

LEARNING IS

everywhere

ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD



Welcome to the **Learning is Everywhere** calendar, with fun activities to help your young child learn and grow!

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST FIVE YEARS ARE SO IMPORTANT!

How your child's brain develops before age five affects how he will learn for life. By age five, 90% of your child's brain and brain connections are developed! Thousands of connections that build language, math and social skills for life.

Why does this matter? Because the connections made in your child's brain before age five set the foundation for all his learning as he grows up and becomes an adult. After age five, new brain connections are harder to make.

LITTLE ACTIONS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT!

Your love for your child and the bond you build together means more than anything else. It's the foundation for all of their learning and growth!



You are your child's first and most important teacher. You can support your child's healthy development by:

- Providing healthy foods;
- Building a strong bond with your child;
- Talking and reading to your child from birth;
- Learning typical milestones for your child's age and helping your child meet milestones; and

- Choosing a person or program that can care for your child as you would and help your child learn and grow.

Check out the Early Learning GPS at www.earlylearninggps.com or download the app for more tips and to follow your child's progress.

LEARNING IS FUN!

Children learn by playing. You don't need expensive toys or games to help them grow. Your attention and love will have a big impact. See what your child sees. Talk about it. Sing about it.

Playing helps children get excited about learning and get along with others. Play with your child (dress up is great!), have fun, and watch them grow. It's okay to play!

The activities in this calendar are based on Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards. Child care and other early learning programs, kindergarten and elementary school teachers use Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards as a guide for what children typically can do at each age. These activities let you have fun with your child while you help them build skills they will use in kindergarten and beyond!

For more books and activities, sign up for monthly e-newsletters at www.papromiseforchildren.com.



ME BOOK

You and your child can make your very own book! Each month contains Me Book ideas you can do together. Save your pages each month and at the end of the year, put them together in a book you can share for years to come!

CHOOSE QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHILD

How young children spend their day affects how they will learn things like their ABCs when they get older.

You want your child to be safe, well cared for and given lots of learning activities. Pennsylvania offers several programs for children from birth through school-age that are free or low-cost to eligible families. Find child care and other early learning programs near you at www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

Child Care Certification

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services regulates family child care homes, group child care, and child care centers to ensure they meet health and safety regulations. Programs are required to post their certificate of compliance, so if you don't see it, ask about it.

Child Care Works

Provides financial help to pay for child care. Families that earn up to 200% of the federal poverty level and meet work requirements are eligible.

Early Intervention

Provides children with disabilities or developmental delays with services such as parent education, therapies or other supports. If you have concerns about your child's development, call Pennsylvania's CONNECT Helpline at 1-800-692-7288. One of our experts can answer your questions, and connect you with a program that can help. There is no cost to families.

Early Head Start/ Head Start

Provides comprehensive early education and family support services from birth through kindergarten. Services can be in the home. Families earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level are eligible. There is no cost to families.

Healthy Families America

Strives to provide expectant and new parents with the opportunity to receive the education and support they need at the time their baby is born. There is no cost to families.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Helps low-income, first-time parents experience healthy pregnancies, promotes early literacy and encourages school readiness by helping mothers learn how to foster healthy child development. First-time moms in the first 28 weeks of pregnancy and family earning up to 235% of federal poverty level are eligible. There is no cost to families.

Parents as Teachers

Provides home visits with trained experts who educate parents on how to become the first and most important teacher in their child's life. There is no cost to families.

Keystone STARS

Rates participating child care and other early learning programs for quality with a 1 to 4 STAR rating for teachers, atmosphere and working with families. When looking for child care, ask about Keystone STARS. Families earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level may be eligible for financial assistance through Child Care Works.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

Pre-K Counts provides high-quality pre-kindergarten in schools, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 child care, Head Start, and licensed nursery schools. Families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level are eligible to apply. There is no cost to families.

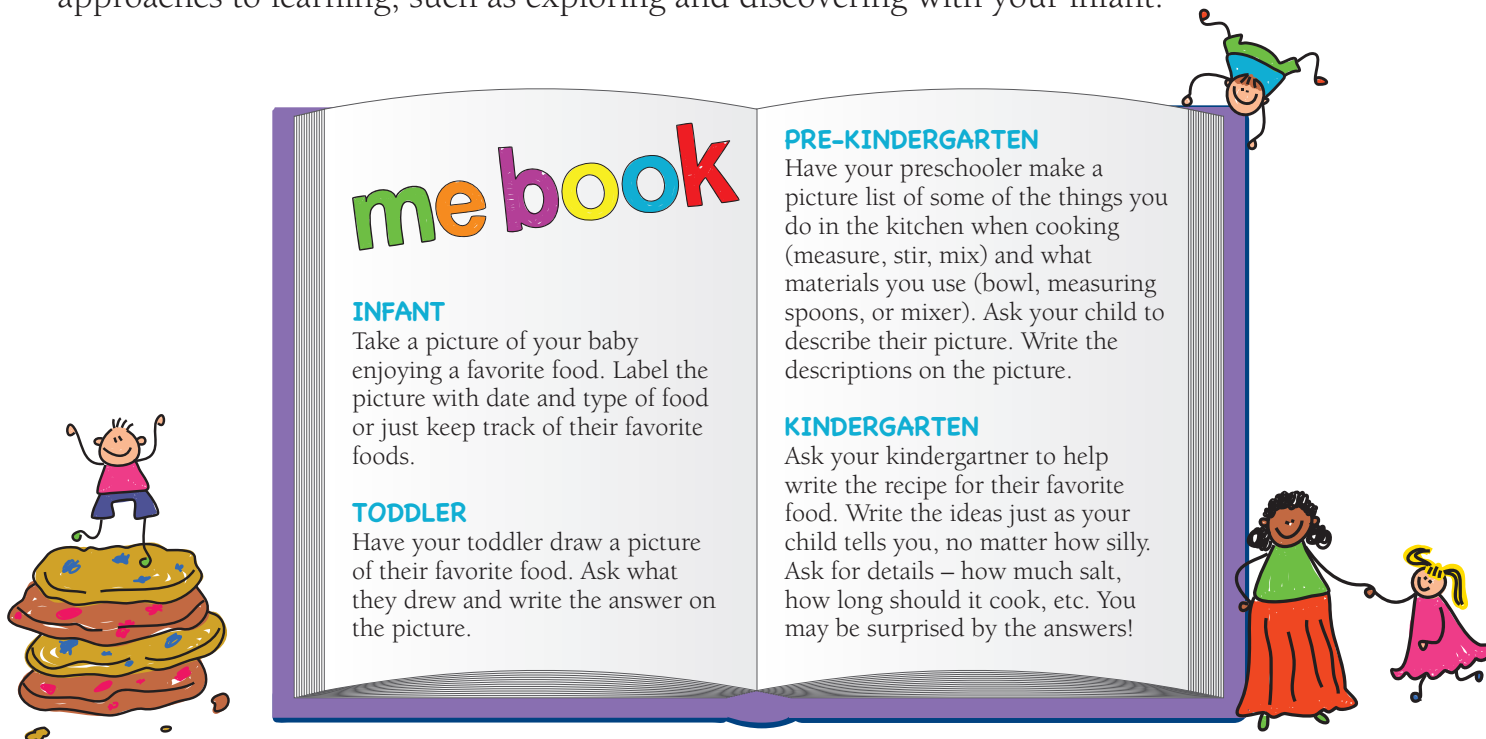
For more information on quality early learning programs, call 1-877-PA-KIDS or visit www.papromiseforchildren.com.



January

IN THE KITCHEN

Being in the kitchen with your child provides opportunities to work with your child. Kindergartners can work on mathematic skills, like counting, measuring and patterning. Preschoolers can work on language skills like following directions and communication. The kitchen is a great place for your toddler to work on language and literacy skills, like expressive language (likes and dislikes of food, for example). With your infant, you can work on approaches to learning, such as exploring and discovering with your infant.



Activity 1: ONE, TWO, IN THE KITCHEN WITH YOU

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Provide plastic bowls, pots, wooden spoons, etc. for your baby to explore while you are cooking. Describe the sizes and the number of items.

TODDLER: Give your toddler plastic or metal measuring cups. Show how to stack the cups on top of each other according to size. Talk about which one is biggest, which one is smallest, then count them. Have your toddler repeat the task.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Give your preschooler plastic or metal measuring cups or spoons. Ask her to put them in order from smallest to largest. Talk about which one is first, second, etc. Give her a plastic pitcher of water and allow her to fill another container using the cups and spoons. Talk about what is more and what is less.

KINDERGARTEN: Use grapes or cubes of cheese to fill a cup. How many does it take to fill the cup? What if a smaller cup is used—does filling it require more or less? What if a larger cup is used? Talk about why the number of items to fill a cup might change with the size of a cup.



Activity 2: SNACK TIME

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking and Technology

INFANT: Give your baby a spoon during meal time. Allow her to bang it or put it in her mouth. This early exploration of tools will help your infant understand the use of the items.

TODDLER: Give your toddler a spoon and fork. Talk about the different characteristics: spoon is rounded, fork has prongs. Give him time to use both so he can understand the types of foods to eat with each one.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Lay a large piece of paper on the table. Ask your preschooler to set her place at the table on top of that paper by giving her a plate and cup. Next give her a napkin and fork, spoon and knife. Trace around each object and talk about the different purpose each one has in helping us eat.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask your child to investigate different ways to eat the same food. Is it easier to eat soup with a fork or a spoon? How many different types of spoons are in your drawer? What purpose does each one have?



Activity 3: SHAPES ALL AROUND US

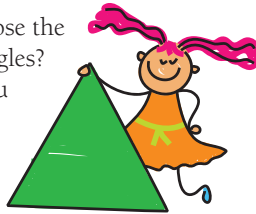
Key Learning Area: Approaches to Learning through Play

INFANT: Provide plastic bowls, plates, placemats, cups, etc. for your baby to explore. Name the shapes when you give them to your baby.

TODDLER: Ask your toddler to identify the shapes of plates, pots, napkins, cupboard doors, etc. Have her point to the shapes when they are named.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Provide round, square, triangle and rectangle crackers or other food (you can use cookie cutters to cut out shapes). Count out three of each, and then ask your child to try. Next ask him to line them in a pattern – square, circle, rectangle, square, circle, rectangle, etc. Let him choose the shape of their sandwich. Does he want squares, rectangles or triangles? Have him observe while you cut the sandwich. Name the parts you cut—whole, half, and quarter.

KINDERGARTEN: Using cheese slices, crackers, apple slices, or orange wedges that are a part of her snack, ask your kindergartner to create an object or face out of the shapes.



Activity 4: AT THE TABLE

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: As you are feeding your baby talk about the taste, temperature and colors of the food.

TODDLER: Encourage your toddler to use asking words and manner words like “May I...,” “Please,” and “Thank you”. One way to do this is to use the words or phrases yourself when talking to your child! Don’t forget to praise your toddler when he uses his manner words.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to tell you about her day. Ask questions like: What did you enjoy most about today? What were some things that you did? Who did you play with? What are some things you learned? Encourage her to use words which describe feelings, colors, shapes, sizes, etc.

KINDERGARTEN: Encourage your kindergartner to create for a topic of conversation at dinner three nights a week. Encourage him to use his imagination. Talk about books you both have read, or the days’ events.



JANUARY SUGGESTED BOOKS

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Jamberry by Bruce Degen

We Eat Dinner in the Bathtub by Angela Shelf Medearis

Chicken Soup with Rice by Maurice Sendak

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

The Wolf’s Chicken Stew by Keiko Kasza

Stone Soup by Marcia Brown

The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins

Chocolate Moose for Dinner by Fred Gwynne

Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes: A Cookbook for Preschoolers & Up by Mollie Katzen and Ann Henderson

The Kids’ Multicultural Cookbook by Deanna F. Cook

Lunch by Denise Fleming

Pancakes, Pancakes by Eric Carle

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

February

VISITING THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Visits to the doctor's office can be a great place to teach your child about the importance of good health and an active lifestyle. Talk with your child about the importance of regular doctor's appointments, dental checks and vision checks. This is a good time to talk about getting enough sleep and taking care of his/her body.

Take this time to teach your child about eating healthy and drinking water. Provide your child with a balanced diet of fruits (like apples, oranges, and melons), vegetables (like peas, carrots, and broccoli), proteins (like beans and meats), dairy products (like cheese, milk and yogurt) and grains (like pasta, rice and breads).



Want to learn more about your child's milestones?

Check out the Early Learning GPS at www.earlylearninggps.com.



me book

INFANT

Trace a big red heart and cut it out. Take a picture of your baby and put the picture in the middle of the heart.

TODDLER

Ask your toddler to paint/finger paint a picture of him/her self and once dry, help them label the body parts.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Help your child make a "Star of the Day" paper. Have your child look through magazines or picture books and

cut out different pictures or words that represent an active lifestyle or healthy behaviors. Help your child to glue the pictures/words onto the paper.

KINDERGARTEN

All About Me--Ask your child to answer the following questions and write their answers on drawing paper:

- My hair color is:
- My eye color is:
- I weigh __ pounds.
- I am __ inches tall.
- I am __ years old.
- I like to play __.
- My favorite outdoor activity is ____.

The resource *Be Your Child's Champion* has suggestions you can use when talking with your child's healthcare professional.

Find it at www.papromiseforchildren.com.



Activity 1: TALKING ABOUT THE DOCTOR

Key Learning Area: Social Studies Thinking

INFANT: Make good eye contact with your baby and talk about being at the doctor's office. "There's another mommy, there is another baby. Mommy and baby are at the doctor's office."

TODDLER: Walk around the doctor's office with your toddler, explaining the different areas of the office and look at the rooms to prepare your child for his appointment. Explain that the doctor and nurse are here help care for them.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to bring her favorite stuffed animal or doll to the doctor's office and ask them to role play. Ask her to be the doctor and have the teddy bear or stuffed animal as the patient. Ask her to take care of the teddy bear or stuffed animal.

KINDERGARTEN: Explain the roles of doctors and nurses. Role-play with your kindergartner and have him imitate a doctor or nurse doing a well check up. Encourage him to check that your body is working properly. For example: Bend your elbow, blink your eyes, or take a deep breath.



Activity 2: STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking and Technology

INFANT: Sing while talking with your baby about putting on a coat, hat, mittens, blanket, etc. Explain that you are keeping her safe and warm.

TODDLER: Take your toddler to the bathroom while visiting the doctor's office and wash his hands. Explain the importance of washing hands and explain germs and how to prevent germs.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to tell you the name of a healthy food item and then you name one, too. Explain why it is important to eat healthy foods.

KINDERGARTEN: Talk with your child about wearing a bicycle helmet when riding a bike. Explain why a helmet should be worn. Have your kindergartner share other safety rules when riding a bicycle.



Activity 3: LET'S GET MOVING!

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: While on his back, safely lift your baby's legs up in the air and then bring the feet to the mouth. Move the arms in circles, and then wiggle fingers and toes.

TODDLER: Encourage your toddler to walk to the desk area and then walk back. Ask her where are different things around the doctor's office (phone, magazine, door, window, etc.)

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Make up a song about what your body can do, and then have your child do each. "My eyes can blink, my fingers can wiggle, my mouth can smile, etc." Ask your preschooler what else her body can do.

KINDERGARTEN: Play a game by asking your kindergartner to point to a body part and have him tell what that body part does or is used for.



Activity 4: PARTS OF MY BODY

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: While at a scheduled check-up, play tickle time and allow baby to freely move his body. Remember to talk with your infant by naming the body parts when you play tickle time.

TODDLER: Play Simon Says. Help your toddler touch her toes, legs, etc. Introduce new body parts, such as the shoulder or elbow.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: While in the doctor's office, encourage your preschooler to play Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. If your child cannot touch each part, touch them for him.

KINDERGARTEN: When visiting the doctor's office, ask your kindergartner to identify this body parts and ask him to explain what each body part does. Talk about the function that goes with each body part. For example, the eyes are to see, the ears are to hear, etc.



Read a book at the doctor's office about being healthy. If your doctor's office does not have books, visit your local library.
Talk with your child about what is good for their body and what not good for their body.



FEBRUARY SUGGESTED BOOKS

Do I Have to Go to the Hospital-

A First Look at Going to the Hospital by Pat Thomas

Never Take a Shark to the Dentist by Judi Barrett

A Day with a Doctor by J. Kottke

At the Hospital by Beylon C Mineola

Calling Doctor Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

Daisy the Doctor by F. Brooks

Franklin Goes to the Hospital by Paulette Bourgeois

Going to the Doctor by A. Civardi

Hello, Doctor by DF Marx

Miss Dose the Doctors' Daughter by Alan Ahlberg

My Friend the Doctor by J. Cole

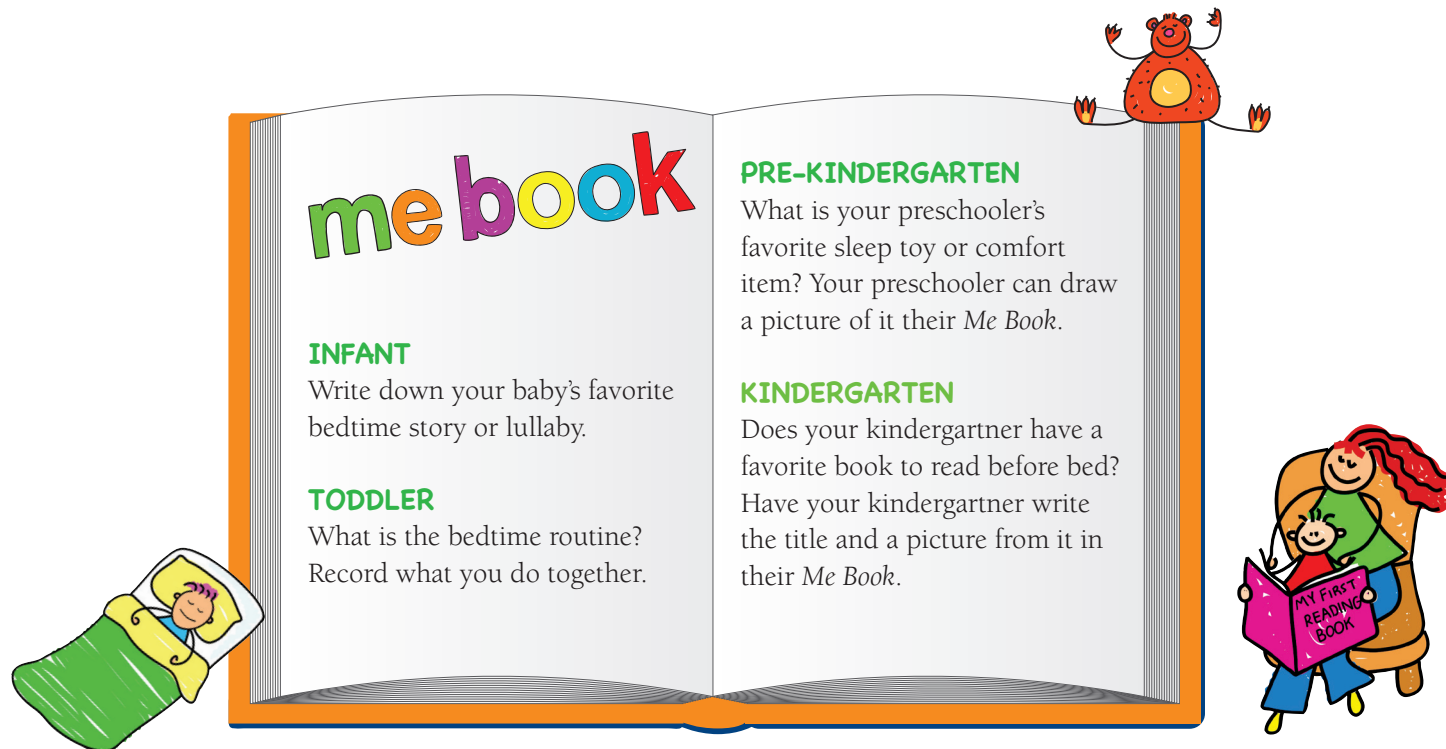
The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctors
by Stan and Jan Berenstain

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

March

IN THE BEDROOM

Children thrive on routines, such as consistent nap or bedtimes, and the consistent routines developed around getting ready for bed. The bedroom is a great place to encourage a love for reading. There should always be books available for children. This will encourage their learning and satisfy their curiosity. Children should be encouraged to look at books if they wake up early in the morning or need a quiet activity. You can have access to an endless supply of books at your local library!



Activity 1: SLEEPY TIME

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: As your baby is ready to go to sleep, place him on his back to sleep. It is okay for infants to fuss a little at bedtime. Learning to calm himself to go to sleep is an important skill for babies to learn.

TODDLER: Toddlers can mimic bedtime routines by getting a favorite doll or stuffed animal ready for bed. This will be beneficial to help get them in the spirit of the routine.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: In order to be ready for the next morning, before bedtime, discuss the next day's events. You can offer your preschooler choices about what to wear, and she can help decide what outfit to select and lay it out. This will help the morning routine be less harried. Adults can discuss the weather and ask what types of clothes would be best.

KINDERGARTEN: In addition to the evening routines in the bedroom to help get ready for morning, Kindergartners can dress themselves and begin to assist in taking care of their rooms. Kindergartners can also help make the bed and put away pajamas.



Activity 3: WHAT CAN WE SEE, WHERE TO BE?

Key Learning Area: Approaches to Learning through Play

INFANT: Take a few minutes with your baby to walk around the room and name some of the items within the room. Visit favorite toys or look at pictures in the room and name items for baby.

TODDLER: Play a quick game of "What can I see?" by describing an item in the room so your toddler can name it.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: Ask your child to pretend that getting into bed is like getting into an envelope. Ask them "Where can we go?" Encourage them to think a different place they can mail themselves each night and what they may see when they get there.



Activity 2: BEDTIME STORIES

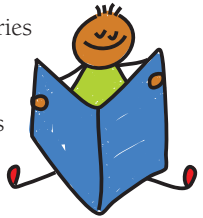
Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: Hold your baby and read to her regardless of age!

TODDLER: Toddlers may enjoy having the same book read over and over again as part of bedtime routines. This may include more than one book. Bedtime is an ideal time to enjoy some quiet closeness with your child.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: As children get older, the length of bedtime stories may increase. Part of this routine can be preschoolers retelling their favorite book to you.

KINDERGARTEN: In addition to retelling a favorite story, kindergartners may be able to read some of their favorite stories. Making up stories without books develops the imagination and can be shared by either the child or the caregiver. Use books without words, or read the pictures in books to tell the story.



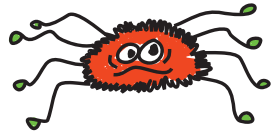
Activity 4: RISE AND SHINE!

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: When getting baby up for the morning, play a game of peek-a-boo while dressing or changing.

TODDLER: While getting ready for the day, sing some of your favorite nursery rhymes or finger plays, like Little Boy Blue, Itsy-Bitsy-Spider, Hey Diddle Diddle, or Hickory-Dickory-Dock. These will teach your toddler fun rhymes while distracting him from getting dressed or changed.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: While getting dressed and ready for the day, ask your child to tell you her plans. Initially, it may only be plans for breakfast, but as children get older, challenge them to plan for more of the day. At the end of the day, this can be a quiet conversation as part of the bedtime routine to see if their day was the same or different than they planned.



MARCH SUGGESTED BOOKS

I Love You Stinky Face by Lisa McCourt

What You Never Knew About Beds, Bedrooms, & Pajamas (Around-the-House History) by Patricia Lauber and John Manders

There's a Barnyard in My Bedroom by David Suzuki and Eugenie Fernandes

Los Osos Berenstain Y El Cuarto Desordenado/ Berenstain Bears and the Messy Bedroom (Berenstain Bears in Spanish) by Stan Berenstain

Stop Snoring, Bernard! by Zachariah Ohora

Mr. Messy and His Untidy Bedroom (Mr. Men Story Stickers) by Roger Hargreaves

Whose Shoes? by Stephen R. Swinburne

Junie B. Jones Has a Monster Under Her Bed by Barbara Park

Who Will Tuck Me in Tonight? by Carol Roth

There's a Monster Under my Bed by James Howe

Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Nursery Rhyme Collections - Random House, Mother Goose, etc.

Fairy Tales - Traditional and retold versions

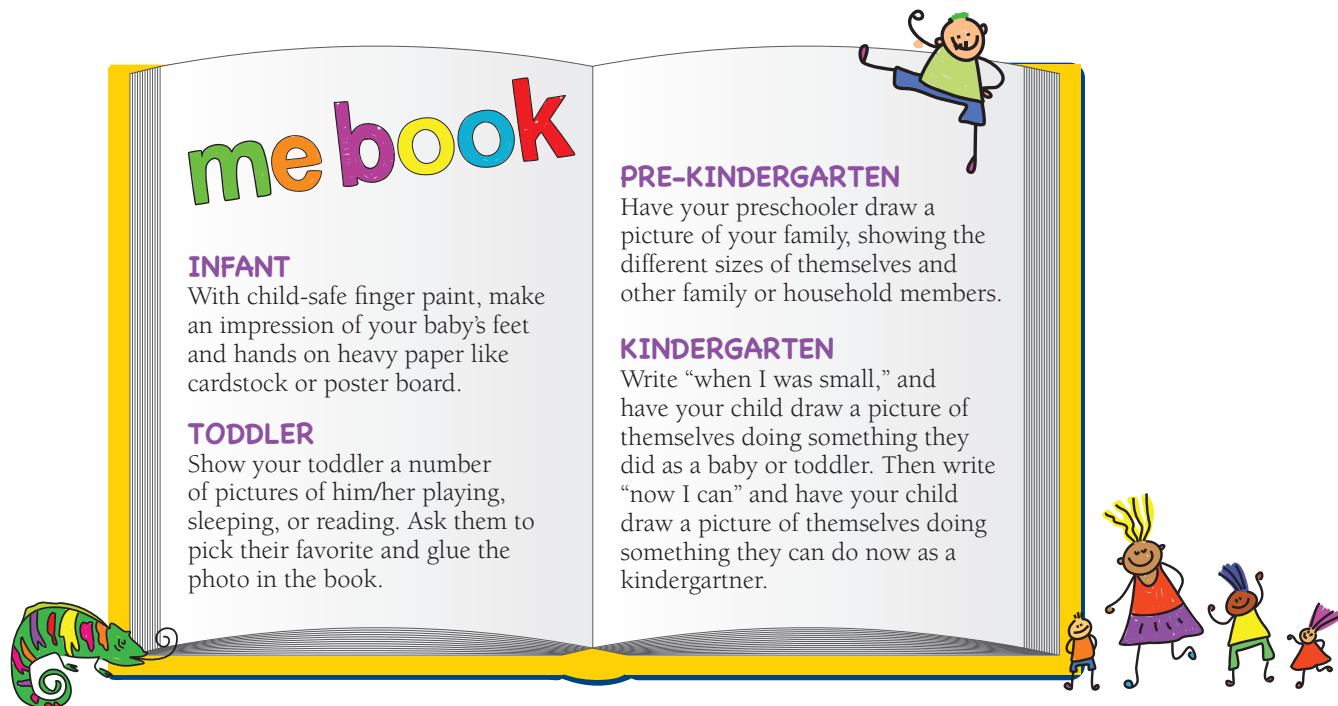
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



LET'S CELEBRATE MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Month of the Young Child is a time to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. It is also a time to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Celebrate this month by exploring fun learning activities within your community.



Activity 1: HAVING A BALL!

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: Play with a ball! Help your baby explore it with his hands, mouth (make sure it is large enough, not to be a choking hazard) and eyes. If possible, find a ball that chimes or squeaks, has an interesting texture and/or contrasting colors. Talk to your baby about what he sees, hears or feels.

TODDLER: Play a simple game with your toddler. Roll the ball back and forth and/or a game of catch. Use words like fast, slow, up, down and around as you play the game.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Play a game with your preschooler by providing her with a ball and a target or obstacle course. Before she starts ask how many kicks she thinks it will take to hit the target. What is the best way to get the ball to the target?

KINDERGARTEN: Set up an obstacle course with the help of your child. Make up the rules together. Use outdoor chairs, trees or bushes, playground equipment etc. Mix opportunities to kick and throw the ball to build on skills.



Activity 2: GOING FOR A WALK

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: While walking with your baby, note how she responds to different sounds and sensations outside. Talk to her about what she sees and hears. Use simple language, such as, “Do you hear the bird?”, “Look at the tree”, “Feel the sunshine”. Point out the everyday things found outdoors.

TODDLER: Talk with your toddler about what he sees or hears outside. Ask him to label what they see or hear. For example: flower, tree, bird. Start to add additional descriptions to these labels, like “big green tree” or “red flower.”

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: During your walk play a searching game of “I spy”. Come up with criteria of what you will look for on your walk. For example: Things that are green, things that move fast, things that move slow.

KINDERGARTEN: Bring along a small bag or basket on a walk and encourage your child to start a nature collection. It could be leaves from trees, flowers they can press, or different looking rocks. When you get home, have your child label the objects. These objects can be placed in a box or displayed on a shelf.



Activity 3: READ THE PA ONE BOOK

Visit www.paonebook.org for the PA One Book and to find fun learning activities.

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking and Technology

INFANT: Read the PA One Book, pointing out colors and pictures, watching your child for responses. What makes him smile?

TODDLER: When reading the PA One Book, ask your toddler to describe what is happening in different pictures in the book. Talk about the colors or shapes within the book.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: When reading the PA One Book, ask questions that require descriptions about the story and characters. Talk about what the characters may be thinking or feeling.

KINDERGARTEN: After reading the PA One Book, visit the library to learn about similar books. What makes them similar? Which one is a favorite book and why?



Activity 4: THE MUSIC OUTDOORS

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Encourage your baby to feel the different texture of the grass, flowers, trees, etc. Make up a song about the birds, or the tree, or the sun and how each texture feels.

TODDLER: Listen to the sounds outside (or inside!) with your toddler. Make up a song that includes imitations of the sounds you hear, such as birds singing, a dog barking, horns honking, children laughing, etc.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Using the animals outside (birds, squirrels, dogs, etc.), make up a song about the different animals and what they do. Your preschooler can imitate their actions (birds fly, dogs bark, squirrels shake their tails, etc.)

KINDERGARTEN: Using the sounds outside or inside, sing a song about them. Imitate the sounds, using volume and any other identify factors, such as whispering wind in the leaves, the abruptness of a dog's bark, the echo of a car's horn in the city, etc.



APRIL SUGGESTED BOOKS

Growing Up With Tamales/Los tamales de Ana by Gwendolyn Zepeda, April Ward, & Gabriela Baeza Ventura

What a Treasure! by Jane and Will Hillenbrand

Community Helpers from a to Z (Alphabasics) by Bobbie Kalman & Niki Walker

Hello Benny!: What It's Like to Be a Baby (Growing Up Stories: What It's Like to Be a Baby) by Robie H. Harris & Michael Emberley

Growing Up (Play & Discover) by Diane James, Sara Lynn, & Joe Wright

You're a Community Helper (Pretend Series) by Karen Bryant-Mole

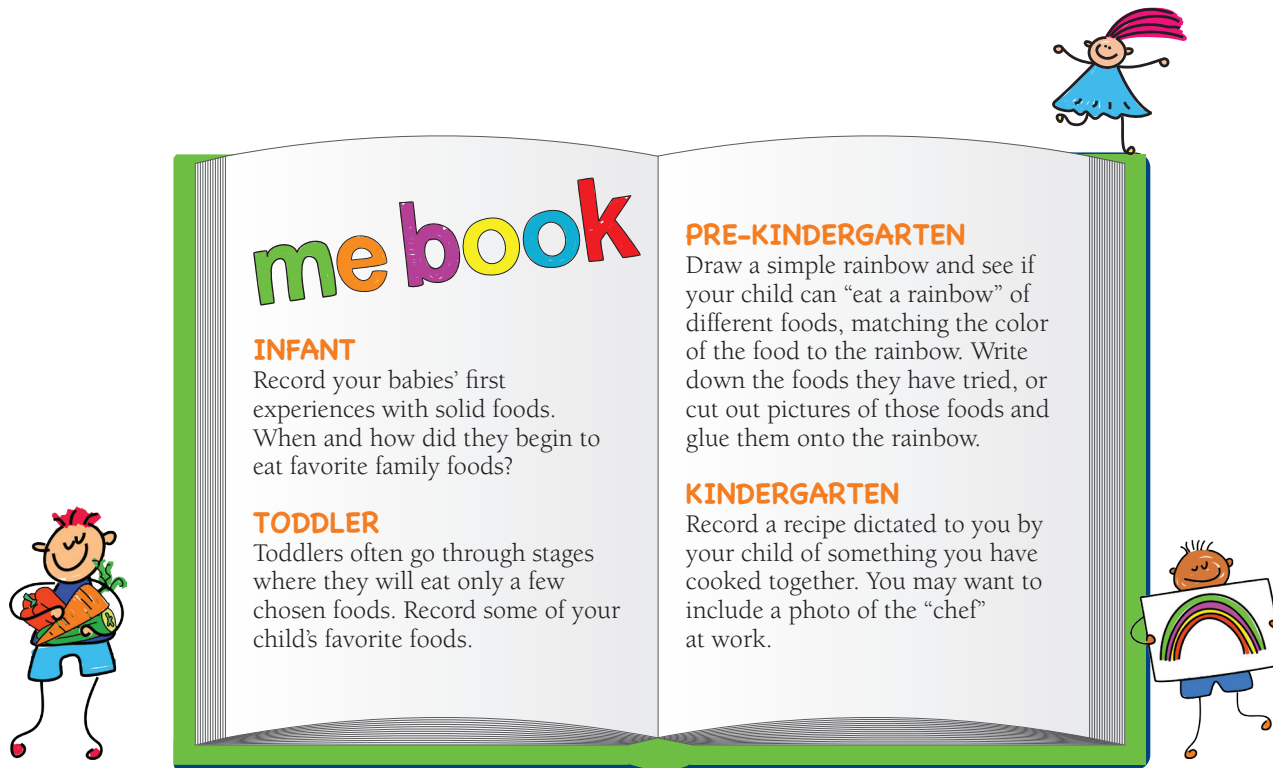
Jobs People Do by DK Publishing

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



TRIP TO THE GROCERY STORE

A trip to the grocery store can be an opportunity for your child to gain real and valuable knowledge about math and nutrition. Guide your child's discovery of basic mathematic and social studies concepts as you help your child understand the world outside the family and home.



me book

INFANT

Record your babies' first experiences with solid foods. When and how did they begin to eat favorite family foods?

TODDLER

Toddlers often go through stages where they will eat only a few chosen foods. Record some of your child's favorite foods.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Draw a simple rainbow and see if your child can "eat a rainbow" of different foods, matching the color of the food to the rainbow. Write down the foods they have tried, or cut out pictures of those foods and glue them onto the rainbow.

KINDERGARTEN

Record a recipe dictated to you by your child of something you have cooked together. You may want to include a photo of the "chef" at work.

Activity 1: COLORFUL CHOICES

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Babies will enjoy seeing the bright colors of fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. Show your baby objects as you put them in your shopping cart. “Here’s a nice red apple!” or “See the green pepper?”

TODDLER: A trip to the store can provide an opportunity to explore objects not found in the home. Involve your toddler in decision making. Offer your toddler choices as you shop. “Should we get a red apple or a yellow pear?”

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: The grocery store is filled with things to count! Let your preschooler help count the number of potatoes needed for dinner, or the cans of soup that go into your shopping cart.

KINDERGARTEN: If you clip coupons, you may have several bright pictures of the products you will be searching for at the grocery store. Your Kindergartner can be your helper at the grocery store by matching the pictures and words on coupons to the objects on the shelves.



Activity 2: HEALTHY CHOICES

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: The sights and sounds of a grocery store can be fascinating to your baby. He may alert you to sounds that catch his interest as you shop. For example, the squeaky wheels of the cart, the swish of meat or cheese being sliced, or the water spraying the vegetables.

TODDLER: Fruits, vegetables and the many nutritious foods displayed at the grocery store are a great opportunity for your child to expand her vocabulary with naming games. Name items as they go into the cart and encourage your child to repeat their names.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Good nutritional habits include eating foods that are a variety of colors and textures. Encourage your preschooler to eat a rainbow by challenging him to help find something red, or yellow, or green at the grocery store.

KINDERGARTEN: Talk to your kindergartner about healthy choices. Encourage her to form good nutritional habits by eating foods that are a variety of colors and textures. Let her pick a different color each time at the grocery store and shop for a new healthy food of that color to try when you get home.



Activity 3: SIGHTS & SOUNDS IN THE COMMUNITY

Key Learning Area: Social Studies Thinking

INFANT: Allow enough time for errands with baby to tune in to your babies reactions to new sights and sounds. Label the sounds of a car honking, bells ringing, birds singing in a reassuring manner for your baby to encourage her enjoyment of new experiences.

TODDLER: Allowing enough time for errands with a toddler sets the tone for enjoying new sights and sounds. Expand the labels that he gives those things that are familiar or interesting. If he points to a car and says, “Car,” you can expand that to “Yes, that blue car is going slowly.”

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: A trip to the grocery store is an opportunity to observe a variety of community workers, like bakers, cashiers, or butchers. Talk to your preschooler about the people who help get the food we eat get to our tables. Ask her which jobs she might enjoy.

KINDERGARTEN: Talk to your kindergartner about the process of buying food. “First we make a list, and then we find food in the store and choose our food. After that, we pay for our food and bring it home.”



Activity 4: FOOD FUN

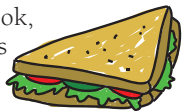
Key Learning Area: Approaches to Learning through Play

INFANT: Play peek-a-boo in the grocery store by holding up cereal boxes or other items you have selected in front of your face before putting them into the grocery cart. Enjoy your baby’s delight as you reappear each time the item goes into the grocery cart

TODDLER: Shopping for and making simple recipes together with your toddler may encourage them to try new foods. Shop for fruits or vegetables together. Cut them in small pieces for him to try with dip that he can stir and spoon into small cups.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Find a simple food that you and your preschooler can make together. Involve her in shopping for it. Talk about where it comes from (grows on a trees, grows under the ground) and where it can be found in the grocery store.

KINDERGARTEN: Your kindergartner can help search for foods in a book, magazine, or the newspaper that they would like to try. Discuss the steps in preparing food (wash vegetables, cut fruit, etc.) and decide which steps can safely be done by him and which you or another adult will help with. Involve him in making a grocery list and finding the item at the grocery store.



MAY SUGGESTED BOOKS

Grocery Store (Field Trip!) by Angela Leeper

Signs at the Store (Welcome Books: Signs in My World) by Mary Hill

Grandpa’s Corner Store by Dyanne Disalvo-ryan

Barney and Baby Bop Go to the Grocery Store (Go to --- Series) by Donna D. Cooner & Dennis Full

What’s in Grandma’s Grocery Bag? by Hui-Mei Pan

A Visit to the Supermarket (Pebble Plus) by B. A. Hoena

Maisy Goes Shopping (Maisy) by Lucy Cousin

A Busy Day at Mr. Kang’s Grocery Store (Our Neighborhood (New York, N.Y.) by Alice K. Flanagan & Christine Osinski

Our Corner Grocery Store by Joanne Schwartz & Laura Beingessner

Arthur’s Trip To The Grocery Store by Marc Brown

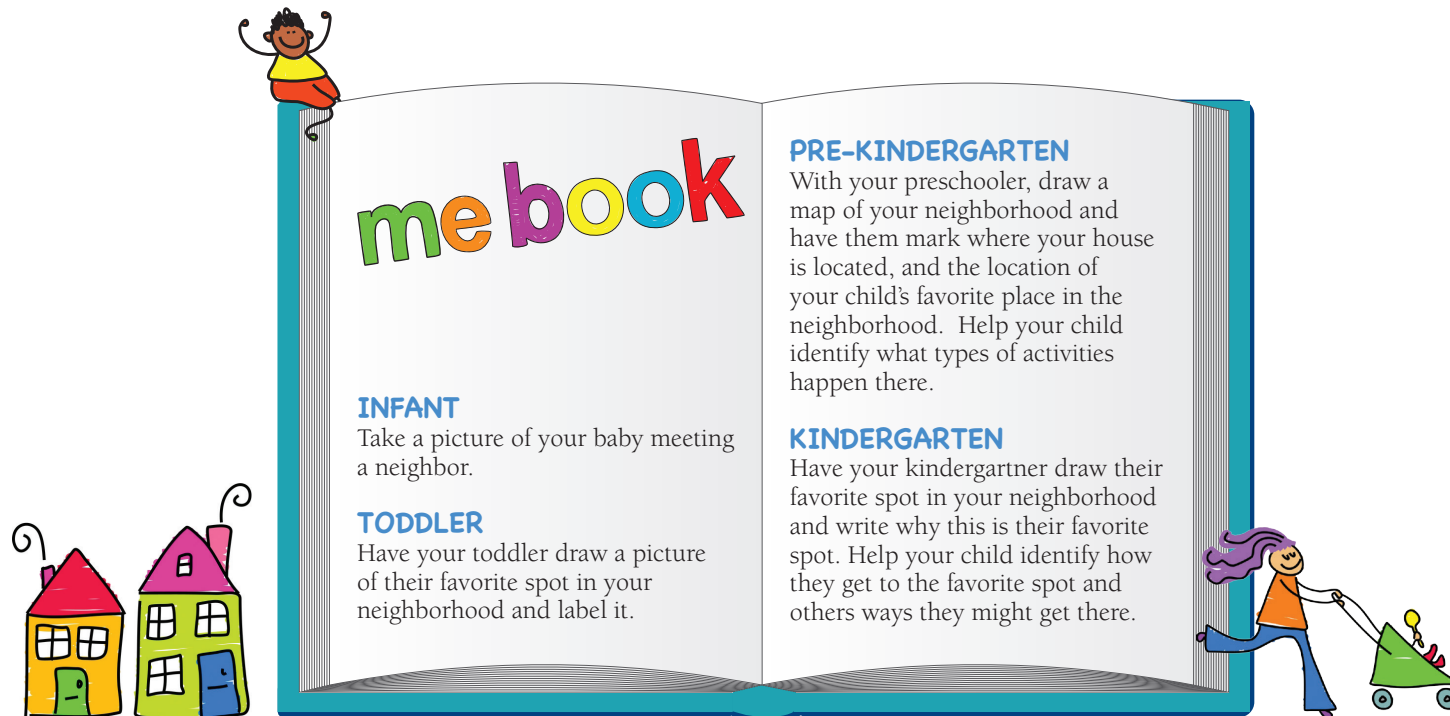
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Exploring your neighborhood is a wonderful way for your child to learn about their world and how to interact with others outside of the family.

Your neighborhood is a great way to help your child understand their role in a larger community, the great diversity of people in one community, and how communities can change over time. It's also a great way to build social and interpersonal skills as you get to know your neighbors!



Activity 1: TOURING MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking

INFANT: As you walk around the neighborhood, describe the weather. Talk about the wind blowing on your face, or how a warmer jacket is needed when it begins getting cool. Describe the sun or clouds as you walk.

TODDLER: Tour the neighborhood looking for signs of weather changes. Pick up leaves that are changing color or acorns that are falling from trees. Notice how the buds on trees or flowers are turning into leaves or flowers.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Collect objects as you tour the neighborhood with your preschooler. See how many different rocks you can find, or count the different flowers. Talk about the squirrels gathering acorns in the fall, or how the birds make nests for babies in the spring. Listen to bird songs and notice the differences in sounds.

KINDERGARTEN: When you take a neighborhood walk, notice the differences in flowers or trees. Talk about the number of petals on each flower or the way some leaves and stems are smooth while others are prickly. Count the number of signs that tell you about season changes – how do you know autumn is around the corner?



Activity 3: MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: When you and your baby are out in the neighborhood, invite your neighbors to say hello to your baby. Watch as your baby reacts to all the new faces!

TODDLER: When you are out in the neighborhood with your toddler, introduce him to different neighbors. Encourage your neighbors to talk to him.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: With your supervision, ask your preschooler to introduce herself to neighbors.

KINDERGARTEN: With your supervision, ask your kindergartner to introduce himself to different individuals in your neighborhood. Have him ask each person a question about their job, or what they like to do in the neighborhood. After the person leaves, talk more about the person's job or activities and encourage him to share his feelings about the meeting. This is easy to do when running errands such as going to bank, pharmacy, store, or post office.



Activity 2: PICTURE MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Take your baby for a walk and describe the people and places you see along the way. Make up stories or sing about what you did when you walked by the different parts of the neighborhood.

TODDLER: Take or draw pictures of you and your toddler in different places in the neighborhood. Together make up a song that tells the story of your adventures in the neighborhood.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Take or draw pictures of you and your preschooler in different places in the neighborhood. Make a map of your neighborhood with the pictures and talk about activities you've done together or different jobs that people may have in the different buildings.

KINDERGARTEN: Take or draw pictures of you and your kindergartner in different places in the neighborhood. Make a map of your neighborhood with the pictures and talk with your child about the different roles of different people in the neighborhood.



Activity 4: PLAY ACTING LIFE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Tell a story or make up a song about activities that go on in your neighborhood. Clap your baby's hands and mimic movements you might make during those activities, like walking across the street, putting a letter in a mailbox, etc.

TODDLER: With your toddler, act out an activity you have done, or have seen happen in the neighborhood, like delivering the mail, or walking a dog. Use props from your home and create costumes to represent different people in your neighborhood.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: With your preschooler, create a play that talks about something that takes place in your neighborhood. It could involve an activity with neighbors or jobs in your neighborhood (crossing guards or cutting the grass). Use props from your home and create costumes to represent different people in your neighborhood.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask your kindergartner about different jobs people do in the neighborhood, and together act out the activities of what a person doing that job would do.



JUNE SUGGESTED BOOKS

Only One Neighborhood by Marc Harshman & Barbara Garrison

Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres

**Curious George's Neighborhood:
A Lift-the-Flap Adventure (Lift-The-Flap Adventures)**
by H.A. & Margret Rey

Splendid Friend Indeed by Suzanne Bloom

Elmo's Neighborhood (Sesame Street Library)
by Susan Hood & Tom Brannon

If you were a Penguin by Wendell and Florence Minor

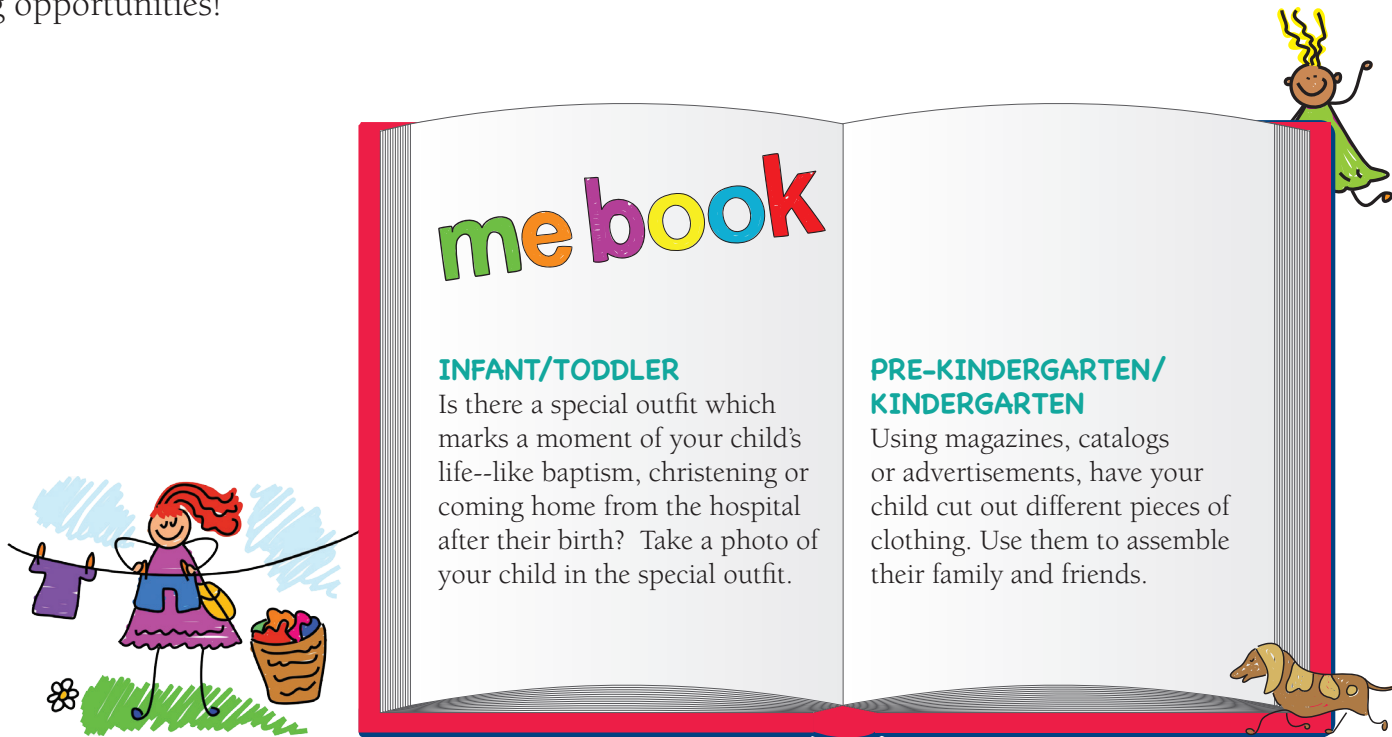
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



DOING THE LAUNDRY

Imagine all the wonderful things you can teach and introduce to your child while doing the laundry! You are spending quality time with your child and can do activities like sorting bright colors, textures, different shapes and sizes to teach your child. Having your child help in folding, matching and counting provides your child with a strong foundation in science and mathematics.

You are your child's first step in learning. Have your child help with daily chores and activities will provide your child with learning opportunities!



Activity 1: BASKET OF MANY COLORS

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Introduce colors to your baby by showing the laundry item and saying the color of the item. Remember to show your child bright & bold colors. Talk with your baby during routines, explaining what you are doing.

TODDLER: Ask your toddler to help you find the blue towels, white socks etc. Ask your child to repeat the color and place in the laundry basket. Sing a color song with your child.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to find and place all the light colors in one pile and ask your child to place all the dark colors in another pile. Or, he can sort by articles (socks, washcloths, etc.)

KINDERGARTEN: Play laundry basketball with your kindergartner. Ask her to find all the solid colors, and shoot into the laundry basket.



Activity 2: SORTING AND SIZES

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Talk to your baby while sorting the laundry. Show him small and large items, and talk about different sizes and colors.

TODDLER: Help your toddler to find all the big towels, and then ask her to find all the small towels (or washcloths). Have her tell you what towels are bigger and what towels are smaller.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Help your preschooler find all the same size and color items (ask to sort) and put them into the washing machine, dryer or basket. Continue to explain the colors and ask what is their favorite color. You can also ask him to sort laundry by family member.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask your kindergartner to help you fold the laundry according to item. Ask her to find all the small socks and sort by color and size. Remember to keep talking to her about the different sizes and difference in items. Ask her to help you by filling the laundry detergent cup and pouring into the machine.

Activity 3: THE WEATHER & CLOTHING TO PROTECT

Key Learning Area: Scientific Thinking and Technology

INFANT: Talk to your baby about being cold and act out the part. Introduce the seasons. For example, show her a blanket to keep warm in the winter.

TODDLER: Talk to your toddler about different temperatures, such as warm and cold. Have him help you take the wet clothing out of the washing machine and explain that the clothing is cold and wet. Have him help you take the warm clothing out of the dryer and explain that the clothing is warm and dry.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Encourage your preschooler to talk about summer clothing, like swimsuits and sunglasses. Ask what clothing is worn in the winter, versus what clothing is worn in the summer? What clothing is worn when it's raining?

KINDERGARTEN: Ask your kindergartner to help you put away the laundry. Discuss the temperature of the laundry. Have her to lay out her clothing for the next morning, giving her choices. For example, "Would you like to wear the red shirt or the blue shirt?"



Activity 4: LEARNING ABOUT COUNTING

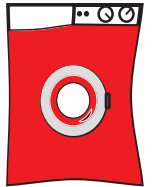
Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Sing to your baby that you are putting one towel into the washer or putting two socks into the dryer. Show her the item(s).

TODDLER: Teach your toddler a counting song. Demonstrate hands-on activities while asking him to find one shirt, two towels etc.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: While filling the dryer, ask your preschooler to put two towels in the dryer and then to take one towel out of the dryer. Work on counting and recounting items. Talk about having the washer full or empty. Introduce the concepts of more or less at this age. For example, count out 10 items into the washing machine and count out five items into the dryer, and then ask your preschooler which machine has more clothing.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask your kindergartner to count how many clothing items you take out of the washing machine. Then ask him to count how many clothing items you put into the dryer etc.



JULY SUGGESTED BOOKS

Dirty Laundry Pile: Poems in Different Voices
by Paul B. Janeczko & Melissa Sweet

The 14 Forest Mice and the Summer Laundry Day (The 14 Forest Mice) (Library Binding) by Kazuo Iwamura

The Great Laundry Adventure by Maxine Cowan & Margie Rutledge

Llamas in the Laundry by William New and Vivian Bevis
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale (Bccb Blue Ribbon Picture Book Awards) by Mo Willems

Stinky Clothes (Rookie Readers) by Joanna Emery & Richard Rossi

Wanda's Washing Machine by Anna McQuinn & Jan McCafferty

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

August

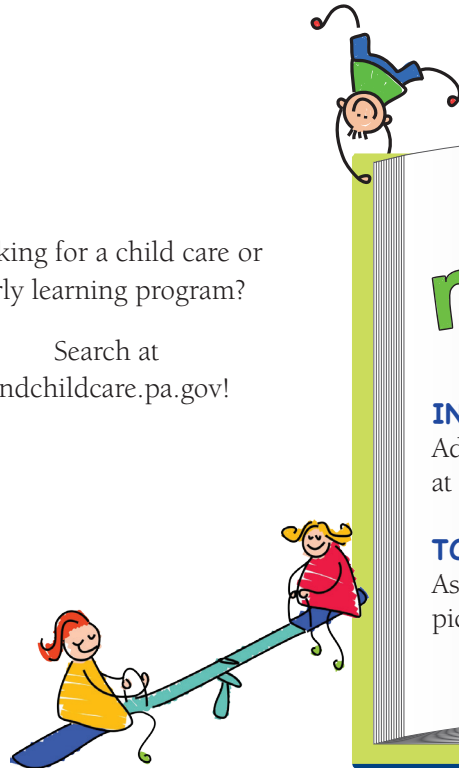
IN AN EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

Children get excited about a new school year. This is a great time to focus on how you will be involved in your child's early learning program. Think about the ways you can show support for your child and his school. Even if you work during the day, there are still many ways to get involved. Be sure to ask!

Children need to develop personal and social skills as they interact with other children and adults in the school or program environment. Encourage your child to engage with you in play activities and practice self-help skills. Allow children to explore lots of art materials and activities to develop their creative expression skills.

Looking for a child care or early learning program?

Search at
findchildcare.pa.gov!



me book

INFANT

Add a picture of your baby taken at the child care center.

TODDLER

Ask your toddler to draw a picture of their school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Ask your preschooler to find pictures (or use photos from school activities) of school related activities to glue onto a page about school.

KINDERGARTEN

Ask your kindergartner to choose one item that they bring home from school each marking period to add to the *Me Book*.

The resource *Be Your Child's Champion* has suggestions you can use when talking with your child's early learning teacher.

Find it at
www.papromiseforchildren.com.



Activity 1: FOLLOWING RULES

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Maintain a regular and consistent schedule with your baby. Try to keep naps, feedings and play at regular times each day.

TODDLER: Keep rules simple and easy to understand for toddlers, and help your toddler follow the rules. Remind your child of the rules and demonstrate and help him if necessary. For example, help to clean up toys when it is time to clean up. Remind him of the rule, and why it's important and the consequence for not following the rule. "We need to clean up our toys to take good care of them. If we don't clean up the toys, we can't play outside."

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Use clear directions about helping your preschooler complete tasks before moving to the next. For example, "When you have cleaned up your toys, you may play outside." Enforce the consequence (not playing outside) if the toys are not cleaned up.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask for a copy of the classroom rules from your kindergartner's teachers. Talk about these rules at home, and if possible, introduce them to use in your own home. For example, washing hands before a meal, no hitting, or using an inside voice.



Activity 2: PUPPETS AND DOLLS

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Use a puppet and interact with your baby. Use voices and movements that will engage her.

TODDLER: Provide dolls with accessories like blankets and bottles for your toddler to use to take care of his "baby."

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Read a story about a family. Ask your preschooler to act out the story with dolls, puppets or other toys. (Fairy tales, Three Little Kittens, or Three Billy Goats Gruff are great examples.)

KINDERGARTEN: Provide puppets for your kindergartner to create and perform plays. If your child doesn't want to perform using the puppets, ask her about the puppets. What are their names? What do they like to do? Can they sing or dance? Have your child show you!



Activity 3: MUSIC ALL AROUND

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Play quiet and gentle music as your baby settles in for a nap or at bedtime. Play music in the car or while you are completing activities.

TODDLER: Listen to and sing children's songs by artists like Raffi and Red Grammar while driving in the car or while you are completing activities (like housekeeping or cooking).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Change the words to a favorite song to make it silly. Can your preschooler make some silly changes, too? Act out funny or silly songs with your preschooler.

KINDERGARTEN: Put on some of your favorite music and dance with your kindergartner. Encourage him to move in any way that is comfortable.



Activity 4: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Key Learning Area: Partnerships for Learning

INFANT: Attend a parent conference with your infant's teacher to understand more about her daily activities.

TODDLER: Share new milestones with your early learning provider as your toddler achieves them (like new words, toileting procedures, etc).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Role play school activities with your preschooler such as riding the bus, going to the cafeteria, or lining up. Talk about the things that might occur and help him problem solve issues.

KINDERGARTEN: Assist in at least two classroom activities. If you work during the day, ask the teacher if there are ways you can help at home, in the evening or at special events.



AUGUST SUGGESTED BOOKS

Stripes of All Types by Susan Stockdale

Dinosaur Roar by Paul & Henrietta Stickland

Do I Have To Go To School? - A first look at Starting School by Pat Thomas

If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff

Now...For My Next Number Songs for Multiplying Fun by Margaret Peck

My Teacher Sleeps in School by Leattie Weiss

Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

My Kindergarten by Rosemary Wells

Going to my Nursery School by Susan Kuklin

What Did you Do Today? The First Day of School by Toby Forward

Elizabeth's School by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

School by Emily Arnold McCully

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come! by Nancy Carlson

Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGhee

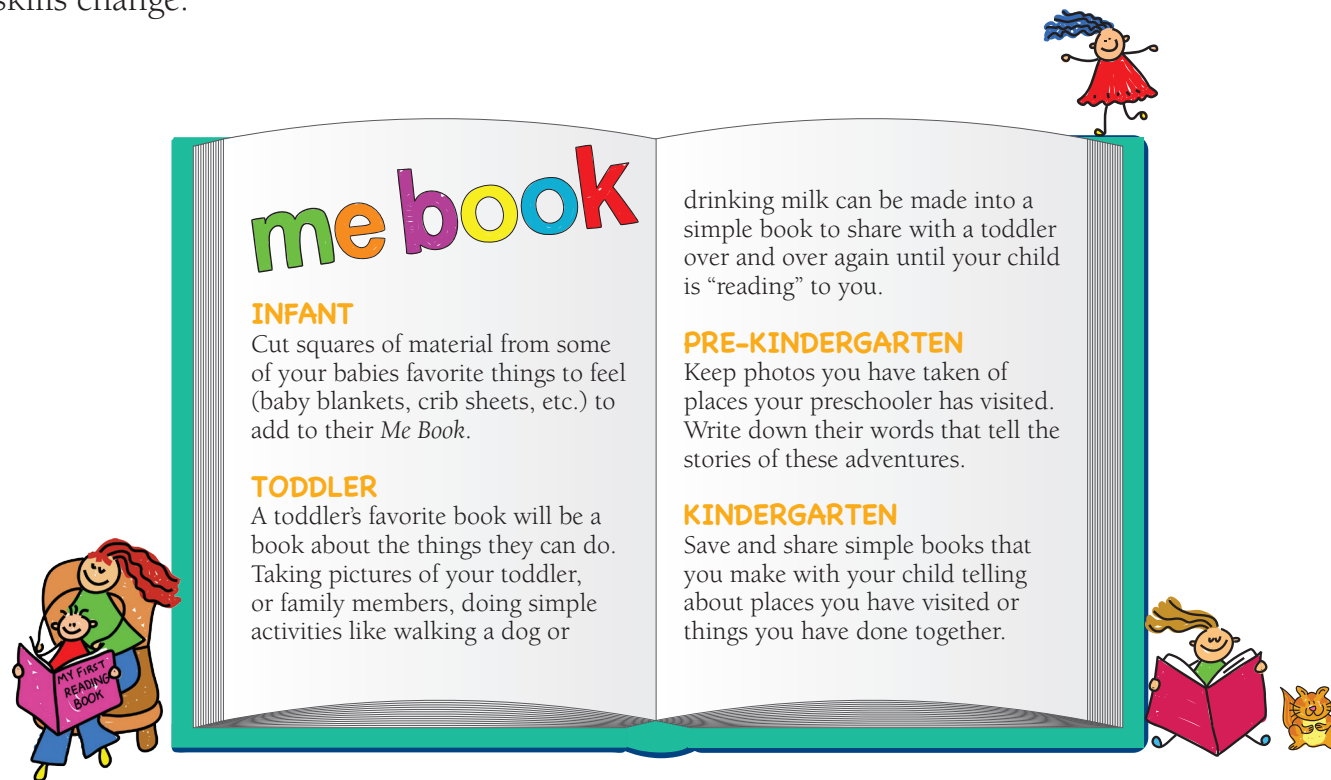
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

September

IN THE LIVING ROOM

The living room is a great place for socializing, sharing stories and building a young child's developing vocabulary.

Think about your child's social, emotional & personal development, and communication and emerging literacy skills that are developing as you play with your child in the living room. Sharing books, pictures and conversation is important to your child at any age. Visit your local library to choose and read new books as your child's interest and reading skills change.



Activity 1: COMMUNICATE!

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy

Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: Holding your baby on your lap, make eye contact and engage him in conversation by repeating back the sounds your baby can make. Your baby will delight in the sounds they are practicing with you.

TODDLER: Toddlers love action. Engage her in using “action words” like “up” “down” “wiggle” and “jump”. Shout or whisper the word as you act it out together. For example, lie on the floor together, kicking the air as you say “kick, kick”. Your next action word may be “laugh” or “jump”.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Your preschoolers world at age three and four is expanding. Encourage your child to tell you stories about places that she goes. If you have photos of places or people that your child has visited, sit together and listen as she tells you stories about the photos.

KINDERGARTEN: Help your child to make simple books by folding several pieces of paper together. Write down stories he tells you in simple sentences on each page that you can read back to him. He can add drawings to each page to illustrate the words.



Activity 2: BOOK SHARING

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy

Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: Allow your baby to handle and touch soft books or washable plastic books. She will especially enjoy looking at faces and simple, colorful objects. Babies explore with all senses, so be prepared for your baby to “taste”, as well as see books!

TODDLER: Toddlers love books and stories about routines that are familiar to them. Cuddle with your toddler and share a book about bath time or going to the store. Be prepared to read the same favorite books again and again.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Your preschooler will enjoy being part of familiar books and stories. Look for stories like “The Three Little Pigs” with predictable refrains and let him join you in saying the repeated phrases like “I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house in!”

KINDERGARTEN: Your kindergartner may enjoy being read to, and snuggling with you in living room. Read a story to her and stop a few pages before the story ends. Encourage her to tell you what she thinks will happen next.

FOR ALL AGES: Take your child to the library and read a book together!



Activity 3: EXPLORING FACES

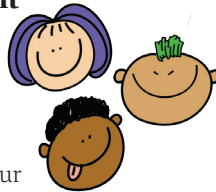
Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Faces are fascinating to your baby, especially yours! Let your baby touch your face and explore the silly, surprised and happy faces you can make for them. What a great show!

TODDLER: Toddlers are learning names and labels for the important people in their world. Share family pictures and photo albums with your child and let her point to and name the faces that she can recognize.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Share photos or pictures in books or magazines with your preschooler and ask him how he thinks people in these pictures might feel. Encourage him to notice and recognize feelings by looking at facial expressions and body language.

KINDERGARTEN: Share photos or pictures in books or magazines with your kindergartner and ask her why she thinks people portrayed might be feeling sad, angry, disappointed, scared, etc. Encourage her to tell you if she has ever felt that way and what she did about it.



Activity 4: IT'S ME!

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Hold your baby in front of a mirror and let your baby explore his own face. This will give you an opportunity to begin to identify your baby's expressions. For example, “You are so happy! Look at your pretty smile!”

TODDLER: Help your toddler to take pride in the new things that she is learning each day. Sit on the floor and play with your toddler praising her accomplishments and new skills. Be sure to use her name often. For example, “Zachary built a tall tower with blocks!” or “Keisha found the baby bear!”

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Talk about the new things that your preschooler is learning each day and praise his accomplishments. A clear plastic jar can be decorated with his name and stickers or pictures. Celebrate each new skill he can do (getting dressed, brushing teeth, etc.) by writing it down on a slip of paper and adding it to his I CAN jar.

KINDERGARTEN: Provide your kindergartner with a notebook that can become a journal of things she likes. Begin with her by writing on the first page “Emmy likes red.” Let her finish the page by coloring something red. Encourage her to add to this book as she tells you about favorite toys, things done at school, friends played with or places she went. Use pictures with words to help connect the picture with words.



SEPTEMBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

An Elephant In the Living Room – The Children's Book
by Jill M. Hastings and Marion H. Typpo

Lion In the Living Room by Caelaach McKinna
& A. R. Stone

Kite Day: A Bear and Mole Story by Will Hillenbrand

Ciencia Magica en la Sala de Estar/Science Magic in the Living Room (El Juego De La Ciencia/The Science Game) by Richard Robinson and Alan Row

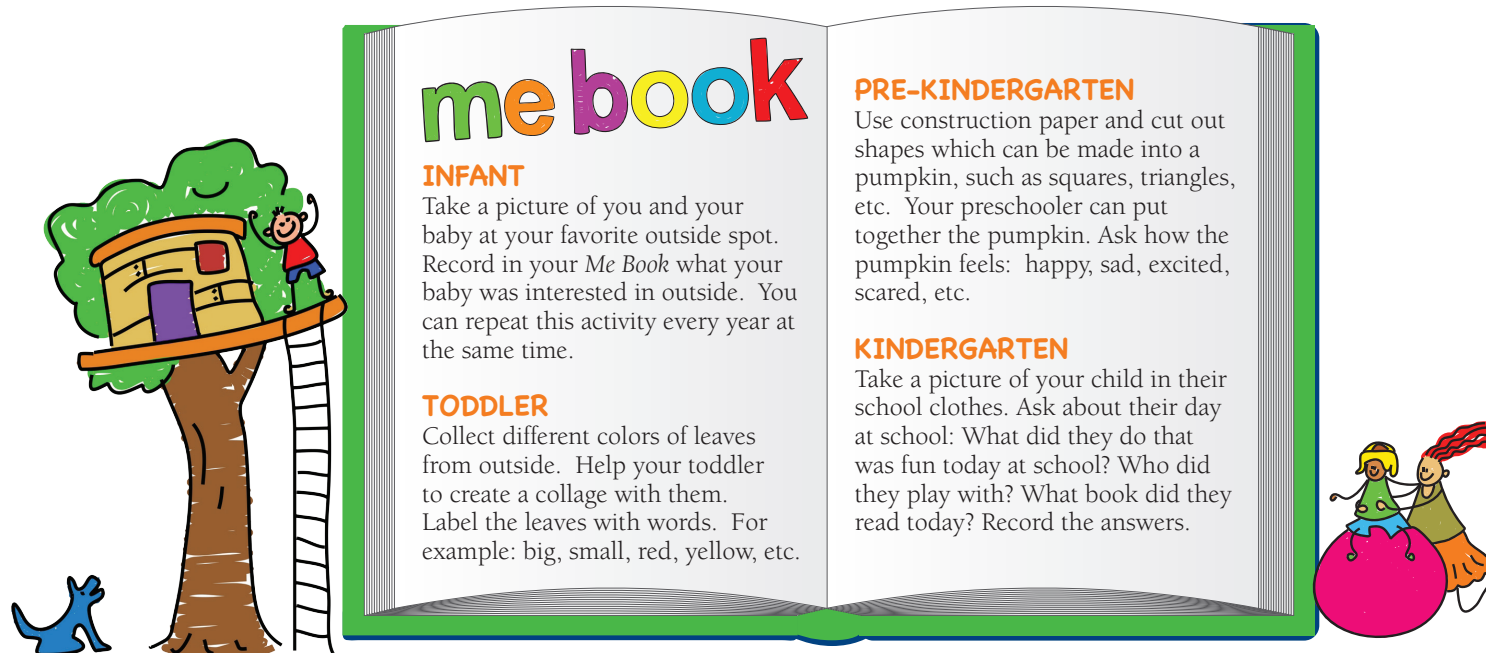
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



IT'S PA'S PROMISE FOR CHILDREN MONTH!

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children month in October is an opportunity to celebrate the young children in our lives and the families, teachers, and leaders that help them reach their promise through quality early education.

Visit www.papromiseforchildren.com for ways to celebrate and educate!



Activity 1: WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP

Key Learning Area: Social Studies Thinking

INFANT: Read a book with people in different jobs, and point out different people and the kinds of jobs they might do, describe the person and the job. "This is a postal worker. He wears a blue uniform and delivers mail to families."

TODDLER: While reading about different jobs, ask your toddler to point out the people with different jobs. With pictures have him name person and job, or ask him to find a specific type of person (like the police officer, or the doctor).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to describe the different jobs she knows about. Ask her what you or other caregivers, grandparents, or neighbors do as a job. Ask what she would like to do, and draw a picture of her at that job.

KINDERGARTEN: Using markers, crayons, pencils, ask your kindergartner to draw a picture of what he wants to be when he grows up. You can write underneath for him, "I want to be a ___ when I grow up because ___."



Activity 3: PLAYING WITH BUBBLES

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Have your baby on your lap or in a supported position. Blow bubbles and encourage her to look and reach for them.

TODDLER: Play a game of catch with bubbles. Take turns with your toddler, blowing and catching the bubbles.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Use different sized wands to blow bubbles. Talk about what type of bubbles each wand creates: big bubbles, small bubbles, lots of bubbles, one bubble at a time.

KINDERGARTEN: Make the bubble solution with your kindergartner. Talk about measurements of water and liquid soap. Experiment with different solutions. Talk about what works and what does not work. Create different sized wands by using materials such as pipe cleaners.



Activity 2: MY FAVORITE BOOKS

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: While doing every day activities, such as changing a diaper, sing the ABC's to your baby.

TODDLER: Ask your toddler to pick her favorite books to read together. When reading, ask her about her favorite pictures and characters. For example, "Why do you like Clifford?" Ask your toddler to draw a picture of her favorite character.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Make a puppet show of your preschooler's favorite book. Cut out characters from construction paper and role play the story on a sheet of paper. Ask him to tell the story as he moves the characters. When the story is over, glue the characters to the paper and he can write the name of the book across the top. Have him share what's happening in each picture, and record under the picture.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask child to pick her favorite book and to read it to you. Ask her to draw a picture that represents why this book is her favorite, and you can why it's a favorite.



Activity 4: GROWING UP

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Point out the difference in size between your baby's features and body parts and yours or other children. Talk about the differences, "Your nose is tiny now, but when you grow up it will be big like mine." Using child-safe finger paint, make impressions of your baby's fingers and toes.

TODDLER: Using pictures of family members, friends, or dolls of different ages, point out which are the youngest, and talk about how she will be bigger when she gets older.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Gather photos of your preschooler over time and ask him to put the photos in order of youngest to oldest to tell his story. "When I was a baby, I looked like this." If you don't have photos, ask your child to draw pictures of himself as a baby, toddler, etc.

KINDERGARTEN: Talk with your kindergartner about ways she has grown. Ask when she was a baby, a two-year old, three and four year old, what did she like to eat? What did she like to do? Did she crawl or walk? What does she like to do now? She can draw what she looked like at each stage in her life. Identify what can she do now that she couldn't do when she was one, two, three, or as a baby.



OCTOBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Inside Outside Upside Down (Bright & Early Books(R))
by Stan Berenstain & Jan Berenstain

Bump! Thump! How Do We Jump?: Experiments Outside (At Home With Science) by Janice Lobb, Peter Utton, & Ann Savage

Are You Ready to Play Outside? (An Elephant and Piggie Book) by Mo Willems

Outside Over There (Caldecott Collection) by Maurice Sendak

Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse by Lindsay Barrett George

Goodnight World Outside by Frances Gilbert

The Outside Play and Learning Book: Activities for Young Children by Karen Miller & Laura Burney

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice

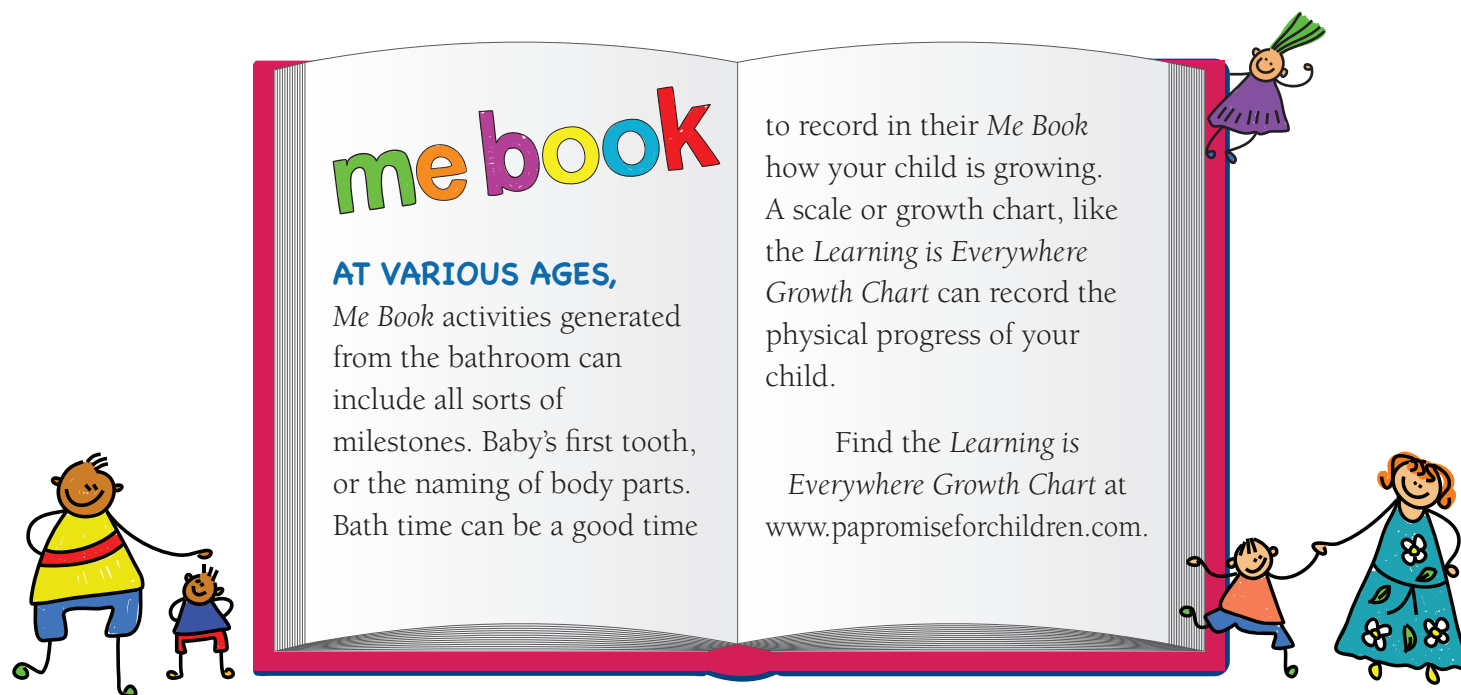
Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

November

IN THE BATHROOM

The bathroom is a great place to learn about personal hygiene and focus on motor development, but safety is always the first concern when thinking of activities for children while in the bathroom. Families should never leave young children unsupervised while in the bathtub. Bathroom storage areas should be locked. Cleaning products and medications should be placed out of reach.



Activity 1: NAME THOSE BODY PARTS!

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: While washing and moving baby's body, name the major body parts of the body. Remember to smile so baby views this as a positive experience.

TODDLER: During bath time a greater number of body parts can be identified, starting with the large items like arms, stomach, legs, and moving to smaller items like ankle, elbow, neck.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: In the bathtub, children may become more independent in washing themselves. Families can play Simon Says, such as, "Simon Says wash your feet. Simon Says wash your ears." As your child gets older, you can add more details, such as "Scrub your left elbow" or "Wash your biggest toe".



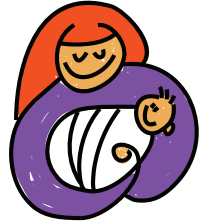
Activity 2: WATCH ME MOVE

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: Before entering a bath, on a towel on the floor, babies can practice rolling from their backs to their tummies. During washing, gently stretch and bend baby's arms and legs.

TODDLER: Toddlers can begin to remove socks and shoes at bath time. They can stretch to wash their feet, practice pointing their toes, or reach to the ceiling. Have your toddler touch different body parts, and then try to touch body part to body part as you model. For example: Touch nose to knee.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: Children can start to undress by removing simple clothes. They can bend and pick up clothes and make a game by putting clothes into a laundry basket.



Activity 3: EXPRESSIONS

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy

Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

INFANT: Infants are keenly aware of caregivers' facial expressions. Bath time is an ideal time to engage in imitating sounds and facial expressions.

TODDLER: Play a quick game of follow the leader with facial expressions. The adult makes a face and the child needs to mimic it. Check to see how closely your faces match in the mirror.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask children to demonstrate facial expressions. "Show me your _____ face." Insert words like surprised, angry, or happy.

KINDERGARTEN: Extend the face game for kindergarteners by having them name the facial expressions you are making, then have them do the same expression!



Activity 4: TOOTH BRUSHING

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: Use a soft clean cloth, dampened with cool water to clean your infant's gums. Explain what you are doing. The tone of your voice will help this be a positive experience.

TODDLER: Tooth brushing is an important lifelong habit! Toddlers can begin to brush their teeth using a pea-sized dollop of toothpaste and a soft bristled toddler toothbrush. You will also need to brush his teeth to make sure all teeth have been brushed.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Tooth brushing is an important habit to reinforce with preschoolers. Reminders while she is brushing to do top, inside, outside, roof of the mouth, bottoms, inside, outside, and tongue.

KINDERGARTEN: Kindergartners can learn to floss their teeth. Families can demonstrate and help with this activity. The American Dental Association recommends flossing every day. This is a great life-long habit to begin forming.

The American Dental Association recommends that a child's first dental visit occur within six months after a baby's first tooth appears, but no later than the child's first birthday.



NOVEMBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Barnyard Bath by Sandra Boynton

Elmo's Tub-Time Rhyme (Bath Book) by Kara McMahon & Tom Brannon

Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel

My First Word Bath Book (My First series) by DK Publishing

Do Pirates Take Baths? by Kathy Tucker & Nadine Bernard Westcott

Puppy Takes a Bath (Dora the Explorer Ready-to-Read) by Christine Ricci & Tom Mangano

Estelle Takes a Bath by Jill Esbaum & Mary Newell DePalma

King Bidgood's in the Bathtub (Caldecott Honor Books) by Audrey Wood & Don Wood

Tub Toys by Terry Miller Shannon, Timothy Warner, & Lee Calderon

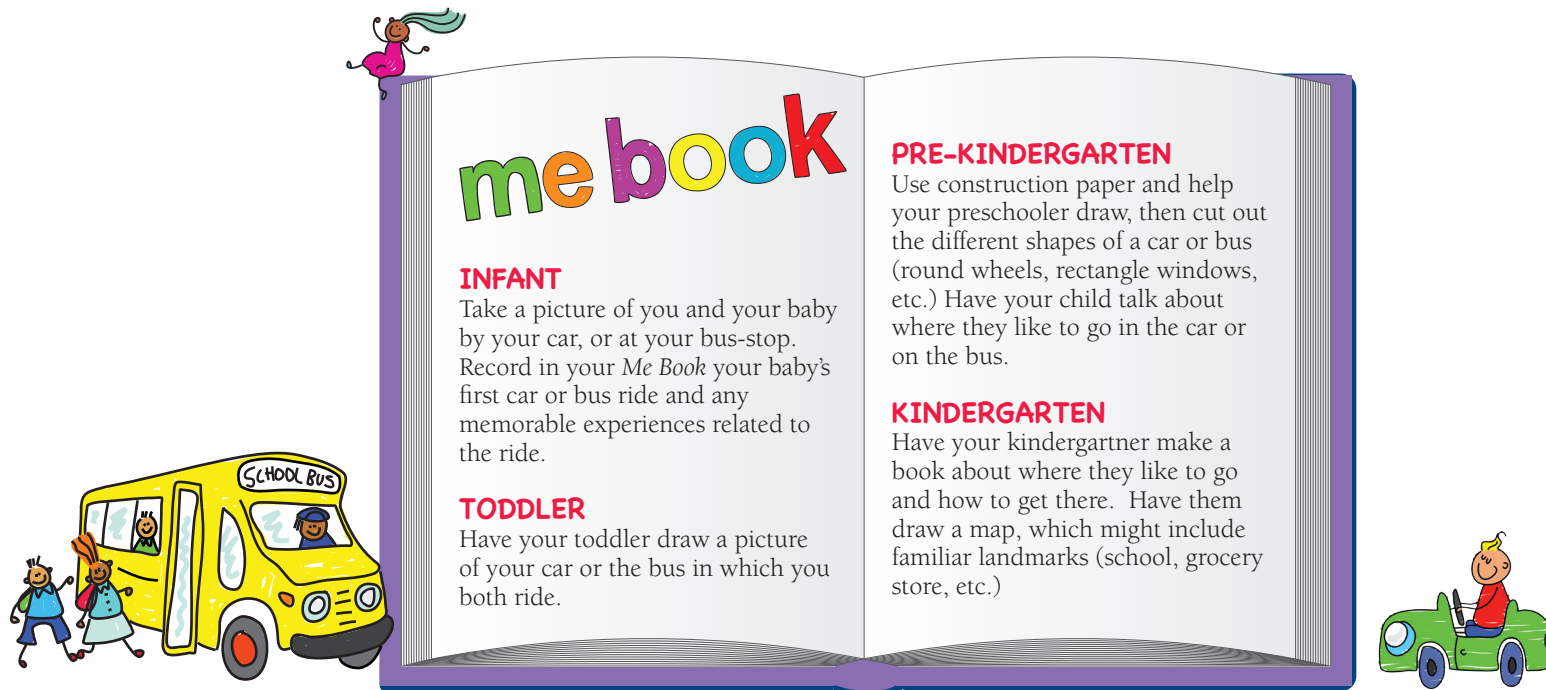
For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



IN THE CAR OR ON THE BUS

Traveling in a car or bus is a great place to learn about safety, your neighborhood, and expand vocabulary. Young babies may find the movement of travel soothing, while older babies may not like to be confined, but may love to listen to songs and imitate noises. Toddlers and preschoolers enjoy singing songs in the car. Preschoolers enjoy learning about their neighborhood, while kindergartners can build upon their knowledge of safety.

Pennsylvania law requires children under the age of 4 years to be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. Children from age 4 up to age 8 must be restrained in an appropriate booster seat.



Activity 1: WHILE TRAVELING

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy

INFANT: Babies are drawn to colorful objects. Supply her with items to look at while in the car. Attach a colorful scarf or blanket on the back of the seat of the car facing your baby so she can gaze at it while in her car seat.

TODDLER: Provide your toddler with books about traveling. Ask him to “read” the book to you while you are driving or on the bus.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: Have a selection of books that are specifically used for traveling. Keep them in a special bag or backpack that your child can decorate. While traveling, ask her to read the book to you. Ask questions about the words and sentences in the book, such as where does the sentence begin and end? Where is the top or the bottom?



Activity 3: TAKING ALONG A SONG

Key Learning Area: Creative Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Sing to your baby about where you are going and how you will get there. Use different tones and volumes while singing.

TODDLER: Sing to your toddler about where you are going and how you will get there. Sing what the two of you will do once you are there.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN: While at the library, help your child choose a book about the different ways to travel. On the way home, make up a song about the different ways to travel. Sing about different ways to travel (like on a camel, or in a helicopter, or in a race car, for example).



Activity 2: ABOUT SAFETY

Key Learning Area: Health, Wellness and Physical Development

INFANT: Sing to your baby as you buckle him into the car seat. Sing about how what you are doing (“First we snap the harness, and then the buckle”), and sing about how safe and snug he will be as you travel.

TODDLER: Sing a song with your toddler about traveling safely, such as riding in the car seat, holding hands when you cross the road, etc.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Help your preschooler make up a song about traveling safely. You can start by singing, “What do we do we cross the road?” and she can sing, “We look both ways and hold hands with Mom/Dad”, for example. Or try it the other way. Your child sings the question and you sing the answer!

KINDERGARTEN: Help your kindergartner make up a song about traveling safely, such as looking both ways before crossing the street, buckling the seatbelt, locking the car doors, etc.



Activity 4: WHERE WE TRAVEL

Key Learning Area: Social Studies Thinking

INFANT: While traveling, talk to your baby about the different noises she hears and what makes those noises. Use an animated voice and face when conveying the different sounds.

TODDLER: While traveling, ask your toddler to identify people in the community, like the bus driver, a postal carrier, police officer, etc. Talk about what each person does.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: While traveling, have your preschooler identify the different items he can see and who uses these items and how. Who rides the bus? Why do people go to the grocery store? What do we get at the library? What does the postal carrier do?

KINDERGARTEN: While traveling, help your kindergartner identify different rules. For example, stopping at a stop sign, crossing in the crosswalk, wearing a seatbelt, driving the speed limit, etc. Talk about why we have rules.



DECEMBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Cars and Trucks and Things That Go (Giant Little Golden Book) by Richard Scarry
Number One Sam by Greg Pizzoli
Rattletrap Car by Phyllis Root & Jill Barton

Can You See What I See? Trucks And Cars (Can You See What I See?) by Walter Wick
The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Car Trip (Berenstain Bears) by Jan Berenstain
Wee Sing in the Car by Pamela Conn Beall & Susan Hagen Nipp

The Bus for Us by Suzanne Bloom
Wheels On The Bus (Kids Play) by DK Publishing
Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus by Barbara Park
The School Bus Driver from the Black Lagoon by Mike Thaler & Jared Lee

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com

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