

Dear  Friends,

April 9 is National Unicorn Day, and what better way to celebrate than with a book full of laughter, surprises, and some unexpected unicorn chaos? This month, we're reading *You DON'T Want a Unicorn!* by Ame Dyckman, a hilarious cautionary tale about why bringing home a unicorn might not be as perfect as it seems.

This fun-filled story encourages children to think critically about responsibility while enjoying the whimsical mess that unicorns might create. It's a great way to talk about cause and effect, wishes vs. reality, and the importance of making thoughtful choices. In this month's REACH guide, you'll find discussion questions, unicorn-themed activities for hands-on fun, and unicorn science, including DIY layered colorful hand soap and fluffy unicorn slime.

Celebrate unicorns with us—minus the glitter explosions!

To make finding REACH book selections easy, I created [Take Off and Read's Bookshop affiliate](#) storefront where you can easily find chosen books and I'll earn a small commission on your purchases. But remember, you can buy anywhere or borrow from the library.

Let's have a blast celebrating unicorns—without all the glitter explosions!

Happy Reading!

See you next month!
Donna B.

Donna Boock
REACH Editor &
Concierge of Children's Book Fun
www.DonnaBoock.com



SCAN HERE

To receive REACH Guides in your inbox monthly!





Bookish Days to Celebrate!

National Poetry Month, School Library Month

4/2 - International Children's Book Day

4/6 National Bookmobile Day (Wednesday of National Library Week)

4/9 National Unicorn Day

4/9-15 - National Library Week

4/13 - Celebrate Teen Literature Day (Thursday of National Library Week)

4/11 - National Library Workers' Day

4/12 - Drop Everything and Read D.E.A.R. Day (Beverly Cleary's birthday)

4/21 - Poem in Your Pocket Day

4/23 - World Book Day

4/27- National Tell a Story Day

4/30 - Children's Book Day

Independent Bookstore Day (Last Saturday of the month)

Where can you find Donna in April?

April 12 - Virtual D.E.A.R tribute to Beverly Cleary on the [Take Off & Read YouTube Channel](#)

As a lifelong fan of Cleary's unforgettable characters—especially Ramona Quimby—I'll share how her books inspired my own childhood (and my writing!). I'll also read an excerpt of my book, *Earth to Kinzie*, and discuss how Kinzie, like Ramona, is a spirited, creative, and sometimes mischievous middle child with big ideas!

🗣️ In this virtual event, you'll:

- ✓ Hear fun childhood stories about how I related to Ramona (and Kinzie!)
- ✓ Enjoy a read-aloud excerpt from *Earth to Kinzie* featuring sibling antics
- ✓ Learn about sibling shenanigans & storytelling with a fun writing challenge

💡 How to Join:

- ✓ Tune in on April 12 or after—watch anytime on my YouTube channel!
- ✓ Grab a book and Drop Everything and Read!
- ✓ Share your sibling stories! Write or draw your own stories.

🔔 Subscribe & set a reminder now so you don't miss it!



Volume 2 / Issue 3/ Mar 2025

This Month's Featured Book:

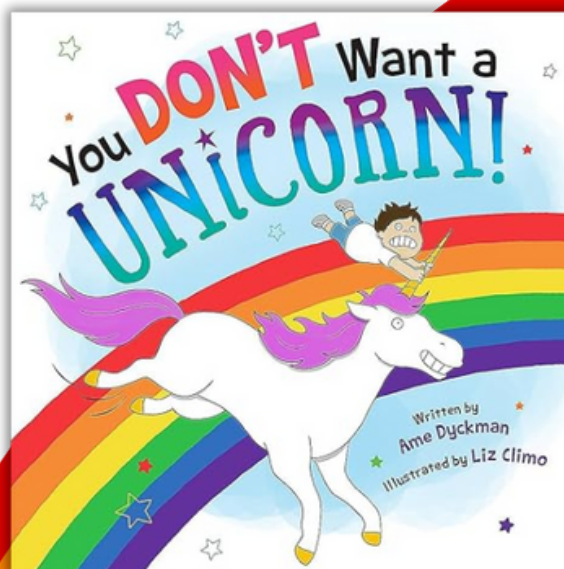
You Don't Want a Unicorn!

by Ame Dyckman (Author), Liz Climo (Illustrator)

Be careful what pet you wish for in this picture book from fan-favorite author Ame Dyckman and rising-star illustrator Liz Climo.

When a little boy throws a coin in a well asking for a pet unicorn, he has no idea what kind of trouble he's in for. Unbeknownst to him, unicorns make the absolutely worst pets: they shed, they poke holes in your ceiling, and they make a big mess. With a knowing wink from Ame Dyckman, creator of *Wolfie the Bunny* and cheerful illustrations from *Rory the Dinosaur* creator and Tumblr star Liz Climo, this rollicking story shares all of the ways a pet unicorn can ruin *your* life, and is sure to have readers in stitches.

Suggested for ages 3-8



BUY NOW



Clicking this Bookshop affiliate link won't cost you extra, but it might help fund my book-buying habit (strictly for research purposes, of course!)

YOU DON'T WANT A UNICORN!

Discussion Questions for REACH Partners

💬 Before Reading:

- If you could have any pet—real or imaginary—what would it be?
- What do you think unicorns are like? Are they always magical and fun, or could they be tricky to take care of?

😬 After Reading:

- How does the boy feel when he first gets his unicorn? How do his feelings change as the story goes on?
- What are some of the biggest problems caused by having a pet unicorn?
- Can you think of a time when you thought you wanted something, but it turned out differently than you expected?
- What lesson do you think the boy learned by the end?
- If you could rewrite the story, what pet would the boy wish for instead? What kinds of problems might that pet cause?

👨👩👦 Family Connection:

- Talk about the pets you've had (or wanted to have). What responsibilities come with having a pet?
- Imagine you could create a perfect pet—what would it be like? What rules would it follow?

Discussion Questions for Classroom Teachers & Librarians

💡 Before Reading:

- The title says *You Don't Want a Unicorn!*—why do you think the author chose that title? What might happen in this story?
- What do you know about unicorns from other books, movies, or stories?

😬 After Reading:

- What are some of the funny or unexpected things that happen when the boy gets a unicorn?
- If you were the narrator, what advice would you give the boy before he made his wish?
- Why do you think the boy throws another coin in the fountain at the end? What do you think he wished for?
- How does this story teach us about thinking before we make a big decision? Can you think of a real-life situation where this lesson applies?

✏️ Classroom Extension Ideas:

- Creative Writing: Have students write their own "*You Don't Want A...*" story about another mythical creature (dragon, mermaid, yeti, etc.).
- STEM Challenge: Design a "Unicorn-Proof House" that could survive a unicorn's messy magic!

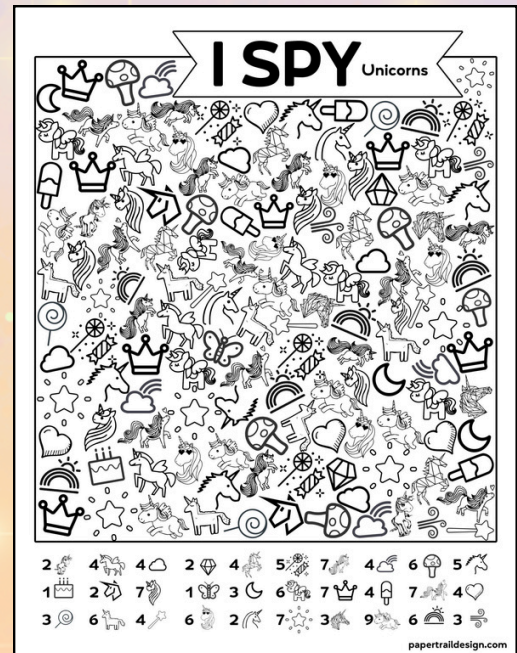


Reading Establishes A Connection Home

REACH Activities

From the Web

Free Printable Spy Unicorn from
papertraildesign.com



Free Printable
Make-a-Unicorn from Mrs. Merry.



Unicorn Bingo

- Send the Bingo card as a printable PDF or digital image for kids to follow along.
- As the host, call out a random challenge from the card. Don't go in a row!
- If a child completes the challenge, they mark or stamp that square.
- The goal is to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) and yell "UNICORN!"
- Keep playing until multiple kids win or go for a full blackout board!



Neigh like a unicorn!

Find something sparkly in your house.

Draw a unicorn in 30 seconds!



Spin like a unicorn.



Find something rainbow-colored.

If you had a pet unicorn, what would you feed it?



Pretend to gallop around your room.

Make a rainbow with objects around you!



If unicorns had a favorite ice cream flavor, what would it be?

Create a unicorn dance move and show it off!


Find something that starts with the letter U (for unicorn!)



If a unicorn gave you one wish, what would you wish for?

Unicorn Bingo


- Send the Bingo card as a printable PDF or digital image for kids to follow along.
- As the host, call out a random challenge from the card. Don't go in a row!
- If a child completes the challenge, they mark or stamp that square.
- The goal is to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) and yell "UNICORN!"
- Keep playing until multiple kids win or go for a full blackout board!




Find something that starts with the letter U (for unicorn!)

If a unicorn gave you one wish, what would you wish for?

Make a rainbow with objects around you!



Pretend to gallop around your room.



Create a unicorn dance move and show it off!

Find something sparkly in your house.



Neigh like a unicorn!


If unicorns had a favorite ice cream flavor, what would it be?

If you had a pet unicorn, what would you feed it?



Find something rainbow-colored.

Spin like a unicorn.



Draw a unicorn in 30 seconds!

Unicorn Bingo

- Send the Bingo card as a printable PDF or digital image for kids to follow along.
- As the host, call out a random challenge from the card. Don't go in a row!
- If a child completes the challenge, they mark or stamp that square.
- The goal is to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) and yell "UNICORN!"
- Keep playing until multiple kids win or go for a full blackout board!



Pretend to gallop around your room.

Make a rainbow with objects around you!

Find something rainbow-colored.



Find something that starts with the letter U (for unicorn!)



Spin like a unicorn.

If a unicorn gave you one wish, what would you wish for?

Find something sparkly in your house.

If you had a pet unicorn, what would you feed it?

If unicorns had a favorite ice cream flavor, what would it be?



Neigh like a unicorn!


Create a unicorn dance move and show it off!



Draw a unicorn in 30 seconds!

Unicorn Bingo


- Send the Bingo card as a printable PDF or digital image for kids to follow along.
- As the host, call out a random challenge from the card. Don't go in a row!
- If a child completes the challenge, they mark or stamp that square.
- The goal is to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) and yell "UNICORN!"
- Keep playing until multiple kids win or go for a full blackout board!




If unicorns had a favorite ice cream flavor, what would it be?

Neigh like a unicorn!

Draw a unicorn in 30 seconds!




If you had a pet unicorn, what would you feed it?



If a unicorn gave you one wish, what would you wish for?

Create a unicorn dance move and show it off!



Find something sparkly in your house.

Find something that starts with the letter U (for unicorn!)

Pretend to gallop around your room.



Make a rainbow with objects around you!

Spin like a unicorn.



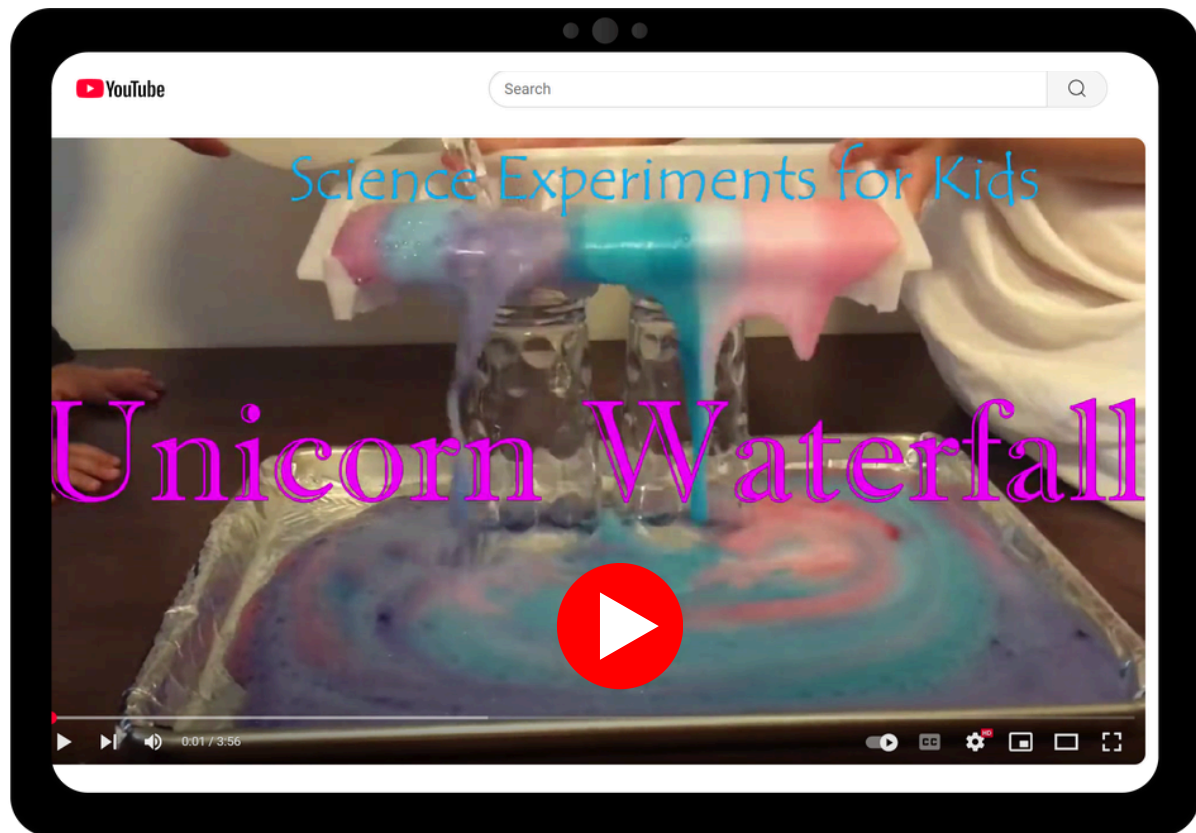
Find something rainbow-colored.

Unicorn SCIENCE

Unicorn Waterfall

**You likely already have everything you need
for this fun kid's science experiment!**

- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Gel food colors
- Ice Cube Tray
- Baking Pan with sides
- 2 Drinking glasses



From @funkids6507 on YouTube

Unicorn SCIENCE



Layered Unicorn Handsoap

Let's talk about some of the chaos unicorns create in the book *You DON'T want a Unicorn!* by Ame Dyckman. Unicorns can be messy, destructive, and downright impossible to clean up after! And let's be honest—some of our experiments and crafts in this issue might get a little messy, too. So, if your "unicorn" needs to wash up after a magical mess, make Layered Unicorn Hand Soap. Not only does it make clean-up fun, but it's also a great way to teach kids about density in liquids!

Density is how much “stuff” (matter) is packed into a space. Liquids with different densities don't mix easily—heavier ones sink while lighter ones float. In our Unicorn Hand Soap, the clear gel soap is the heaviest, so it stays at the bottom. The blue gel soap is a bit lighter and sits on top. Finally, the foam soap and baby oil are the lightest, so they float. This is the same reason oil and water don't mix.

You'll Need:

- A clear soap bottle with pump
- Clear Gel soap like Seventh Generation Liquid Hand Soap Fragrance Free & Clean Unscented Hand Soap - Clear (for the bottom layer)
- Liquid Based Skin-safe Soap Colorant (find on Amazon)
- Blue gel soap like Dial Complete Antibacterial Liquid Hand Soap, Spring Water, Blue (for the middle layer)
- Clear Foam soap (for the top layer)
- Baby oil (to create a separate floating layer)
- Tiny soap confetti (shave up some old bar soap with a grater) or floating mini unicorn-themed toys (optional, but extra fun!)

Instructions:

Bottom Layer (Clear Gel Soap + Color!)

Pour clear gel soap into the bottom third of your clear bottle.

Add a drop or two of Liquid Based Skin-safe Soap Colorant (pink or purple work great) and gently swirl.

Sprinkle in tiny soap confetti for a pop of color!

Middle Layer (Blue Gel Soap)

Slowly pour the blue gel hand soap on top of the clear layer.

Be careful to pour gently so the layers don't mix!

Top Layer (Foam Soap & Baby Oil)

Pump a layer of foam soap on top to create a light, fluffy layer.

Add in a drop or two of another color of the Liquid Based Skin-safe Soap Colorant if you'd like, or leave clear.

Slowly pour in a thin layer of baby oil—this keeps the foam layer separate.

Add the Fun!

If using floating mini toys, carefully drop them in before sealing the bottle.

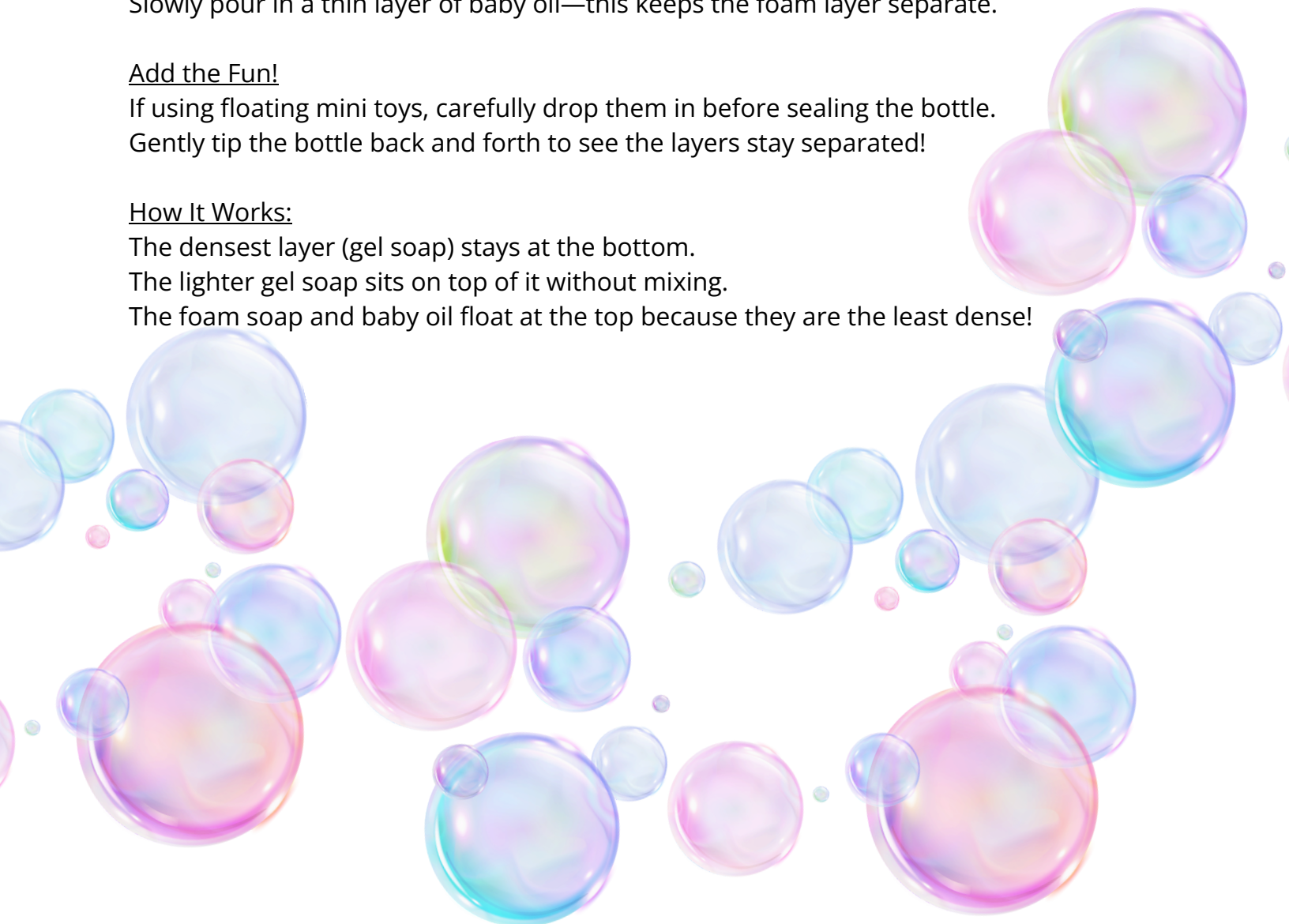
Gently tip the bottle back and forth to see the layers stay separated!

How It Works:

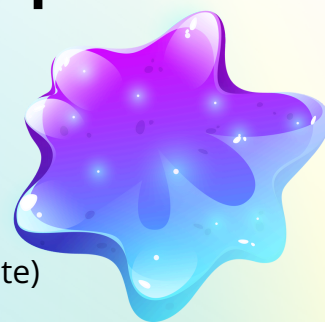
The densest layer (gel soap) stays at the bottom.

The lighter gel soap sits on top of it without mixing.

The foam soap and baby oil float at the top because they are the least dense!



Fluffy Unicorn SLIME Recipe



Ingredients:

- 1 cup white school glue
- 3 cups shaving cream (foam, not gel)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon saline solution (must contain boric acid and sodium borate)
- Food coloring (assorted colors for a unicorn effect)
- Fine glitter (optional, for added sparkle)

Instructions:

1. Prepare the Base:
 - In a large mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of white school glue and 3 cups of shaving cream. Stir gently until the mixture is smooth and well combined.
2. Add Color and Sparkle:
 - Divide the mixture evenly into separate bowls, depending on how many colors you wish to create.
 - Add a few drops of food coloring to each bowl, stirring until the color is evenly distributed. For a magical touch, sprinkle in fine glitter and mix thoroughly.
3. Incorporate the Activator:
 - To each bowl, add 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda and mix well.
 - Gradually add 1 tablespoon of saline solution to each mixture, stirring continuously. The slime will begin to form and pull away from the sides of the bowl.
4. Knead the Slime:
 - Once the mixture becomes difficult to stir, remove it from the bowl and begin kneading with your hands. If the slime is too sticky, add a few more drops of saline solution and continue kneading until it reaches the desired consistency.

Tips:

- For best results, use white school glue and foam shaving cream. Gel shaving cream may not yield the same fluffy texture.
- Ensure the saline solution contains boric acid and sodium borate, as these are essential for the slime to form properly.
- Store the slime in an airtight container to maintain its fluffiness and prevent drying out.

Always supervise children during this activity and ensure they wash their hands thoroughly after playing with the slime.

You
did it!



Start
here



Read for 20 minutes each day,
mark one space, and race to the finish to win!
Get more game boards at www.DonnaBoock.com/for-kids.

**RESCUE
READERS**