Re-reading books is beneficial for children, as it allows them to deeply understand the characters and plot of a story while also setting them up to be able to read the book on their own. Even the youngest kids can “read” a book to themselves by looking at the pictures and retelling a story familiar to them.

Family Activity: Everyone Has a (P)art to Play

A communal art project is a great way to nurture community togetherness. Everyone wants to be part of a community. Working together on a group art project is one way to let belonging happen naturally! Below are communal project ideas:

- **A big, bright garden makes a great mural theme.** Each child can draw trees, flowers, rainbows, or whatever else they like. Even bugs!
- **Choose music to set the mood:** Invite children to draw however and whatever the music makes them feel. Play different styles, fast and swingy, slow and moody, to create different art pieces.
- **Create a sensory painting experience:** A grown-up puts big plops of paint on the paper. Whoever feels comfortable uses their fingers or hands as paintbrushes.
- **Collages are fun, too.** Kids can cut or tear shapes from construction paper or use pictures from old magazines. Or try sponge painting: Cut sponges into shapes, dip them in paint and dab onto paper to create a scene.
- **Get kids thinking about their favorite neighborhood spots.** The park? Library? Firehouse? Their own home? Ask them to draw it in. The finished project will be a good reminder of all the things that make the community special.

**Inspired by Sesame Street in Communities Activity, “Everyone Has a (P)Art to Play!”**

Family Reading Tip: Re-read family favorites

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