



THE
BUTTERFLY COVE
PLAY CAFÉ

WHERE LITTLE MINDS BLOOM

RAISE A *Reader*

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO BUILDING STRONG READERS THROUGH PLAY

FREE Printable Literacy Activity Pack

—  Ages 2–8  —

CREATED BY

Dominique Amador

TEXAS EDUCATOR
FUTURE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Featuring activities inspired by
Texas literacy standards that
parents can do in under
10 minutes.



JOIN OUR WAITLIST!

TheButterflyCovePlayCafe.com



Play.
Learn.
Grow.



A place for
children to explore.



A place for
parents to breathe.



A community where
families belong.



PAGE 1

Rhyme Time Clap Game

Rhyming is the #1 predictor of reading success!



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HOW TO DO IT:

- Say a word, then clap and say a rhyming word together.
- Make it silly — wrong rhymes make them laugh AND listen harder!
- Clap once for each syllable as you say the words.
- Let them make up their own silly rhymes yes, even made up words count!



RHYME PAIRS TO PRACTICE



Easy pairs (2-year-olds):



cat / hat



dog / log



sun / run



bug / hug



bee / tree



red / bed



cup / pup



moon / spoon

Sillier pairs (3-4 year olds):



butterfly / lullaby



rainbow / play-doh



caterpillar / silly-pillar



flower / tower

Make up your own pair: _____ / _____



Mama Tip:

Read rhyming books at bedtime: Dr. Seuss, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, and Sheep in a Jeep are perfect for building this skill naturally.



PLAY.
LEARN.
GROW.



A PLACE FOR
CHILDREN TO
EXPLORE.



A PLACE FOR
PARENTS TO
BREATHE.



A COMMUNITY
WHERE FAMILIES
BELONG.





Caterpillar to Butterfly Alphabet Hunt

Find the letters hiding around you!



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HOW TO DO IT:

- Write 3–5 letters on sticky notes (start with letters in your child's name).
- Hide them around a room at toddler height on the couch, fridge, door.
- Say a letter out loud. Let your toddler search and find it!
- When they find it, celebrate: "You found the B! B says buh, like BUTTERFLY!"



LETTERS TO PRACTICE THIS WEEK



Write your child's name letters here:

Circle the letters you hunted today:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Mama Tip:

No need for flashcards! When learning feels like a treasure hunt, toddlers ask to do it again and again. That's the real win.



PARENTING TIP: KEEP LEARNING FUN & ENGAGING!



FOLLOW THEIR LEAD

If your child shows interest in a letter or word, lean in and build on it.



CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Cheer, clap, and smile! Positive reactions build confidence and joy.



KEEP IT SHORT & SWEET

A few minutes of focused play is more powerful than a long session.



MAKE IT TOGETHER TIME

Your attention is the most powerful tool in helping your child grow.





Talk About the Pictures

Vocabulary grows through conversation, not quizzes!



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🌸 HOW TO DO IT:

- 🦋 Pick any picture book. Slow WAY down – don't rush through the words.
- 🦋 Point to pictures and ask: "What do you see?" "What is she doing?"
- 🦋 Name things together: "That's a caterpillar. Say caterpillar!"
- 🦋 Make predictions: "What do you think happens next?"



🌸 QUESTIONS TO ASK ON ANY PAGE 🌸

- 🦋 What do you see on this page?

- 🦋 How do you think _____ feels right now?

- 🦋 What color is the _____?

- 🦋 Can you find something that starts with _____?

- 🦋 What do you think happens next?

- 🦋 Have you ever seen a _____ before?



Mama Tip:

You don't need new books! Library cards are FREE and your local Montgomery County library has thousands of picture books.





Squiggle Story Drawing

Marks on paper = the first step toward writing!



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HOW TO DO IT:

-  Give your toddler a big piece of paper and crayons or markers.
-  Say: "Draw me a story! What is happening in your picture?"
-  While they draw, narrate: "Oh, tell me about that swirl!"
-  Write their words at the bottom exactly as they say them.
-  Read it back to them: "You wrote a story! Let me read it."



USE THIS SPACE — DRAW YOUR STORY!



(Print this page and let your toddler draw right here!)



My story is about: _____



Today's artist: _____



Mama Tip:

Keep their drawings in a folder.
In a year you'll see real letters
emerging from those squiggles.
It's one of the coolest things to watch.





The Bedtime Story Ritual

15 minutes a night = 1 million words by kindergarten

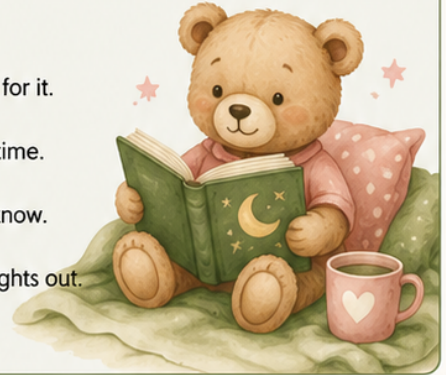


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HOW TO DO IT:

- 🦋 Same time, same spot every night — routine makes them ask for it.
- 🦋 Let them pick the book, even if it's the same one for the 40th time.
- 🦋 Use funny voices. Pause for drama. Let them finish lines they know.
- 🦋 After: 'What was your favorite part?' Just one question. Then lights out.



OUR READING LOG THIS WEEK



Monday: _____



Tuesday: _____



Wednesday: _____



Thursday: _____



Friday: _____



Weekend: _____



Mama Tip:

Research shows it's not the book that matters — it's the snuggle, the voices, and the routine. You are already doing it right.





THE
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— PLAY CAFÉ —

PLAY • CONNECT • GROW

You just raised a reader.

And you're already the kind of parent who shows up.

The Butterfly Cove is being built for YOU.

A place where your toddler can explore, play, and fall in love with stories — while you get a hot coffee, a quiet seat, and a community of parents who get it.

Indoor play structure • Children's library • Toddler woodland zone
Parent co-working lounge • Café • Private lactation room
Party rooms • Community programming • Homeschool loft

Join our waitlist & be the first to know when we open!

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Share this pack with another mama who needs it!

Tag us @thebutterflycove — we love seeing little readers in action ❤️

