

Tip of the Month:	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Consider downloading a reading tracker app called, Beanstack!!</p>  <p>With 'Beanstack', you track reading and activities to earn badges. If you earn a certain number of badges, you could win a prize! The ultimate goal is to read 1000 books with your child before Kindergarten.</p> <p>The Beanstack reading tracker app may be affiliated with your local Public Library. The Public Libraries that are participating in Simcoe County are Essa, Barrie, Midland and Bradford.</p> <p>If you are interested in this app, but your local Library wasn't mentioned above, you can still sign up with any of the above Libraries, you just won't be eligible to win a prize, but you WILL still earn badges. Earning badges and seeing them accumulate is just as rewarding because it makes all of the reading and literacy activities that you do with your child visible!</p> <p>I encourage you to explore this app and begin tracking and earning badges! It's a lot of fun! Special thanks to the Essa Public Library for inviting me to collaborate with them in the development of the activity suggestions!</p> <p>To register for the Beanstack Tracker App, please visit, https://www.beanstack.com/ or search "Beanstack" in your app store on your handheld device!</p>			<p>1 Let's "paint" the snow by using a spray bottle filled with water and a couple of drops of food colouring.</p> 	<p>2 Let's make snow angels! Whose is the biggest? Smallest?</p> 	<p>3 We don't always have to read the words in the book. Reading aloud is more about the conversation we have while reading, so just talk about the pictures, the characters, & relate it to my life.</p>	<p>4 When singing and saying nursery rhymes, point out what a rhyme is. Say: "Hey! WALL-FALL! Those words RHYME. They sound the same!"</p>	<p>5 Let's write some holiday cards!</p> 
	<p>6 Let's bundle up and go for a winter walk and talk about what we SEE!</p> 	<p>7 Let's find a big, empty cardboard box. I'll use my imagination to create something out of it.</p>	<p>8 Fill up a sink with warm sudsy water & let me practice pouring with cups and bowls.</p>	<p>9 CONNECT, Don't DIRECT! Children need to feel FELT! Resist telling me what to do all the time. Just ENJOY my company!</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11 Let me cut any wrapping paper scraps! I need lots of practice with scissors!</p>	<p>12 FAMILY GAME NIGHT!</p> 
	<p>13 Make some holiday treats! Read the recipe out loud, & talk about what you do.</p>	<p>14 Show me how to take 10 deep breaths when I feel frustrated.</p>	<p>15 Put some tape on the floor for me to walk along the line(s) to practice my balance!</p> 	<p>16 Over the holidays, please save any empty boxes for me. There are so many ways I can explore boxes!</p>	<p>17 Let's eat alphabet soup today, but encourage me to label and identify the letters and the sound they make.</p>	<p>18 Make your voice go fast/slow, high and low, loud/quiet when reading aloud.</p>	<p>19 Name 5 things you are grateful for every day!</p> 
	<p>20 Let's build a reading fort!</p> 	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Winter Solstice!</p>	<p>22 Make getting dressed easier for me by pretending that my zipper is a choo-choo train! Let me zip it!</p> 	<p>23 Take the time to nurture and care for yourself today - even in just some small way. I will be so much happier and ready to learn when YOU are happy and well rested too!</p>	<p>24 Tell me about a tradition that you had when you were little.</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> 
	<p>27 Let's learn a new nursery rhyme. How about Humpty Dumpty?</p>	<p>28 Do you want to build a snowman?</p> 	<p>29 Let's spend quality time together - just be with me. Sit down and take some time to notice what I am truly interested in, and copy what I do. I love you.</p>	<p>30 Can we paint today? You can put a big piece of paper in the bathtub and let me paint the paper with my hands. This will be an easy clean up as I'll already be in the tub!</p> 	<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy New Year!</p>		