


April

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Like and follow Better Beginnings on Facebook to view videos of some of the rhymes and stories included in this calendar.		1 Sing the finger rhyme "Wind the Bobbin Up"	2 Point out the words on the sides of buses and cars.	3 Add one or two new words when you play with your child.	4 Look for things with stripes. How many colours are used to make the pattern?
5 Story Sunday! Read <i>My Dog Bigsy</i> by Alison Lester.	6 Look through books or magazines together and talk about things in the pictures that you like.	7 Sing "I Have a Dog and His Name is Rags". Talk about any pets that you know. What do they have floppy ears?	8 Find all your orange clothes and wear them all at once!	9 Point out the author and illustrator's name as you read picture books together.	10 Can you touch your left knee with your right elbow? Or your right knee with your left elbow?	11 Have a look at the barcode on your library card. Is your favourite number in your barcode?
12 Story Sunday! Read <i>The Terrible Plop</i> by Ursula Dubosarsky.	13 Young children need between 5-12 seconds to listen to a question, think of an answer and speak it.	14 Say the rhyme "Five Eggs and Five Eggs". How many does that add up to?	15 Recognising shapes helps children get ready to recognise letters. Point out circles today.	16 Wordless books encourage your child to help "read" the story. Try <i>Hug</i> by Jez Alborough.	17 Make a ribbon wand by sticking streamers to a cardboard tube. Dance with your wand to your favourite songs.	18 Read <i>One Fox</i> by Kate Read. Explain any words that your child might have not heard before.
19 Story Sunday! Read <i>The Three Billy Goats Gruff</i> By Nick Bland.	20 Look through a family photo album with your child. Talk about the people and places in the photos.	21 Say the rhyme "You're Always Somewhere". Describe what is above, below, in front and behind you now.	22 Tear and scrunch some paper and use it to make a collage.	23 Read "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen and act it out together.	24 Explore your house for materials and objects that you can use to make a bridge.	25 Play "Simon Says". Use actions such reaching up or down, face the front or back, stand next to or behind.
26 Story Sunday! Read <i>Ducks Away</i> by Mem Fox.	27 Asking questions that need more than a yes or no answer increases your child's talking and comprehension skills.	28 Hide a toy and sing "There is Someone Who is Hiding". Who is it? Do you know who?	29 Play with playdough. How long is the longest piece you can roll?	30 Picture books have three times as many rare words than normal conversation.	<i>Books, rhymes and songs are suggestions only. Substitute any titles you can't find or songs you don't know with books, rhymes and songs that you already love.</i>	
						