Dear Parents:

Today we used some of these books, fingerplays, and other materials in our toddler and preschool storytimes. Please continue helping your child develop a love for books and reading by sharing these rhymes, books, and other activities with your child.

Books To Share

The Day It Rained Hearts
by Felicia Bond

The Biggest Valentine Ever
by Steven Kroll

If You’ll Be My Valentine
by Cynthia Rylant

The Very Fairy Princess Follows Her Heart
by Julie Andrews

Love, Splat
by Rob Scotton

Foxy In Love
by Emma Dodd

Love, Ruby Valentine
by Laurie Friedman

Fancy Nancy: Heart to Heart
by Jane O’Connor

Guess How Much I Love You All Year Round
by Sam McBratney

How Do Dinosaurs Say I Love You?
by Jane Yolen

The Night Before Valentine’s Day
by Natasha Wing

Amelia Bedelia’s First Valentine
by Herman Parish

Fun With Fingerplays and Songs

Make a Valentine
Snip, snip, snip the paper.
(Move fingers in a scissors-cutting motion.)
Paste, paste, paste the paper.
(Brush fingers against palm of the other hand.)
Press, press, press the paper.
(Press palms together.)
To make a valentine for you!
(Make “giving” motion.)

I Have a Little Heart
I have a little heart
(Place hand over heart.)
And it goes thump, thump, thump.
(Pat chest with fingers.)
And it keeps right on beating
When I jump, jump, jump.
(Jump in place.)
I get a special feeling
(Hug your shoulders.)
When I look at you.
(Point to children.)
It makes me want to give you
A kiss! (Blow a kiss.) Or two!! (Blow another kiss.)

On Valentine’s Day
(tune: “Bingo”)
On Valentine’s Day, a special day,
I give each friend a heart.
Counting Valentines
Here's a valentine.
(Curve pointer fingers toward each other, touch them together and touch thumbs together to make a heart shape.)
Here's a valentine.
(Repeat first action.)
A great big valentine I see.
(Hold hands over head, pointed down to make an even larger heart shape.)
Can you count them?
Are you ready?
One! (Repeat first action.)
Two! (Repeat first action.)
Three! (Repeat second action.)

Homemade Valentines
(Hold up five fingers.)
This valentine has lots of lace.
(Wiggle thumb.)
This valentine has a funny face.
(Wiggle index finger.)
This valentine is red and small.
(Wiggle middle finger.)
This valentine is the biggest of all!
(Wiggle ring finger.)
This valentine has glitter and glue,
(Wiggle pinky finger.)
And its message says, "I love you!"
(Point to children.)

If You Love Me and You Know It
(tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)]
If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.
If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.
If you love me and you know it, Then your face will surely show it.
If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.
Other verses:
…Blow me a kiss.
…Give me a hug.
…Say “I love you.”

Handprint Valentine
Materials: red, pink, and/or white construction paper; scissors; glue stick; tempera paint - red or white; paintbrush
Help child cut out a paper heart large enough for them to place their hands side-by-side on the heart; glue heart to larger piece of paper. Paint child’s hands with paint and help them put handprints on the paper heart. After the valentine is dry, finish by writing a special sentiment on the valentine card. Suggested text: Here are my little handprints, especially for you. They make a pretty valentine and say, "I love you, too!"

Heart Friends
Materials: assorted colors of construction paper; glue sticks; markers
Cut out hearts of all different sizes. Encourage your child to use the shapes to make a different creature. (Examples: hearts in a row to make a caterpillar, heart upside down to make a mouse face). Glue shapes together and use markers to add details.

Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library®
Learning to read begins before your child starts school. Help your children develop early literacy skills now; this makes it easier for children to learn to read once they begin school. Five of the best ways to help your child get ready to read are:

- Talking
- Singing
- Reading
- Writing
- Playing

If you would like more information, please ask the staff in the children’s area.

Every Child Ready to Read® is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

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