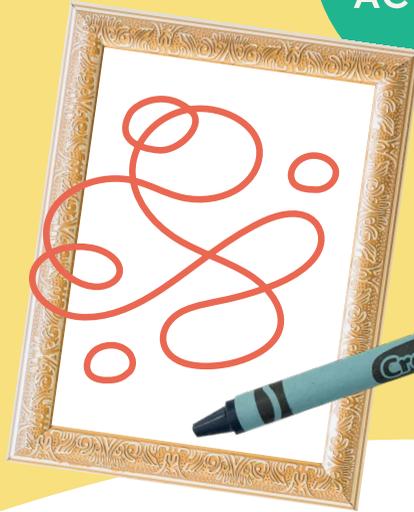


pre-k
ages 3-5



8
AMAZING
ACTIVITIES



Discover, Draw, and Build!



Hamilton County
cincinnati
public
library

DISCOVER
SUMMER

from the Library and Our Partners

Welcome!

We're so glad you picked up our second annual summer booklet for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. It's designed to help kids learn about themselves and the world around them, all while having fun!

New This Year

We've included activities from a variety of organizations in Cincinnati and Hamilton County that all have something to offer kids and their families. Some are places you may have visited often in the past, and some may be new to you. This booklet is a great way to learn more about what's available to you and your family right here in greater Cincinnati.



Discover more ways to celebrate summer in Cincinnati and Hamilton County at CincySummer.org! This web page is meant to be a one-stop spot for you to find out about all kinds of fun learning opportunities happening this summer throughout the city and county.



Paula Brehm-Heeger

Paula Brehm-Heeger
Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Library Director



p.s. Show us the activity you enjoyed the most by tagging [#cincysummer](https://CincySummer.org) on social media!

Complete Activities, Earn Prizes!

Complete 5 of the activities in this book. Then, fill out an entry form at any Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library location or log your activities online at CincinnatiLibrary.org/summer for a chance to win a great prize! Prizes include gift cards, LEGO sets, art supplies and more.

Did you complete all 8 activities in this booklet?

You are eligible for a second entry in our prize drawing!

Winners will be drawn in August 2021.

Entrants must be age 18 or younger.



Visit CincySummer.org

Find out about the coolest events for kids and families around Cincinnati and Hamilton County this summer!

Get Free Books in the Mail

Kids under age 5 can get free books delivered right to their doorstep? (Cool, right!?) Visit the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library website to sign up.

OhioImaginationLibrary.org

Discover It with a Discovery Pass

Enjoy free visits to our county's amazing arts, cultural, and recreational attractions with the Library's Discovery Pass program. Make an online reservation today!

CincinnatiLibrary.org/discovery-pass

Free Meals for Kids at Select Libraries

The Library offers free meal boxes. This service is provided by UMC food Ministry and made possible through federal funding. Visit our website for times and locations.

CincinnatiLibrary.org/meals

Storytime in Person and Online

Join our and caring Library staff in person or online and help your kids develop early literacy skills!

CincinnatiLibrary.org/storytime

41 locations · No late fees · 229+ databases · Millions of books, movies, music & more



Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library
800 Vine St.

Cincinnati, OH 45202

513-369-6900

CincinnatiLibrary.org

Dance Like a Bird

Let's move our bodies like birds while learning some cool dance!



WARM UP

Play a song that you like to dance to.

1. Raise your hands high above your head. Put your hands down and touch your toes. Bend your knees if you need to. Repeat three times.
2. Put your hands on your knees and bounce up and down. Try to bounce in rhythm with the music. Straighten your knees and reach to the sky. Now put your hands back on your knees and bounce again. Count to eight. Repeat three times.
3. Do 10 jumping jacks.

Great job. You're ready to dance! *llll*

DISCOVER MORE



Watch a dance-themed storytime from the Library. Then, learn to dance like a penguin with a Cincinnati Ballet dancer!

[youtube.com/cincinnati/library](https://www.youtube.com/cincinnati/library)



Listen to our special bird dance playlist while you move!

[CinLib.org/bird-playlist](https://www.cinlib.org/bird-playlist)



Draw a picture of your favorite bird dance.

DANCE LIKE A PENGUIN *llll*

1. Penguins waddle when they walk. They also slide on their bellies across the snow. Unlike other birds, they do not use their wings to fly.
2. Stand straight and tall. Pretend your arms are glued to your sides. Bend your wrists so your hands are pointing up.
3. Move your feet so your heels are touching and your toes are facing out to the side. Make sure all your toes are on the ground. You are now standing in *first position* in ballet!
4. Let's work on your penguin waddle. Move your weight from one foot to another. Keep your knees straight and your arms glued to your sides.
5. Some types of penguins live in snowy, icy places. Keeping your penguin posture stay standing and glide around your space like the floor is made of ice. Put your arms behind you like wings as you glide.



In ballet, dancers stand like penguins with their toes turned out all the time. Try to keep your toes turned out, too.

DANCE LIKE A BLUEBIRD *llll*

1. Bluebirds are small, great at flying, and love to sing! You can spot bluebirds in our area. When they are on the ground, bluebirds jump on two feet.
2. Bring your elbows to your waist and your hands next your shoulders. Flap your hands like wings.
3. Stand on your toes and move from side to side and front to back. Pretend you are flying! Practice singing a song as you fly.
4. Now lower back onto your heels. Take tiny jumps all around. Jump off two feet and land on two feet.

Take a bow just, like a Cincinnati Ballet dancer, by bending at the waist.

This activity is provided by:



Cincinnati Ballet's Cervilio Miguel Amador, *The Sleeping Beauty* (2010). Photo: Peter Mueller



This activity is provided by:



Letter Hunt

Can you find the letters of the alphabet in nature?

WHAT YOU NEED

- 5 index cards or small pieces of paper
- 1 larger piece of paper for drawing
- Several crayons or markers
- Hard surface to draw on (Like a clipboard, box, or cutting board)

ACTIVITY

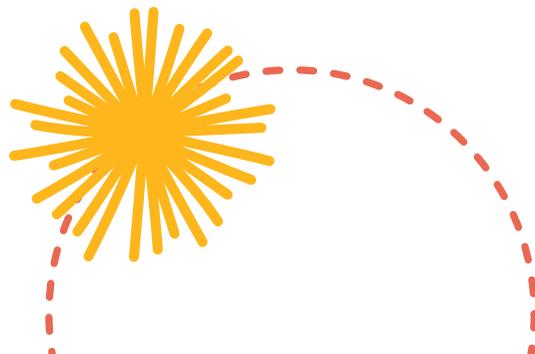
1. Before you go:
 - Gather your supplies, listed above.
 - Write the following letters, one on each index card: **CINCY**

Great job. You're ready to hunt! *llll*

2. Walk through a park, around your neighborhood, or in your yard. Look at the nature around you, such as trees, sticks, flowers, grass, stones, and the sky.
3. Look at each index card and find the closest match you can in nature to each letter's letter shape. Using your large pieces of paper, draw pictures of the letter shapes in nature and the area where you found them.
4. Finished your letter drawings? Awesome! Have an adult help you put them in order.



Take pictures and share with us: **#cincysummer** on social media



Here are some examples:

This vine looks like the letter C.



This forked stem looks like the letter Y.



Draw a picture showing where you found your letters matches!

DISCOVER MORE



Get active at one of the Great Parks of Hamilton County. Find a park near you: [GreatParks.org](https://www.greatparks.org)



Draw a Picture for a Loved One

Show someone you care by making something special for them.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Crayons or Markers
- Paper or the frame on the opposite page

ACTIVITY

Pick someone you are really glad you have in your life and draw a picture for them. Here are some things you may want to include in your picture:

- Something you'd like to tell them or show them.
- A time you laughed with or had fun with that person.

This activity is provided by:



Give the picture to the person you made it for. How did it feel to give your picture to that person?

DISCOVER MORE



Make lasting friendships and find ways to strengthen our communities at the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati. See what it means to belong at [MyY.org](https://www.myy.org)!



My Drawing for _____



From _____

Family Media Planning

Explore how your family can use digital media in a healthy and appropriate way.

CREATE YOUR PLAN

- Set daily limits. Every child and family is different.
- Set reasonable screen time limits that work for your family, keeping these recommendations in mind:

Younger than 18 months

Avoid use except for video chat with family, sharing photos, and listening to music and eBooks.

2-5 years

Limit to one hour per day of high-quality, age-appropriate content.

- Establish rules. Create screen-free zones, like the dining table and child's bedroom. This helps promote healthy eating and sleeping habits.
- Explore together. Enjoy media time alongside your child and talk about it.
- Make connections. Use media as a tool to explore your child's interests. Connect media to real-world experiences.
- Find balance. Make sure your plan includes time for other things, like playing, reading, exercise, and exploring the outdoors.
- If you go off the plan, it isn't the end of the world. Life is messy and doesn't always go according to plan. Just try again, or adjust your plan if needed.

Sticking to your family media plan helps enhance daily life, according to the American Association of Pediatrics.



This activity is provided by:



Be a role model. Set a good example for your child by limiting your own media usage.

OUR FAMILY MEDIA PLAN



DISCOVER MORE



Learn more about creating a family media plan: [CinLib.org/media-plan](https://cinlib.org/media-plan)



Tumblebooks: Animated picture books, read-alongs, educational games and puzzles, and National Geographic videos. [CinLib.org/tumblebooks](https://cinlib.org/tumblebooks)



World Book Early World of Learning: Educational videos, interactive games, narrated stories, and online activities for learning at home. [CinLib.org/world-book](https://cinlib.org/world-book)

Shape Detective

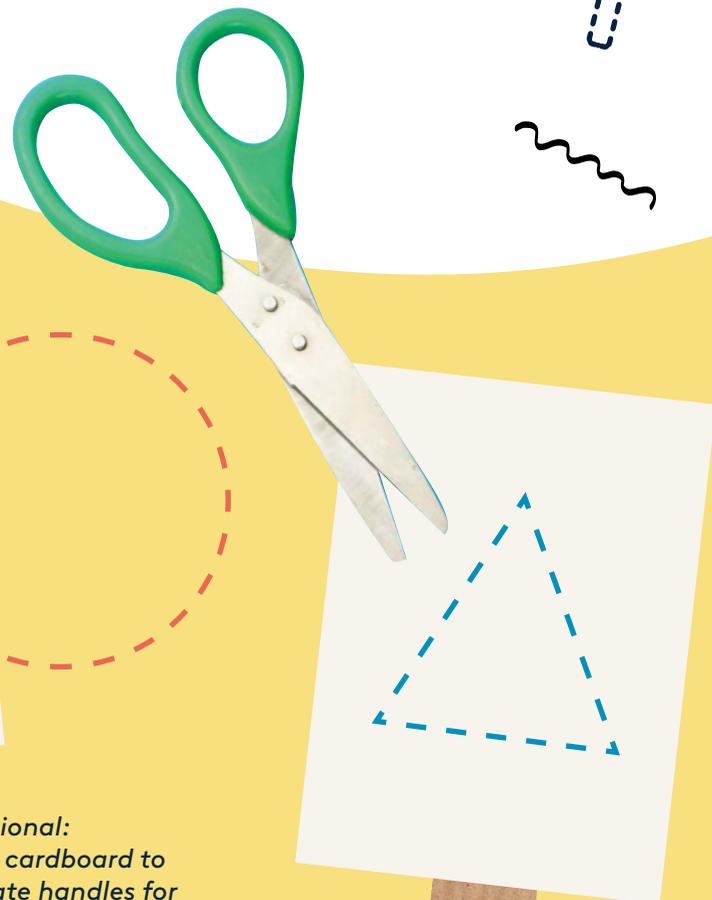
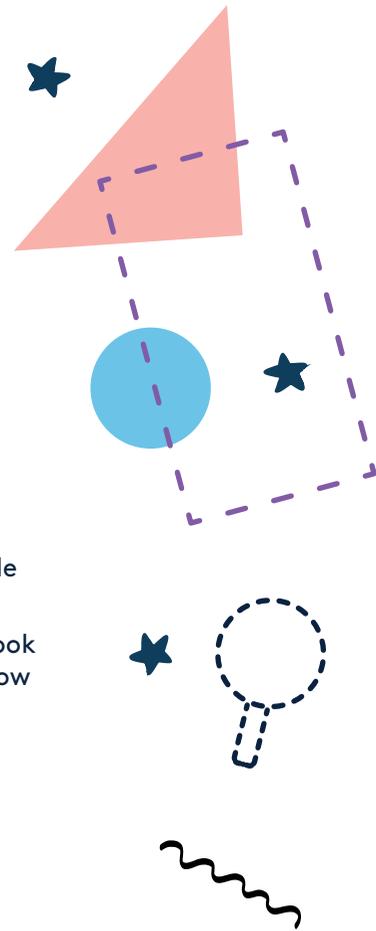
Find shapes where you live!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Four pieces of paper, the stiffer the paper the better (cardstock is best, if available)
- One marker

ACTIVITY

1. Draw one large shape per piece of paper: circle, rectangle, square, and triangle.
2. Cut out the middle of each shape, being careful to cut inside of the marker lines. Each piece of paper is now a shape finder!
3. Like a detective, walk around with your shape finders and look for matching shapes by looking through the holes. Count how many matching shapes you find!

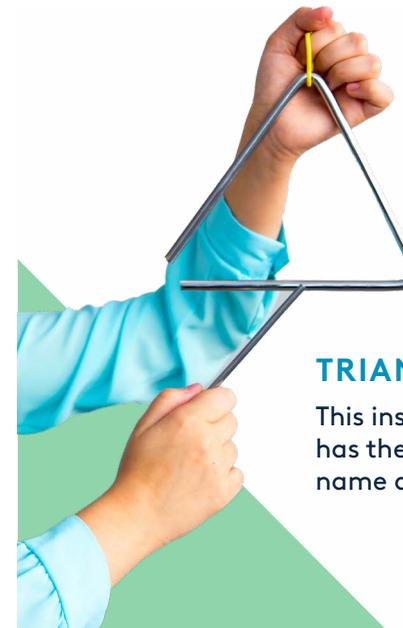


*Optional:
Use cardboard to
create handles for
your shape finders!*

Learn the sounds and shapes of some instruments!

GLOCKENSPIEL

It's a long word! Say it – glock-un-sh-peel! This instrument is in the shape of a rectangle.



TRIANGLE

This instrument has the same name as its shape!



GONG

Gongs can be LOUD. They are almost always circles.



DRUM

Many drums have circles!

This activity is provided by:



DISCOVER MORE

If your child liked this activity, they might want to take the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music's preschool classes. The arts are a great way to understand how the world works!
ccm.uc.edu/arts4all/prep.html

Name Play

Learn to pick out and write the letters that spell your name.

SENSORY WRITING

Ask an adult to help you spread uncooked rice, sand, sugar, or flour in a thin layer on a plate or tray. Use your finger to draw letters in the surface. Swipe the top to clear the surface and start again.

DRIVING ON WORDS

Ask an adult use the marker to draw one large shape per piece of paper: circle, rectangle, square, and triangle.

Cut out the middle of each shape, being careful to cut inside of the marker lines.

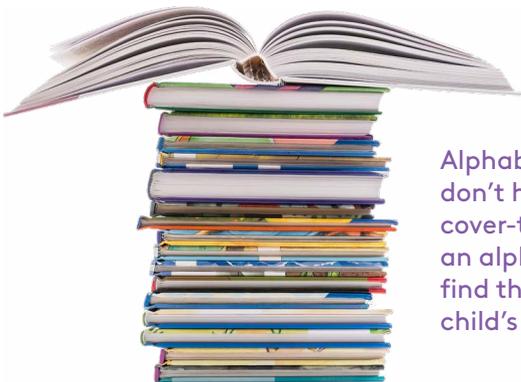
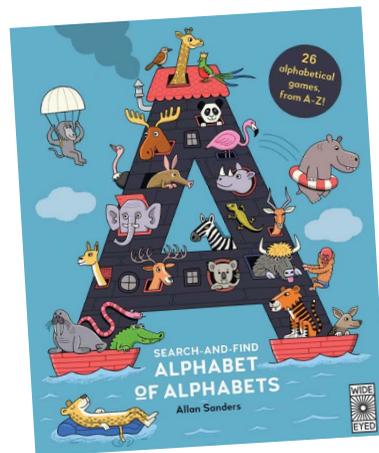
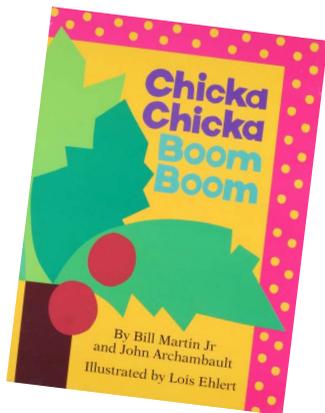
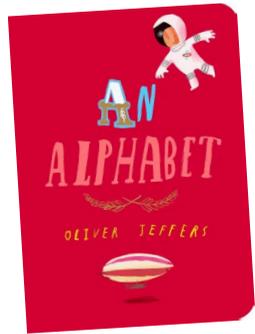
LETTER MATCHING

Ask an adult to write your name on a large piece of paper. Next, have them write the individual letters of your name on sticky notes. Match the sticky letters to the ones in your name.

This activity is provided by:



Challenge your child to find the letters of their name on signs, labels, books, and other objects you see around you. Try playing this game in the car or grocery store.



Alphabet books don't have to be read cover-to-cover. Use an alphabet book to find the letters in your child's name.



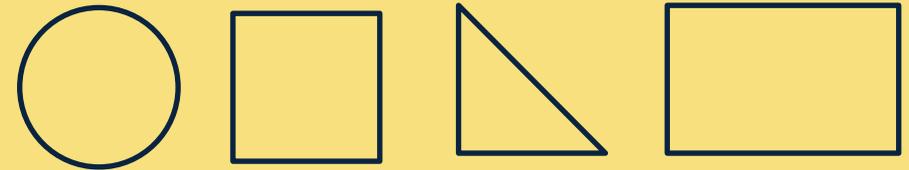
How many letters are in your name?

Blank writing lines for the first question.

Which letters in your name have straight lines?

Blank writing lines for the second question.

Which letters in your name look like familiar shapes (circles, triangles, etc.)?



Blank writing lines for the third question.

DISCOVER MORE



Watch educational kids shows like Sesame Street on Kanopy Kids. The shows are free with your library card!
CinLib.org/kanopy-kids



Parachute Physics

Create a parachute to help your toy make a gentle landing!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Small toy or object that won't break easily
- String
- Tape
- Scissors
- "Parachute" material (Ideas: paper, cloth, coffee filter, plastic bag)

ACTIVITY

1. Gather your materials.
2. Create your parachute and connect it to your toy or object.
3. Test your parachute! You may need to ask an adult to drop the parachute for you.
4. Change your parachute design and test again.
5. Did your parachute fall slower or faster this time?



Parachutes are made of light, strong fabric designed to make heavy objects fall slower.



The more air the parachute can catch, the slower it will fall.

This activity is provided by:



What would happen if you used a different small object or toy?
Draw the combination that worked best!



Why do you think certain materials work better for parachutes than others?



The free-fall parachute was invented in Dayton, Ohio, way back in 1919.

DISCOVER MORE



Visit the Cincinnati STEM Collaborative's website for more great at-home experiments! GreaterCincySTEM.org



Make a Story Quilt

Tell the story of your life (so far) with a story quilt.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Drawing materials
- Paper – Any kind works, scrap paper is just fine!
- Glue or tape

ACTIVITY

1. Think about the important times in your life, from the time you were a baby until now.
2. Ask a family member to tell you some stories about your family's history.
3. On separate pieces of paper, draw pictures showing these times in your life and your family's history.
4. Lay your pictures together and connect them with glue or tape.

Show someone your story quilt and tell them about the stories on it!



Take pictures and share with us:
#cincysummer on social media



Experiment with different styles of drawing!



Artist Aminah-Brenda Lynn Robinson's RagGonNon tells the story of her life and that of her ancestors and family history. This includes their journey from West Africa as enslaved people all the way to present day in Ohio.

People have been using pictures to tell stories for a long time. Some picture stories are 40,000 years old!



This activity is provided by:

National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER

DISCOVER MORE



Visit the RagGonNon story quilt at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center!

Robinson chose this title because the quilt is made from rags and tells a story that goes on and on.





Literacy Tips For Parents and Caregivers

Talking

Talking with children helps them learn oral language, one of the most critical early literacy skills. The experience of self-expression also stimulates brain development, which underlies all learning.

Singing

Singing, which also includes rhyming, increases children's awareness of, and sensitivity to, the sounds in words. This helps prepare children to read.

Reading together

Reading together remains the single most effective way to help children become proficient readers.

Writing and reading

Writing and reading go together. Writing helps children learn that letters and words stand for sound and that print has meaning.

Playing

Playing is one of the key ways young children learn about the world. Gaining general knowledge about the world is an important literacy skill that helps children understand books and stories once they begin to read.

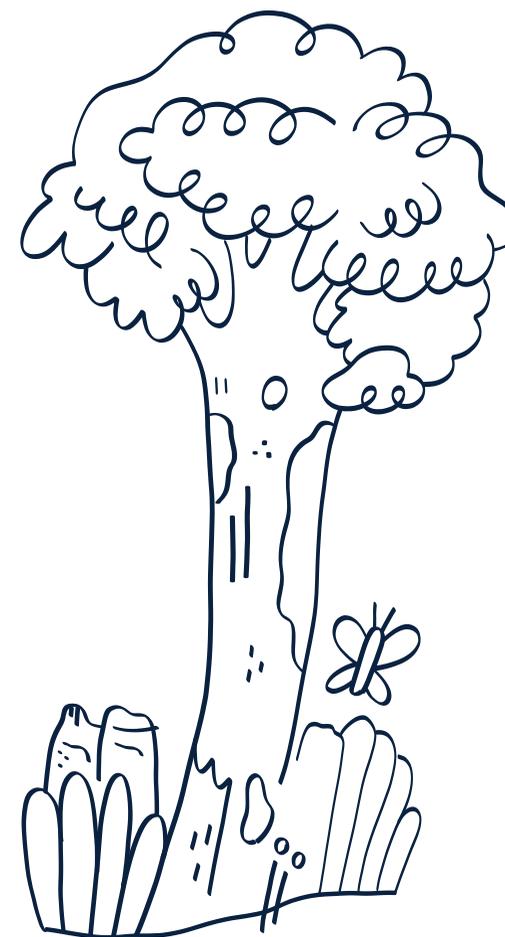
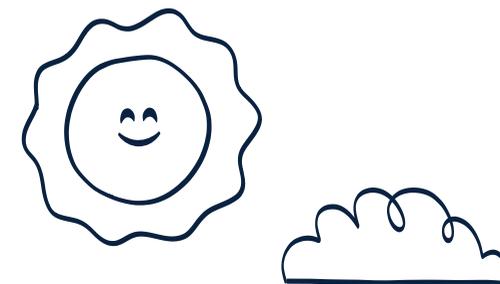
Did you complete all of the activities in this book?

≧ **Way to go!** ≦

Bring this book to a Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library location to receive a cool sticker in honor of your effort!

I'm a Summer Learning Superstar!

Draw a picture of yourself and color it in!



mi
o

llm
~

My name

Library staff member



A big thank you to our supporters!

The Discover Summer program is made possible through the support of these donors.



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Public Library



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Hamilton County



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