

Brightly

SUMMER READING FUN PACK



Have a Brightly Summer!

readbrightly.com

GROWING READER

The Ultimate Summer Reading List for 6–8 Year Olds

by Devon Corneal

Your growing reader is finally ready to conquer books on his or her own and summer is a wonderful time to get some extra reading in. But wait, summer is supposed to be fun, right? So make sure that when you're combating the summer slide, you're also picking books that will make your kids laugh, or pique their curiosity, or encourage them to solve interesting problems. Sound like a tall order? Don't worry, we've got you covered. Here are twenty fantastic books guaranteed to entertain your kids this summer.



Ella

by Mallory Kasdan, illustrated by Marcos Chin
Move over Eloise, Ella is here. Ella is an urban child who lives at The Local Hotel. She has a nanny named Manny whose hair is an extension of his philosophy. Ella starts the day with energizing breathwork and yoga poses before zipping around on her scooter to the latest Hillary Clinton fundraiser. For everyone who wondered how Eloise would fare in the age of smartphones and laptops, now is your chance to find out.



Emu

by laire Saxby, illustrated by Graham Byrne
This educational gem is so gorgeously illustrated that I could hardly concentrate on the amazing emu facts throughout. Instead, I found myself transfixed by the bird's intense stare and the rich landscape of the Australian eucalyptus forest. If you have an animal lover in your house, this is a great addition to a summer reading list.



Little Bird's Bad Word

by Jacob Grant
When Little Bird learns a new word from his dad, he can't wait to share it with his friends. Unfortunately, Little Bird's new word isn't at all nice. An important lesson, fun illustrations, and a perfect last page for the grown-ups, this is a must-read.



Meet the Dullards

by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
The Dullards are boring, plain, monotonous and, well, dull. Unfortunately, the Dullard children are starting to show signs of being interesting. They've asked to go to school. They've started reading books. They're playing outside. Mr. and Mrs. Dullard realize they have to act now if they want to ensure that their children become proper bores.



Max's Math

by Kate Banks, illustrated by Boris Kulikov
Max likes to look for problems. They're interesting. In a mixed-up world of numbers and shapes, Max is certain to find more than his fair share as he and his brothers head out on an adventure. Take this book to the beach to keep your reader entertained (and secretly educated) this summer.

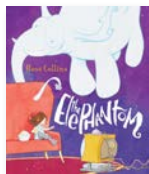


Sleeping Cinderella and Other Princess Mix-Ups

by Stephanie Clarkson, illustrated by Brigette Barrager
Cinderella, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Sleeping Beauty are fed up with their stories. So they decide to switch places and see if their fellow princesses really do have perfect lives. They'll soon find out that maybe they didn't have it so bad after all.

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The Elephantom

by Ross Collins

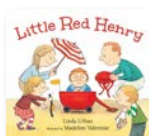
Plenty of people have ants or mice in their house, but not everyone has a phantom elephant. If you do, you might need to read this book to discover how one clever girl got rid of her uninvited guest.



The Big Ideas of Buster Bickles

by Dave Wasson

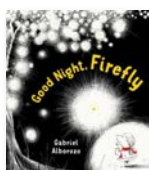
Summer is a time for daydreaming and inventions, but no one seems to like Buster Bickles's ideas. Except, perhaps, his Uncle Roswell. Uncle Roswell has a What-If Machine, designed to make anything Buster imagines real. But you'll have to read the book if you want to see the trouble these two mad inventors get into when Buster's big ideas start to get a little too big.



Little Red Henry

by Linda Urban, illustrated by Madeline Valentine

Henry has been cosseted and fussed over since he was born, but now he's ready to do things by himself like pouring his own milk and choosing his own clothes and eating his peas without help. Henry is happy but his family is at loose ends. What will they do with all their spare time?



Good Night, Firefly

by Gabriel Alborozo

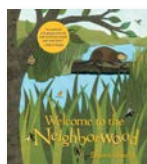
I spent my summers catching fireflies and putting them in jars. My cousin used to smear them all over her feet, but that's another story. Nina is more my kind of girl, capturing a single firefly to light up her room and scare away the shadows. But after a while, the firefly's light starts to dim and Nina must decide how to fix him.



My Rules for Being a Pretty Princess

by Heath McKenzie

Be careful what you wish for, because being a pretty princess isn't easy. There's no dirt, no stuffing your face with cake, and no playing. Instead, there's dancing and uncomfortable dresses and lots of waiting. Unless you change the rules. Perfect for little girls who dream of being princesses, but want to do it their way.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

by Shawn Sheehy

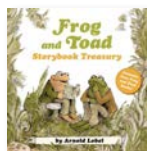
This is the ultimate pop-up book, perfect for the start of summer when kids start spending more time outside. Filled with intricate, gorgeous pop-ups of animals found in and around our backyards, woods, and ponds, you'll be astounded by what you'll learn.



Orion and the Dark

by Emma Yarlett

Orion is scared of everything, and I do mean everything. He's especially afraid of the dark. Until one night, the Dark comes to visit and takes Orion on an adventure to overcome his fears.



Frog and Toad Storybook Treasury

by Arnold Lobel

This is a classic collection of the best adventures of Frog and Toad, two fast friends who couldn't be more different. When your child is ready to begin conquering chapter books, this is a wonderful introduction.

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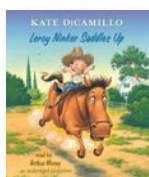
by Devon Corneal



Ivy and Bean Take the Case

by Annie Barrows, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

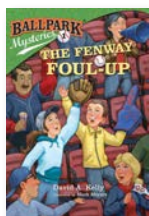
The adventures of Ivy and Bean continue in this latest from Annie Barrows. This isn't just a detective story, it's a great reminder that friendship can bring even the most different of people together. If your child hasn't met these two amazing girls yet, they can spend the summer getting to know them.



Leroy Ninker Saddles Up

by Kate DiCamillo

Leroy Ninker is ready to be a cowboy, but first he needs a horse. Thank goodness he runs into Maybelline. Now he just has to figure out how to treat her right. From the genius behind *Flora and Ulysses*, the escapades in *Leroy Ninker* will help pass the time on the ranch this summer.



The Ballpark Mysteries #1: The Fenway Foul-Up

by David A. Kelley, illustrated by Mark Meyers

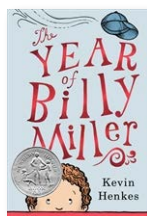
Who doesn't like a baseball game on a sunny day? Unfortunately, Mike and Kate's perfect day at the ballpark goes horribly wrong when someone steals a player's lucky bat. Can Mike and Kate solve the crime? *The Fenway Foul-Up* is the first in a series of early chapter books set in ballparks around the country so you don't have to be a Red Sox fan to love these books.



The Princess in Black

by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Princess Magnolia is a perfect, prim, and proper princess — until danger calls. Then, she swaps her fancy dress for basic black and head out to stop a big blue monster from eating all the goats. This is a girl who knows how to multi-task. Now, if only she can keep her secret. I've recommended this book before, and I'll keep at it until every kid who wishes for a secret identity and a castle has read it.



The Year of Billy Miller

by Kevin Henkes

Billy Miller hopes that the second grade will be his year. It's not off to a great start though. With a bump on his head and an annoying desk mate, this year may just be one he wants to forget. Your growing readers will be eager to find out if Billy's year is one to remember, or one to forget.



Little House in the Big Woods

by Laura Ingalls Wilder, illustrated by Garth Williams

I'm going old school here, with the classic book about life in an early time. I grew up with the *Little House* stories (and the TV show, which, while great, pales in comparison to the books themselves). Send your child out in the backyard and let them discover what life without electricity or cars or phones or, gasp(!), the Internet, was like and see if they remember to come back in for dinner.

Stop the Slide! Summer Learning Loss Prevention Tips for 6–8 Year Olds

by Melissa Taylor

Summer learning loss isn't a **myth**. It happens and quite frankly, it's a huge bummer for kids and teachers. Who wants to review for the first four weeks of school? It's such a waste of valuable learning time.

Especially since it's preventable.

Simply ask your children to practice reading, writing, and math throughout their vacation time. Not for hours and hours, but just for a few minutes every day. Just that little keeps their brains from becoming sieves over the summer.

1. Schedule

First develop a routine for summer learning. Consider scheduling learning time in the morning, so learning gets done before the day's activities.

2. Space

Where will your child do her learning activities? Set up a station or nook with a calendar or checklist of what activities need to be done each day.

3. Supplies

Gather the books, games, paper, and pencils. Do you need a math workbook? How about reading games? As you continue to read this article, make a list of what you'll need for summer.

Also, keep lots of books around the house for easy access. Use Brightly to get **new book ideas**. Visit the library to check out books. (This might be a good time to get your child her own library card or participate in your library's summer reading program!)

4. Read Every Day

Think of your child's reading level. See if you she can maintain that level of comprehension *if not* improve it over the

summer. Decide how much your child needs to read every day on his own. This depends somewhat on your child's age but I suggest at least 10 – 20 minutes per day.

5. Practice Sight Words

Sight words are those words like "and" and "the" that kids need to know at a glance so their reading becomes fluent. Find free word lists online.

Think beyond flashcards when learning sight words. Make scavenger hunts around your house or in books. Play games. Write sight words with unusual materials like play dough, Wikki Stix, or shaving cream. For more learning ideas, visit This Reading Mama's **sight word Pinterest board**.

6. Practice Math Facts

How well do your kids know addition and subtraction facts? Without practice, kids will lose the facts they've learned. Repetitive practice of math facts improves recall time.

Buy a workbook for your child's grade level and require a page or two each learning session. This way you don't have to invent the curriculum, it's already prepared.

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Or use high-quality math apps to make math fact practice fun. I recommend [Squeebles](#), [Splash Math](#), [Pet Bingo](#), and [Math Bingo](#).

7. Write

Developing writers need to write something that makes sense. That's why it's important for kids to have *real* purposes for writing.

Consider the many ways we use writing in our daily lives (making lists, writing emails, notes, journal entries) and the audience for whom we write (ourselves, friends, work). Ask your kids to do the same — to write letters to someone, keep a daily journal, make lists of what to do or buy, or write a story to read at bedtime. These authentic activities teach children so much more about writing than any worksheet could. For more authentic writing ideas, visit my [Writing Activities Pinterest board](#).

Not only that, younger kids must also develop (and practice) the physical act of writing. Help build their fine motor skills with handwriting practice sheets and strength-building activities such as playing with silly putty, weaving lacing cards, or sorting small objects. For more ideas, visit [Lessons Learnt Journal's Fine Motor Skills Pinterest board](#).

Remember that kids learn best through play. When in doubt, make your learning playful. Play makes everything better, especially during summer vacation!

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: Family Travel Essentials

by Denise Schipani

Planning something epic for summer travel? Whether you'll be spending hours on a plane or hours (or days) in your car, you'll need some strategies, starting with a good sense of humor and spirit of adventure. Here's our thoroughly modern list of Road Trip Survival Essentials. And while books are an obvious first, they're not you or your kids' only needs:

Books: This one is obvious, but it's worth planning. Is there a series your kids have been dying to dig into? Or one your whole family might like — if only you had the time? Long trips lend themselves to, say, the whole **Harry Potter series in audiobook form**. Or, the treat for your kids of the next ten **Magic Tree House books**. Slip in surprises, so that if your kid is bored with the choices she made, you can present a new book or audiobook.

Maps: Yes, you're using GPS; who wouldn't? But there's something retro-fun about breaking out a big atlas and showing the kids where you're going and marking the route you'll likely take. You might consider making photocopies of pages and putting them on a clipboard so the kids can follow along and draw on the maps.

Checklists: We often drive from New York to Washington, D.C., and we never leave home without a pre-printed list of the 50 states and a few Canadian provinces, so we can check off license plates as we see them. And yes, even in that relatively short route, we have gotten as many as 35 states and two or three provinces checked off. Still looking for Alaska...

Picnic supplies: You may be planning to snack or consume packed lunches in the car, or stop at roadside diners or highway rest stops. But be prepared for possible picnics, too; just toss a blanket in the back of the car. If you have room, pack camp chairs and/or sports equipment.

Recording device: On another long road trip my family took in the late 1970s, my dad got us the *coolest item ever*: a tape player that we could plug into the cigarette lighter. Not only could we listen to tapes (mostly kiddie stuff, thanks to the addition of my toddler brother), we could *record*. Your kids, depending on their ages and your stomach for handing over your smartphone, can record a travelogue to listen back to later — much better than our approximately 400 listens of Sesame Street's Greatest Hits.

Bag of tricks: My friend Claudia took her three daughters back to her native Argentina many times over the course of their childhoods — a 14-hour plane ride. She survived with this tried and true trick: three backpacks stocked with dollar-store ephemera they could pull out and delight themselves with periodically.

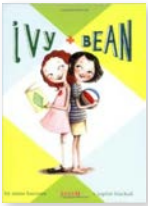
Survival kit: You probably thought of things like a first-aid kit and water bottles. But also consider stashing a bag with sweatshirts and/or blankets, chargers for everything and/or batteries, snacks that don't require either refrigeration or wet-naps to consume (like trail mix). But bring wet-naps, too. Why not!

Whatever you do this summer, happy travels!

9 Audiobooks for Growing Readers and Their Families

by Jennifer Ridgway

Audiobooks provide great entertainment when traveling. Many of the recordings of books written for emerging readers also make for great family listening, providing a fun way to pass the time on the journey to or from home. They can be listened to on their own or used alongside the book to help new readers identify words, learn pronunciation, and hear how reading should sound.



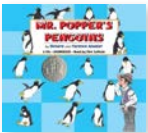
Ivy and Bean

by Annie Barrows, narrated by Cassandra Morris
Ivy and Bean are neighbors who, despite their different personalities, become good friends. The series is filled with silliness, friendship, and age-appropriate language. The humor makes this series an enjoyable listen for children and their parents.



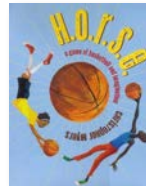
My Father's Dragon

by Ruth Stiles Gannett, narrated by Robert Sevrá
A classic early chapter book, this story of a young boy who saves a captured dragon offers plenty of adventures without being scary. The first book in a three-book series, it's full of imagination and humor.



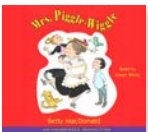
Mr. Popper's Penguins

by Richard Atwater and Florence Atwater, narrated by Nick Sullivan
After receiving two penguins as a gift, Mr. Popper decides to take them and their ten chicks on stage to help support his family, resulting in hilarious hijinks that will make children and their parents laugh out loud. Sullivan's narration includes fun sound effects.



H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Imagination and Basketball

by Christopher Myers, narrated by Dion Graham and Christopher Myers
This is the story of two friends trying to outdo each other in a game of basketball, and the audio version takes their competitiveness to a whole new level. The narrators talk over each other, trying to one-up each other all the way from the court to outer space. This is all set over a jazzy music soundtrack, which echoes the beat of the basketball.



Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle

by Betty MacDonald, narrated by Karen White
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle lives in an upside-down house and smells like cookies — what's not to love? She also has a "cure" for everything, which your little reader will find quite funny.



The Indian in the Cupboard

by Lynn Reid Banks, narrated by Lynn Reid Banks
The story of a plastic Indian who comes alive in a magical cabinet is a favorite of many children, and this edition — narrated by the author (in her British accent) — is an exciting listen.

9 Audiobooks for Growing Readers and Their Families

by Jennifer Ridgway



The Bunnica Collection: Books 1-3

by James Howe and Deborah Howe, narrated by Victor Garber

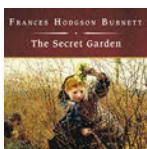
The Monroe family's new pet is a little different — this hare might just be a vampire! These funny tales are made even more entertaining by actor Victor Garber's flawless narration.



Nate the Great Collected Stories

by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, narrated by John Lavelle

This collection of the first four Nate the Great books is a great introduction to detective stories for your young readers. They are also a sneaky way to support the Common Core, as your kids use the clues to help solve the mysteries alongside Nate.



The Secret Garden

by Frances Hodgson Burnett, narrated by Josephine Bailey

The beloved classic is brought to life by Bailey, whose accents and various voices make listening to the story of Colin and Mary and the secret garden even more enchanting than reading it.

Delightfully Distracted: Great Learning Games for Car Trips

by Melissa Taylor

Whether on short trips to the store or long road trips, car games help make travel time more entertaining and distract your kids from the monotony of the drive. Even better is if those games help your kids learn. Check out these car games for 6–8 year olds.

1. Silly License Plate Sentences

Use the letters in license plates to invent crazy sentences. GBD 465 could be “Gorillas buy donuts.”

2. A to Z Game

Use signs and license plates to find each letter of the alphabet, starting with A and continuing all the way to Z.

3. License Plate Numbers

Start at zero and find consecutive numbers up to fifty.

4. Alphabet Category Game

One player thinks of a category (foods, animals, movies, books, and so forth) and all the players take turns naming something in that category in alphabetical order. Or, don't go in alphabetical order, but have players think of something starting with the last letter of whatever item was previously mentioned.

5. Scavenger Hunt

Make your own list of scavenger hunt items to search for on the trip. Let your kids take turns making these lists.

6. 20 Questions – Guess Who, What, Where

One person thinks of something and says whether it's a person, place, or thing. The other people in the car each ask questions that have “yes” or “no” answers.

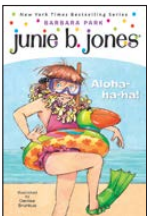
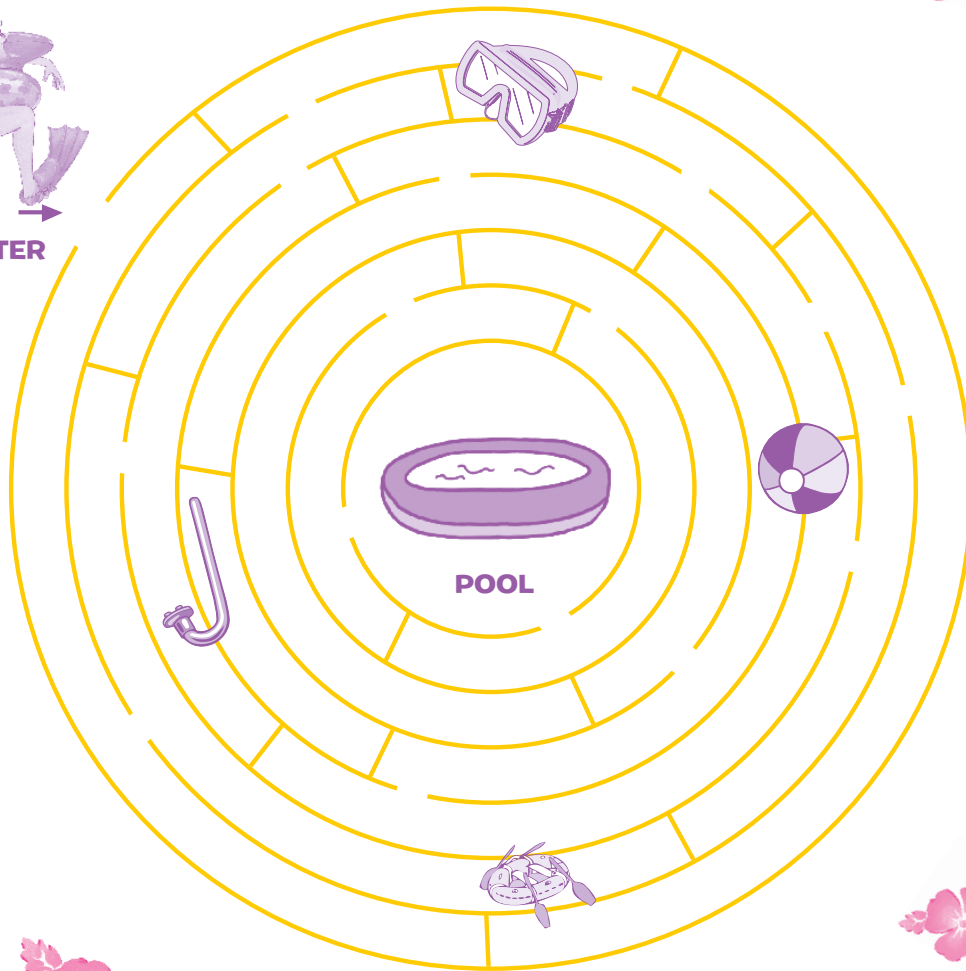
Reproducible
Activity

Pool-Time Fun!

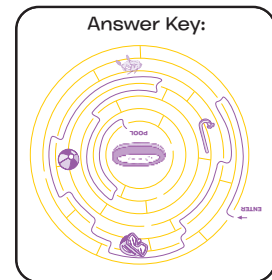
Help Junie B. find her way to the pool!



ENTER



Read the story in
**Junie B. Jones:
Aloha-ha-ha!**



JunieBJones.com 

Illustrations © 2015 by Denise Brunkus from the Junie B. Jones® series by Barbara Park

MAD LIBS® is fun to play with friends, but you can also play it by yourself! To begin with, DO NOT look at the story on the page below. Fill in the blanks on this page with the words called for. Then, using the words you have selected, fill in the blank spaces in the story.

Now you've created your own hilarious MAD LIBS® game!

A FAMILY CAR TRIP

PART OF THE BODY _____

NOUN _____

NOUN _____

NOUN _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

TYPE OF LIQUID _____

NOUN _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

EXCLAMATION _____

NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

TYPE OF LIQUID _____

NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____



MAD LIBS®

A FAMILY CAR TRIP

(To be performed by three volunteers.)

KID: I'm starved, Mom. My _____ is growling.

PART OF THE BODY

MOM: I think you've had enough _____ food today. You ate
enough to choke a/an _____.

NOUN

NOUN

KID: But I'm a growing _____. Dad, can we stop and get
a hamburger with _____ and _____?

NOUN

PLURAL NOUN

PLURAL NOUN

DAD: You just had a/an _____ breakfast!

ADJECTIVE

KID: No, I didn't. All I had was a couple of scrambled _____
and a glass of _____.

PLURAL NOUN

TYPE OF LIQUID

MOM: How about those five pieces of buttered _____, plus
that stack of _____?

NOUN

PLURAL NOUN

KID: _____! I have to go to the _____ room.
Can we stop? I have to go real _____!

EXCLAMATION

NOUN

ADJECTIVE

DAD: Okay. It'll give me a chance to stretch my _____.

PLURAL NOUN

MOM: Stop at that diner. I can use a cup of strong _____.

TYPE OF LIQUID

KID: As long as we're stopping, can I have a grilled _____
and some _____ fries? That will hold me until lunch.

NOUN

ADJECTIVE

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CAMP SONGS

ADJECTIVE _____

NOUN _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

ADJECTIVE _____

NOUN _____

NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

NOUN _____

ADJECTIVE _____

VERB ENDING IN "ING" _____

PLURAL NOUN _____

VERB ENDING IN "ING" _____

NOUN _____

NOUN _____



MAD LIBS®

CAMP SONGS

A/an _____ activity at camp is to gather around the _____ in the evening and roast _____ while singing _____ songs accompanied by a/an _____ on the harmonica. A/an _____ survey tells us the most popular _____ songs are “Row, Row, Row Your _____,” “She’ll Be Coming ’Round the _____,” “By the Light of the _____,” “Down By the _____ Mill Stream,” “I’ve Been _____ on the Railroad,” “When the _____ Go _____ In,” “Swing Low, Sweet _____,” and “Home, Home on the _____.”

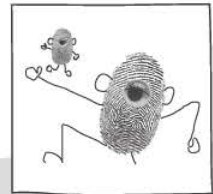


FINGERPRINT DOODLE

If your day trip plans change because of the weather you can always transport yourself somewhere else. All you need is paper, ink, a pen, and ten fingers. Next stop: the beach!

You will need

- Inkpad or paints
- Paper or notebook
- Pens and pencils
- Decorations



1. Press your finger onto the inkpad or dip it into paint. Roll your finger onto the paper. Use different fingers for different-sized prints.

2. Wait until the ink has dried and draw on details (arms, legs, and eyes) to transform the prints into characters. Add speech bubbles, too.

