Beyond Reading: Extension Activities

After selecting a book for shared reading, you may also consider incorporating extension activities related to the learning concepts of the book. This resource contains ideas on how to extend a book's content learning to other areas, such as art, music, science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and family connection.

Extension Area	General Supports & Activity Ideas
Art	Use the OCALI Lending Library Adapted Art Kit to support participation. Create murals based on story themes, personal experiences, favorite foods, animals, or actions. Make animal-themed crafts including masks, puppets, headbands, paper plate animals, dinosaurs, monkeys, spiders, puppies, and monsters. Explore body awareness through handprints, footprints, body outlines, self-portraits, and body-part collages. Create food and daily-life themed projects such as lunchbox collages, breakfast plates, and nighttime/moon crafts. Incorporate story-specific crafts such as trains, caterpillars, chickens, and story characters. Use a variety of arts and crafts items such as glitter, paper, craft sticks, paint, crayons, markers, glue, puffy paint, chalk, sponges, fingers or wood. Incorporate household items and story themed items like food, plants, yarn, or fabric.
Music	Use the OCALI Lending Library Adapted Music Kit for accessible participation. Sing stories, nursery rhymes, and repetitive texts using instruments, movement, rhythm, and sound effects. Incorporate animal songs, counting songs, fingerplays, movement songs, bedtime songs, and story-based sing-alongs. Encourage children to create new verses, act out songs, and participate in call-and-response activities. Use music to reinforce literacy, sequencing, counting, emotional regulation, and movement concepts. Make musical shakers for the dance using toilet paper rolls filled with beans or rice, taped shut, and decorated

STEM	Develop counting and number skills through story characters, objects, matching games, and counting manipulatives. Support sorting, classifying, sequencing, patterning, and graphing activities using story themes, animals, foods, colors, and preferences. Encourage engineering and design through building fences, trains, crates, beds, and other story-related structures. Provide sensory experiences using bins, hidden-object activities, playdough, slime, and story props. Explore science concepts such as life cycles, body awareness, moon phases, measurement, observation, and cause-and-effect.
Other / Literacy & Multisensory Supports	Utilize OCALI Lending Library resources such as the Adapted Art Kit, Adapted Music Kit, Counting Bear Kit, Farm Animal Sound Puzzle, Domino Train, Easy Grip Stamp Kit, and Social Emotional Kit. Create story bags and multisensory materials to support comprehension and engagement. Extend literacy learning through sequencing activities, puppets, props, lesson plans, printable resources, and accessible digital books. Incorporate dramatic play experiences such as pretend play centers, mystery boxes, pajama days, veterinary clinics, and story retelling activities. Support social-emotional learning through feelings activities, visual supports, rule reminders, behavior supports, and emotion-identification tools. Use videos, sing-alongs, online games, AAC supports, and digital resources to reinforce learning and engagement.

For additional assistance, reach out to the Early Childhood Center of Excellence (EC-CoE) to request support from one of our Early Development and Learning Specialists (EDLS) using the request form located on the Ohio PROMISE website.