



Early Literacy Extras:

Parents and caregivers are a child's first and best teachers. Here are some ideas and activities to try this week with your child. These five practices are designed to help your child develop literacy skills, engage your child, and enhance the bonds between you. Story Times at the Adams County Library support Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards.

This week's theme: **Trees**

Read: Watch Miss Emily read *The Night Gardener* by The Fan Brothers on our Youth Services Facebook page or YouTube Channel.

Talk: Ask your child what they think would be a fun thing to have happen overnight in your neighborhood or town, or, if they could shape the trees around them, what shapes would they make?

Sing: Rhymes to do at Home

Play: Take a walk in a forest. See how many different kinds of trees you can find. Compare them by their differently shaped leaves or textured bark.

Write: Make a handprint tree. Trace your child's hand and part of their arm on a blank paper. The arm is the trunk and the hand is the branches. They can color or paint the hand and arm brown. Then let them cut (or rip) lots of little scraps of green paper to glue on as leaves.

Rhymes to do at Home

Trees

To the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes"

Leaves (shake hands in the air),
Branches (arms straight out),
Roots (touch toes) and
Trunk (arms down by your side),
Roots and trunk
Leaves, branches, roots and trunk,
Roots and trunk
There are birds (flap arms)
And squirrels
(hop your hand through the air)
A spider (creep fingers up arm)
And a Skunk! (hold your nose)
Trees, branches, roots and trunk,
Roots and trunk

Tree House

By Shel Silverstein

A tree house, a free house,
A secret you and me house,
A high up in the leafy branches
Cozy as can be house.

A street house, a neat house,
Be sure and wipe your feet house
Is not my kind of house at all--
Let's go live in a tree house.