?

Look online for sight words (e.g. you, look, he, we, see, have etc.). Make a deck of cards with a different site word on each card. Start with about 5 cards. Playfully, get to know these 5 words (draw pictures to help, colour code, make shape boxes around each word etc.). Take as much time as your child needs to memorize them. Start with just two cards if that's better for your child.

Once your child is comfortable, time how long it takes to read all the cards as they are flipped. Use a phone or computer as a timer. Play a few times, trying to 'beat your best time!' Add new sight words slowly, building in lots of opportunity for success for your child.

Encourage your child or children to ask questions and show their curiosity. Responses such as, "That's such a good question!" will encourage further curiosity.

Don't feel you need to answer their questions. Instead, respond by saying, "I wonder how we could find that out?" Research these curiosities together.

Make musical instruments together using found objects from around your home. Create a song, write the lyrics, form a band!