

# WORD PLAY

THE ISJL'S LITERACY  
NEWSLETTER



SUMMER  
2020

Our community has overcome some immense challenges these past couple of months, and we are so proud of the ingenuity and dedication we have seen from parents, teachers, and students alike! We know that without the structure of school (even virtually), some families may be wondering how they can provide fun literacy learning for their children over the summer. We hope that the compilation of resources below is helpful and that you will reach out if there is any way we can support you further. Have a great summer!



*[Rachel Glazer](#)*

*Community Engagement Program Manager*



## Online Literacy Resources

There are countless resources popping up to help families navigate distance learning. If you do not have access to WiFi at home, the Mississippi Library Commission created [this map of parking lot WiFi access points](#) across the state.

- **Sharpen fluency and speaking skills:** ReadWorks, which provides at-home resources for teachers, families, and students, also has an awesome way for students to use their reading skills to give back to others! Log on to their [Audio Drive](#) and create an audio recording for their virtual audio library.
- **No Lego? No problem:** An architecture firm released [free printable templates](#) for students to color and construct into their own miniature paper cities.
- **Mondays with Michelle:** Former First Lady Michelle Obama is reading her favorite children's books on the [PBS Kids YouTube channel](#) every Monday at 11 CST.
- **Say O-kay to making art:** The Ogden Museum of Southern Art releases [downloadable art activities](#) for all ages each Friday.
- **Straight from the source:** The National Archives has [an array of worksheets](#) to help students of all ages learn about interacting with different kinds of primary source documents. Choose a family photo, letter, heirloom, family reunion t-shirt, poster, home video, or other item special to your family and work through the steps on the appropriate worksheet with your student.

## Living Room Field Trips

- **For the birds:** Whether gazing out windows or trekking through neighborhoods, many kids are turning to birding to satisfy their curiosity about our feathered friends. Read about it and find [bird-watching resources here](#).
- **You otter see this:** The Tennessee Aquarium has a [24-hour camera in their river otter exhibit](#). Challenge your student to research

these animals and then write a dialogue about what they might be saying.

- **Travel the country via couch:** [Take a virtual tour of a National Park or Historic Site](#) from the comfort of your living room.



## Summer Literacy Ideas



- **Say it out loud:** This summer will be different; there's no doubt about that. Encourage your student to put their feelings into words as you both navigate new waters.
- **Write it down:** Keep a family journal this summer. Each week, write down how everyone is feeling, what activities you enjoyed together, how the weather has changed, and other notable moments that you can revisit together at the end of the season.
- **Read all about it:** Even though the libraries' buildings are closed, there is a treasure trove of ebooks and audiobooks on the [Jackson Hinds Library System's online catalog](#). You can also download the [Libby app](#) and connect it to your library card for easy access to countless stories right on your phone or tablet.
- **Take a breather:** Even [Elmo's Dad](#) is feeling the weight of wearing so many hats right now: caregiver, educator, health and safety officer. Find the quiet moments to read a poem that brings you comfort, listen to a funny podcast, or let nature tell you a story in birdsong. You are doing an amazing job!

More resources on the ISJL's Literacy Community Facebook Group

For more information contact us at 601.362.6357 or [engagement@isjl.org](mailto:engagement@isjl.org).  
LAB and Our Reading Family are programs of the ISJL.

**THIS IS ISJL:** [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org)

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