

2024

My Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip

Travel Journal



Curiosity

Adventure



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING

How to use this Travel Journal

For Families and Caregivers

My Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip Travel Journal is a great way to help your child explore books and fun learning activities. Each week, discover something new with your child, then help them complete their Travel Journal.

This year's theme represents elements from the 2024 Pennsylvania One Book selection, *Slug in Love* by Rachel Bright. Look through the Travel Journal to find friends from the book who tag along on the Road Trip!

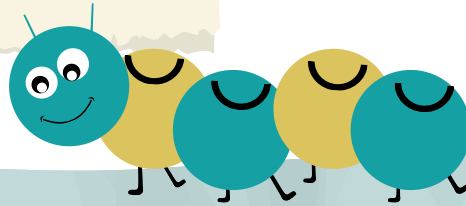
Activities in the Travel Journal compliment the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards. Child care and other early learning programs, kindergarten and elementary school teachers use Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards as a guide for what children typically can do at each age. These activities let you have fun with your child while helping them build skills they will use in kindergarten and beyond.

Pennsylvania libraries and state parks offer fun, family-friendly learning opportunities. The Travel Journal contains children's book recommendations from librarians, and state parks with adventurous activities. Visit those featured, or explore a local library and park to discover fun learning opportunities!

For more early learning activities, book recommendations, and early learning resources, visit PA's Promise for Children at www.papromiseforchildren.com. Learn more about the Pennsylvania One Book at paonebook.powerlibrary.org and Pennsylvania State Parks at www.dcnr.pa.gov.

Thank you to Office of Commonwealth Libraries and
the Bureau of State Parks for their assistance with this resource.

Week One



Do these activities!

Explore a new location with your young child (like a local or state park!) for fun activities like collecting leaves, rocks or sticks. Pause and ask questions that explore. "Which leaves are the same?" "Which rocks are different?" "What else grows on trees?"

Talking helps children to expand their vocabulary and understanding. The ability to carry on a conversation is important for reading development and to communicate to others. Take turns asking questions to describe an item. "Is it blue? Is it taller than you? Does it move?" Use words to describe items like: grimy, slippery, mucky, sticky, or slimy!*

Read these books!

Visit your local library to check out these books.

- *The Bear Under The Stairs* by Helen Cooper
- *Just Like Millie* by Lauren Castillo
- *If I Had a Sleepy Sloth* by Gabby Dawney, illustrated by Alex Barrow (family recommendation!)
- *The Littlest Yak* by Lu Fraser, illustrated by Kate Hindley

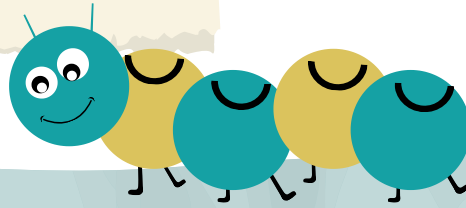
*Pssst...find these descriptive words in the 2024 PA One Book selection, *Slug in Love* by Rachel Bright. Read a copy at your local library!



Explore this State Park!

Bald Eagle State Park in Centre County. This 5,900-acre park is in the broad Bald Eagle Valley of northcentral Pennsylvania. The 1,730-acre lake laps the flanks of Bald Eagle Mountain, surrounded by forests, fields, and wetlands. Try out a guided walk, hands-on activity or a campfire program during a visit!

Week One



Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Two

Do these activities!

Young children may enjoy having the same book read over and over again as part of quiet time or bedtime routines. This may include more than one book. Pick a story with repeated phrases or a poem you and your child like. As your child grows more familiar with the story, pause and give them a chance to fill in the blanks and phrases. Encourage your child to pretend to read, especially books that contain repetition and rhyme.

In addition to retelling a favorite story, kindergartners may be able to read some of their favorite stories. Making up stories without books develops the imagination and can be shared by either the child or caregiver. Use books without words or read the pictures in books to tell the story.

Read these books!

Mary Grace Collier-Kisler, Library Director, at the S.W. Smith Memorial Public Library recommends these books!

- *The Not So Quiet Library* by Zacharia O'Hora
- *One Love* by Cedella Marley, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- *Tuesday* by David Wiesner (Librarian Note: This book includes very little dialog, as it encourages a young child to interpret what is happening in the illustrations.)
- *Don't Push the Button* by Bill Cotter

Plant a seed – read!



Explore this State Park!

Sizerville State Park in Cameron & Potter Counties. The 386-acre Sizerville State Park is nearly surrounded by Elk State Forest and offers nature hike opportunities. There's even a pool for those warm summer days!



Week Two

Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Three



Do these activities!

Plan a picnic! A picnic can take place any time at any location, like inside your home, or in a yard or park. Talk with your child about what to take on a picnic, and ask for their help in packing food in a bag or box or backpack! Discuss what you might need or find to make your picnic complete. If a picnic isn't possible, visit a local library for a book about picnics.

Using cheese strings, crackers, or fruit or vegetable slices that may be a part of a picnic or meal, ask your child to create an object or face out of the shapes. Paper cut outs of shapes could also be used.

Read these books!

Visit the any library in the Cumberland County Library System and check out these fun reads!

- *The Appalachian Trail (Wonders of America)* by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by John Wallace
- *Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail* by Jennifer Therme
- *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk, illustrated by Sara Palacios

Book a summer trip to the library!



Explore this State Park!

Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Cumberland County. Steeped in natural and historical features, the 696-acre park is at the northern tip of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in an area known as South Mountain. This park offers two mountain lakes (Laurel Lake and Fuller Lake), the Appalachian Trail, a biking rail trail, and the Appalachian Trail Museum!

Week Three



Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Four



Do these activities!

With your child, create a story about what is happening in your home, neighborhood, or community. Choose a home, apartment or other building in your community and create a story about who lives there and what happens in the building. What might those who live there look like? What might they do for fun? Do they build or create items?

Help your child create a written story about their neighborhood or community. Use crayons, magazine cut-outs, paints, etc. to create the story. Don't forget to include inhabitants like squirrels, birds, or other animals that might be around! Talk about what happens in the story your child creates.

The best day to relax and read in the summer months? SUN-day!



Read these books!

Angela Hunsinger at the Tunkhannock Public Library recommends these books!

- *There Was a Party for Langston* by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey & Jarrett Pumphrey
- *Newtonian Physics for Babies* by Chris Ferrie
- *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown

Explore this State Park!

Vosburg Neck State Park in Wyoming County. The park's 669 acres feature historic buildings from the 1700 and 1800s, canal bed, rail bed, 1700s-era cemetery, eight miles of trails, and more! The park is located on the north branch of the Susquehanna River known as the Vosburg Neck.

Week Four



Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Five

Do these activities!

When reading with your child, read slowly and pause occasionally to think aloud about a story. You might say, "I wonder what happens next? What do you think will happen?" Pause with each page and explore the illustrations with your child. What do they see?

Talking about stories with your child helps them develop their vocabulary and links stories to everyday life. Visit your local library and search for books that match something similar about your child's life (like living in the city or the country), and something new to them!

You are overdue for a good book!

Read these books!

Shannon Hargreaves, Youth Services Manager, at the Avon Grove Library in Chester County recommends these books!

- *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
- *The Hike* by Alison Farrell
- *Mouse's First Summer* by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Buket Erdogan
- *Summer Days and Nights* by Wong Herbert Yee

Explore this State Park!

Big Elk Creek State Park in Chester County. The majority of this park consists of previous farmlands and forest lands. The park acts as a wildlife corridor and provides refuge for an array of threatened and endangered species. The park's namesake, Big Elk Creek, traverses the park and is a high-quality stream.



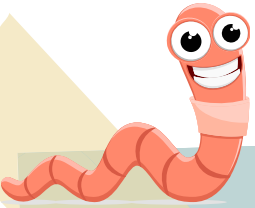
Week Five

Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Six



Do these activities!

With your child, create a map around your home or community. Tape notes in various places around your house telling your child where to find the next location, or add clues to the map for your community.

When exploring the map, talk about what is found at each location. How is each location the same or different? Which location is their favorite?

Take a book when exploring with your map and plan to read it at the final location. Or add a local library to the map and discover new books together when you reach the end!

Read these books!

The library staff at the Bedford County Library recommends these fun reads!

- *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- *Charlie the Caterpillar* by Dom Deluise, illustrated by Christopher Santoro
- *The Library Dragon* by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Michael P. White

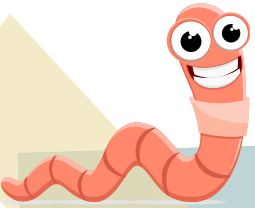
Libraries are good for
your circulation.



Explore this State Park!

Blue Knob State Park in Bedford County. Blue Knob State Park is named for its majestic dome-shaped mountain. At 3,146 feet above sea level, Blue Knob is the second highest mountain in Pennsylvania! Situated on a spur of the Allegheny Front and overlooking the scenic Ridge and Valley Province to the east, Blue Knob has spectacular views.

Week Six



Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Seven

Do these activities!

Set up an obstacle course with the help of your child. Make up the rules together. Use chairs, blankets, sticks or stones, trees or bushes, boxes, or playground equipment. How fast can your child complete the obstacle course? Which part is the hardest or easiest to do?

Many Pennsylvania State Parks and community parks offer ADA accessible accommodations. Learn more about activities and locations which provide opportunities for Community Inclusion families of children with and without special needs at [PA's Promise for Children](#).

Play a game with your child by providing them with a ball and a target. Before they start, ask how many kicks or throws they think it will take to hit the target. What is the best way to get the ball to the target? Is it easier if they get closer, or farther away from the target?

Read these books!

Samantha Fabiani, Children's Librarian, at Beaver Area Memorial Library recommends these fun reads!

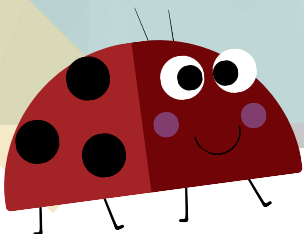
- *Flora and the Flamingo* by Molly Idle
- *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by David Catrow
- *I Will Not Read This Book* by Cece Meng, illustrated by Joy Ang
- *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood

We're hot on the trail to get these books!



Explore this State Park!

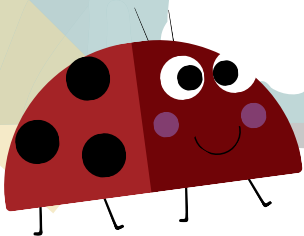
[Raccoon Creek State Park in Beaver County](#). The Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park contains one of the most diverse stands of wildflowers in western Pennsylvania – more than 700 species of plants! Explore the Frankfort Mineral Springs and discover the history of the “healing” waters.



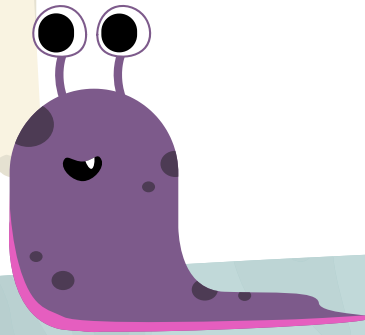
Week Seven

Books I've read this week

My favorite thing I did this week



Week Eight



Do these activities!

Listen to the sounds outside (or inside!) with your child. Make up a song that includes imitations of the sounds, such as birds singing, a dog barking, horns honking, or children laughing. What is the easiest sound to create? Which one is the most difficult to create? What other sounds would they like to add to the song?

Use household items to create instruments to accompany the song! Sticks or spoons with a pot, pot lid, empty can or overturned trash can, a plastic bottle with dried rice or beans, or windchimes can all be used as musical instruments!

Read these books!

Anne Welsh, Librarian at Oil City Library recommends these books!

- *The Rainbow Snail* by Karin Akesson
- *The Little Magician* by Susanna Isern,, illustrated by Amélie Graux
- *A Bear is a Bear (Except When He's Not)* by Karl Newson, illustrated by Anuska Allepuz

Librarians know all
the dirt on great
books!



Explore this State Park!

Oil Creek State Park in Venango County. Oil Creek State Park tells the story of the changing landscape. The early petroleum industry's oil boom towns and important oil well sites are in contrast with clean trout streams and forested hillsides seen today throughout the park. Historical displays and an exciting diorama provide a glimpse into oil history. Oil Creek is also home to four beautiful waterfalls!