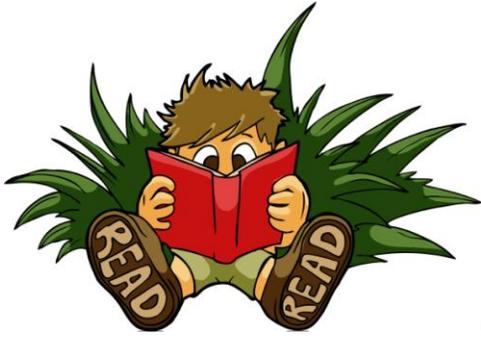


# AUGUST 2016

- 1** **Sister's Day** Have your child send a short and sweet note to anyone who's a sister in his life – could be an actual sister, or a close friend or neighbor, a cousin, or even your sister if you have one.
- 2** **Watermelon Day** Tomorrow is Watermelon Day! Celebrate by playing [ABCD Watermelon](#) on the *Between the Lions* website.
- 3** **Kids Day** To celebrate Kids' Day, create a scavenger hunt around the house. Make notes at each location providing clues to get to the next spot (you may need to help your child read and decipher the clues), like "Go to the place where you eat breakfast in the morning."
- 4** **Chocolate Chip Day** Spell out letters or short words with chocolate chips on a plate or cutting board. Use the chips to create several letters or words before your child gets to eat them!
- 5** **Body Parts** As you wash your baby, gently and slowly massage each of her body parts with a soft, soapy cloth. As you wash each part, make up a song about it, and sing it or say it softly. "Washie, washie baby's fingers, baby's fingers, washie, washie." Repeat for each body part. This is a great way to relax your baby for bedtime.
- 6** **Root Beer Float Day** Making root beer floats is simple – just add a scoop of vanilla ice cream to a glass of root beer – but you and your child can try different combinations. Try different kinds of ice cream and have your child be the official taste-tester, making notes for each combination. If your child isn't yet writing, he can use a star or smiley face system (such as three stars is best, one is worst)



# AUGUST 2016

7

August  
Holiday

Unlike other months, August doesn't have "real" holidays like Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Memorial Day. Have your child make up his own August holiday, one that kids everywhere would want to celebrate. Maybe it'll be "Family Day," "Stuffed Animal Day" or "Read Together Day."

8

More August  
Holiday

Now that your child has ideas for an August holiday, have him pick his favorite and decide which day in the month it'll be celebrated. Together, write out the ideas and rules of the holiday.

9

More August  
Holiday

Can you celebrate this August holiday with family and friends? Plan a real (if simple) party around the holiday, and have your child create invitations and send them out.

10

S'mores Day

Make s'mores (graham crackers, roasted marshmallows, and chocolate bars) around a real campfire or just in your kitchen. As you roast the marshmallows and assemble the s'mores, tell "campfire stories" (even if there's no campfire in sight!). The stories don't have to be scary – each member of the family can tell a funny camping or outdoors memory.

11

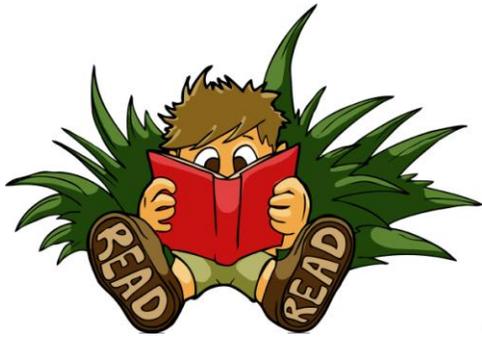
Smile Week  
begins

Have your child make a list of all the things that make him smile, like a favorite stuffed animal or playgrounds. Then, try to use the items throughout the week, like bringing a teddy bear to the dinner table or making a special visit to the playground.

12

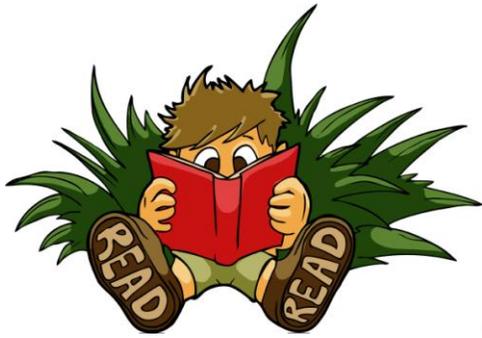
More Smile  
Week

What book makes your child smile more than anything else? Maybe it's a funny book or just one that your child knows by heart. Sit down and read it together, and then let your child "read" it back to you, even if he's just telling the story as he remembers it.



# AUGUST 2016

- 13** Left-Hander's Day  
If you have a left-handed child, it might be harder for them to cut with scissors and even learn to write. Visit [lefthandersday.com](http://lefthandersday.com) for tips and more information.
- 14** Ride and Read  
Keep some familiar children's picture books in the car for your child to look at. Your child can look at the pictures and tell you the story in his own way. You can ask questions that invite your child to explain the story to you. For example, ask "Why was the little boy mad at his brother?"
- 15** More Ride and Read  
Have your child compare stories between two or more of the picture books. Ask questions about the different books. "Do you like this book or the other book better? Why?"
- 16** Roller Coaster Day  
Visit the PBS KIDS Island section of the [PBS KIDS Raising Readers site](http://pbskids.org) to "ride" the roller coaster and play reading games!
- 17** Friendship Week begins  
In honor of Friendship Week, have your child write nice notes to friends and even invite them over for story time.
- 18** Bad Poetry Reading Day  
To celebrate this silly day, sit down with your child and write the wackiest, most off-the-wall poems you can think of!
- 19** Australian Children's Book Week  
Go to the library and check out books by Australian authors and illustrators like Mem Fox and Graeme Base.
- 20** Australia Words  
Write down a list of words that come from Australia with your child, like "kangaroo," "outback," and "koala bear." Have your child illustrate each word.



# AUGUST 2016

## 21 Meet the Mail Carrier

Explain to your child that a mail carrier brings letters and packages that people send to you. She also takes your letters and packages to other people. "Letters and packages can travel all over the world."

## 22 More Mail Carrier

Help your child think of questions she wants to ask the mail carrier. "How do you carry all those letters and packages?" Then, sit outside one day when the mail carrier is making her rounds. She will be thrilled to meet you and your child, and answer questions about her job.

## 23 Even More Mail Carrier

Have your child write a letter – to a friend or grandparent or even a neighbor – and complete the envelope together, showing your child where to put the address, return address, and stamp. Then put it out in the mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up and send on its way.

## 24 Bowling Week begins

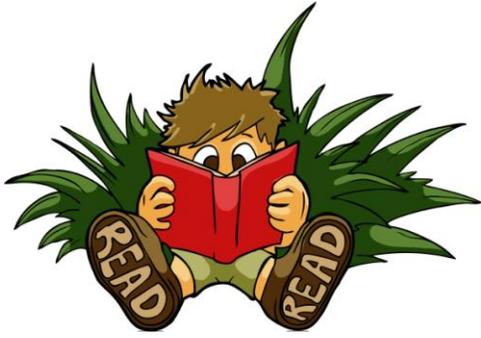
Take your child bowling (or even set up your own game with empty plastic bottles and a ball), and talk about all the words that are involved with bowling – "pins," "ball," "lane," "scoring."

## 25 Banana Split Day

Make banana splits together and write down all the words you can make from the letters in "banana split," like "taps," "lips," and "bats."

## 26 A Trip to the Library

Before you go to the library, tell your child that the library has many different kinds of books on many interesting topics, for example trees or animals. Ask her what topic she is interested in, and give her some ideas. Maybe she wants a book about trees and leaves, or maybe she wants a storybook by her favorite author or illustrator. "The librarian can help us find the book we



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want."

**27** More Library

When you get to the library, encourage your child to talk to the librarian. She can ask for help to find the book she wants. If your library offers library cards to young children, help her get a library card. Then let her borrow a book to take home.

**28** More Library

The library is full of interesting things to find out about. Take a walk around the library with your child and look at the book collections. In the children's section, read the signs on the shelves. Look for words like fiction, non-fiction, biography, history, and geography. Help your child discover what a few of these words mean. "Let's look at some of the books to find out."

**29** More Library

On another day, encourage your child to talk to the librarian. For example, ask her to show you how to search for library books on the library's computer system.

**30** Back to School

Starting a new school year is a big deal, and your child may be nervous or worried about what the year will bring. Get ready by talking lots about the first day back, like talking about what grade your child will be in, what his teacher is named, which classroom will be his, if he'll be riding the bus.

**31** More Back to School

When your child gets home from school, sit down over a snack and talk about all the new things he experienced and learned today. You may also want to take a picture of your child on the first day, and then have him write his name and age on the back.