

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 they 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 their learning as they grow up and become 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 learn about your child's development.

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 meet income guidelines and 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 the 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 who meet income eligibility guidelines may qualify to participate. 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 eligible 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 meeting income guidelines 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 who meet income guidelines may be eligible for financial assistance through Child Care Works.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

PA Pre-K Counts provides high-quality pre-kindergarten in schools, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 child care, Head Start, and licensed nursery schools. Families meeting income guidelines 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.

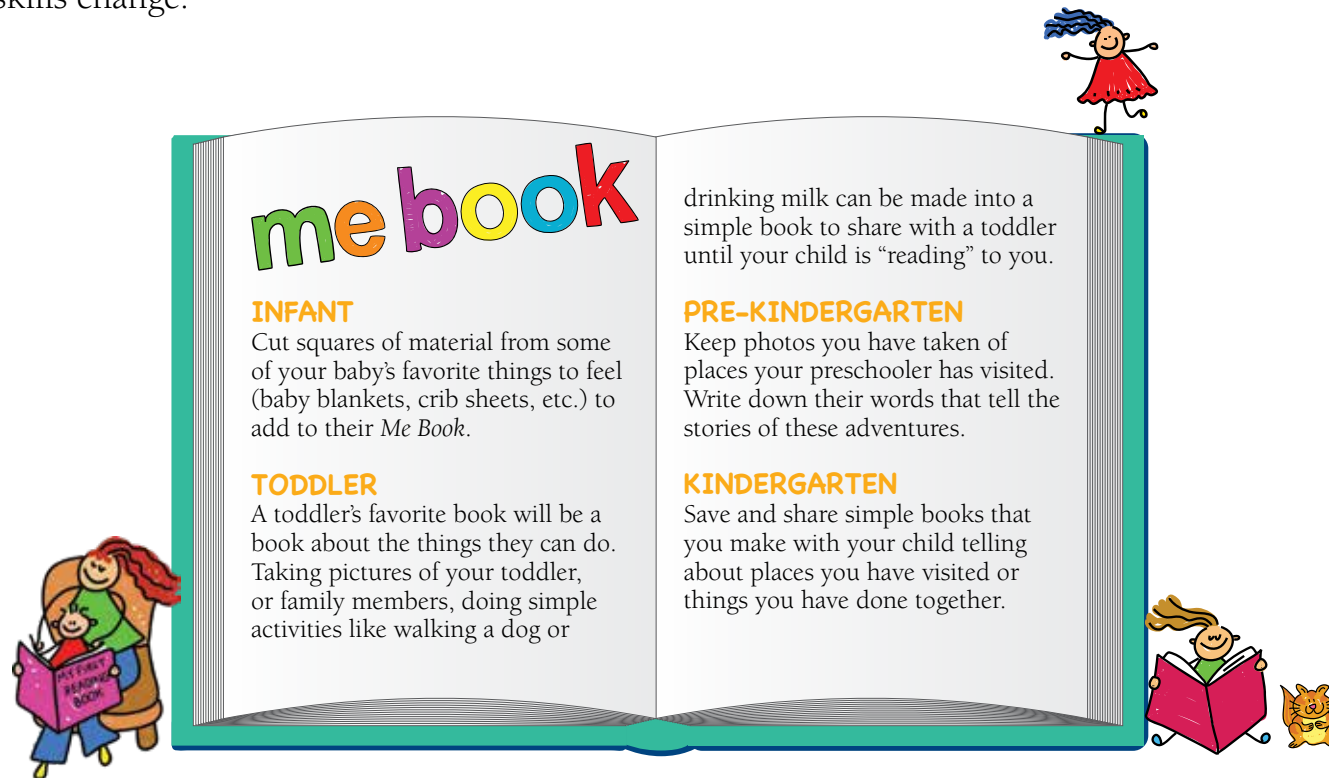


September

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 in conversation by repeating the sounds your baby can make. Your baby will delight in the sounds they are practicing with you.

TODDLER: Toddlers love action. Engage them 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 they go. If you have photos of places or people your child has visited, sit together and listen as they tell you stories about the photos.

KINDERGARTEN: Help your child to make simple books by folding several pieces of paper together. Write down stories they tell you in simple sentences on each page that you can read back to them. They 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. They may 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 them join 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 and stop a few pages before the story ends. Encourage them to tell you what they think 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 them point to and name the faces they recognize.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Share photos or pictures in books or magazines with your preschooler and ask them how they think people in these pictures might feel. Encourage them 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 why they think people portrayed might be feeling sad, angry, disappointed, scared, etc. Encourage them to tell you if they have ever felt that way and what they 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 their 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 they are learning each day. Sit on the floor and play with your toddler praising their accomplishments and new skills. Be sure to use their name often. For example, “Chau 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 their accomplishments. A clear plastic jar can be decorated with their name and stickers or pictures. Celebrate each new skill they can do (getting dressed, brushing teeth, etc.) by writing it down on paper and adding it to their I CAN jar.

KINDERGARTEN: Provide your kindergartner with a notebook that can become a journal of things they like. Begin by writing on the first page “Emma likes red.” Let them finish the page by coloring something red. Encourage them to add to this book as they tell you about favorite toys, things done at school, friends played with or places they 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

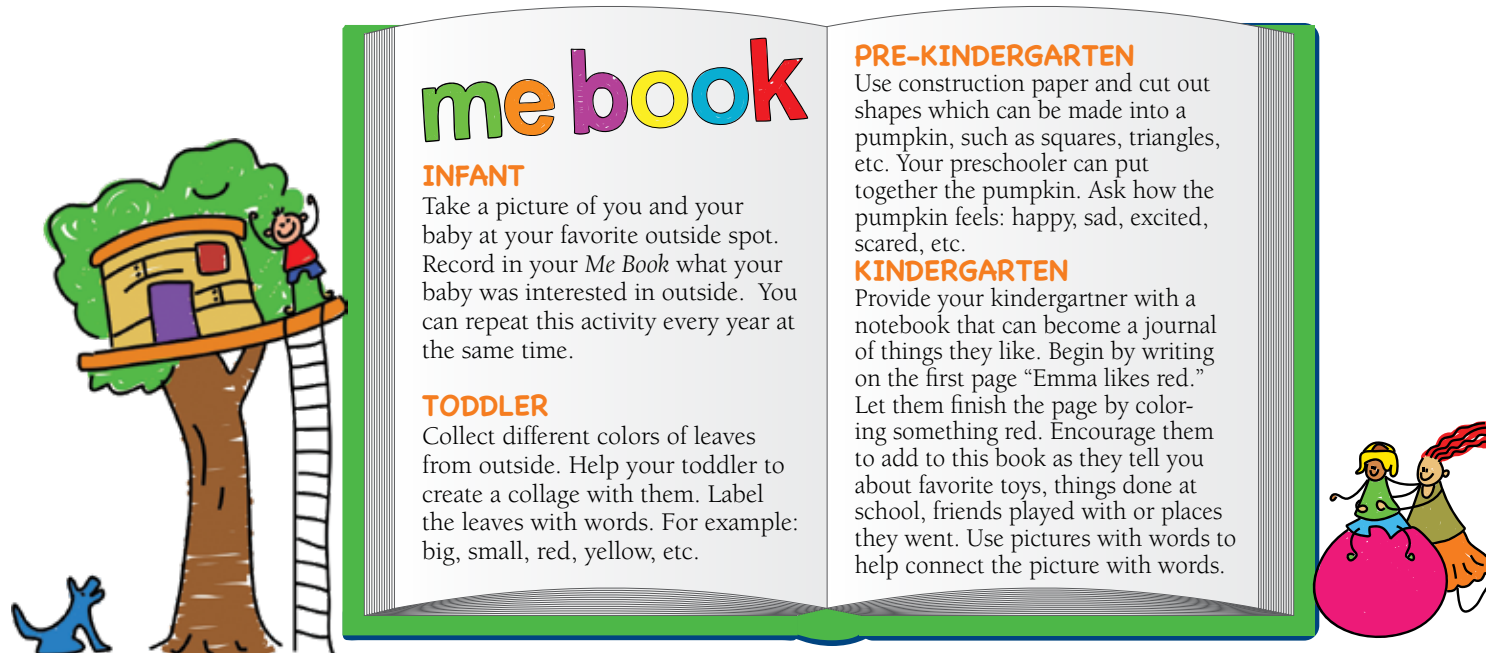
Ciencia Magica en la Sala de Estar/Science Magic in the Living Room (El Juego De La Ciencia/The Science Game) by Richard Robinson and Alan Row

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com



GOING OUTSIDE

There is a lot of learning ready to happen when going outside. Use the sights, sounds, smells and touch of the outdoors as learning opportunities to engage your child.



me book

INFANT

Take a picture of you and your baby at your favorite outside spot. Record in your *Me Book* what your baby was interested in outside. You can repeat this activity every year at the same time.

TODDLER

Collect different colors of leaves from outside. Help your toddler to create a collage with them. Label the leaves with words. For example: big, small, red, yellow, etc.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Use construction paper and cut out shapes which can be made into a pumpkin, such as squares, triangles, etc. Your preschooler can put together the pumpkin. Ask how the pumpkin feels: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc.

KINDERGARTEN

Provide your kindergartner with a notebook that can become a journal of things they like. Begin by writing on the first page "Emma likes red." Let them finish the page by coloring something red. Encourage them to add to this book as they tell you about favorite toys, things done at school, friends played with or places they went. Use pictures with words to help connect the picture with words.

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. They wear a blue uniform and deliver mail to families."

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

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

KINDERGARTEN: Using markers, crayons, pencils, ask your kindergartner to draw a picture of what they want to be when they grow up. You can write underneath for them, "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 them 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 their favorite books to read together. When reading, ask about a favorite pictures and characters. For example, "Why do you like Clifford?" Ask your toddler to draw a picture of their 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 them to tell the story as they move the characters. When the story is over, glue the characters to the paper and they can write the name of the book across the top. Have them share what's happening in each picture, and record under the picture.

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



Activity 4: GROWING UP

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

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

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

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

KINDERGARTEN: Talk with your kindergartner about ways they have grown. Ask when they were a baby, a two-year old, three and four-year-old, what did they like to eat? What did they like to do? Did they crawl or walk? What do they like to do now? They can draw what they looked like at each stage in their life. Identify what can they do now that they couldn't do when they were 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

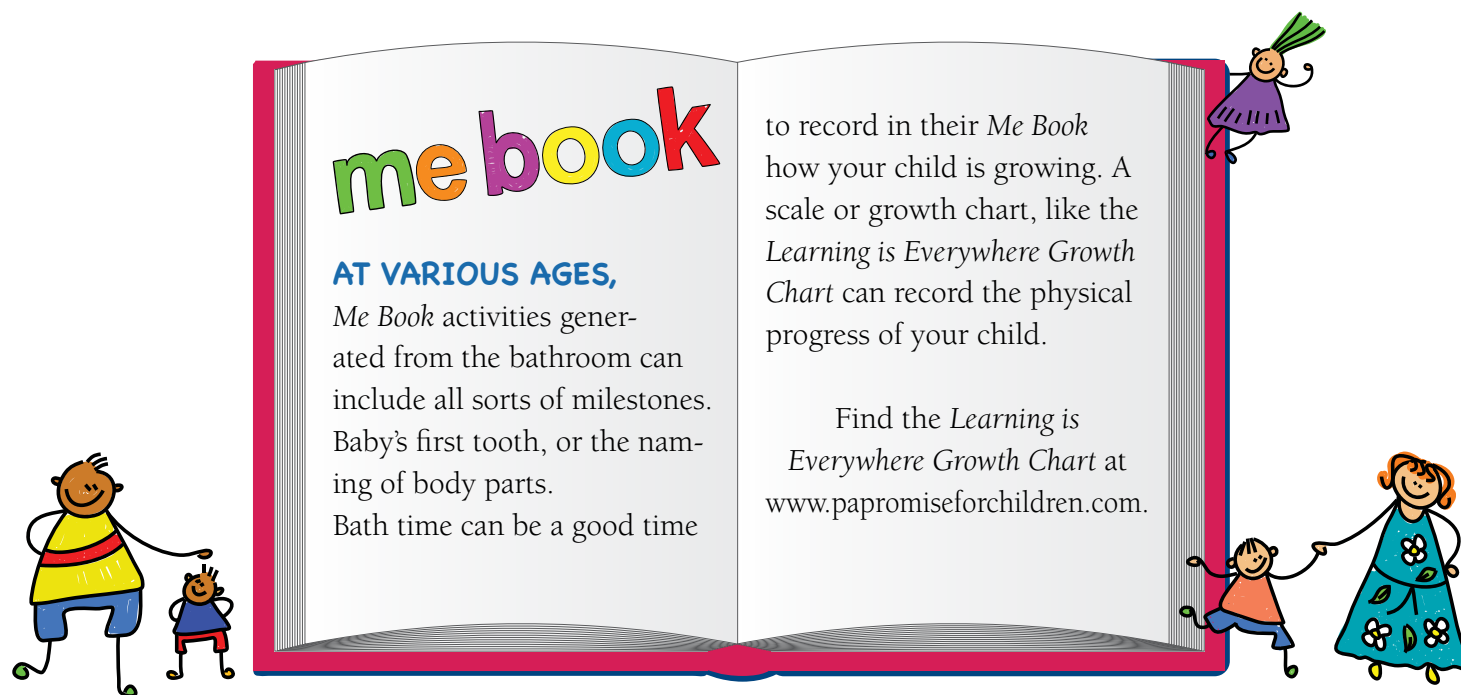
Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert

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 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!



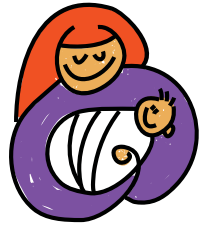
Activity 2: WATCH ME MOVE

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 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 their teeth to make sure all teeth have been brushed.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Tooth brushing is an important habit to reinforce with preschoolers. Reminders while 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

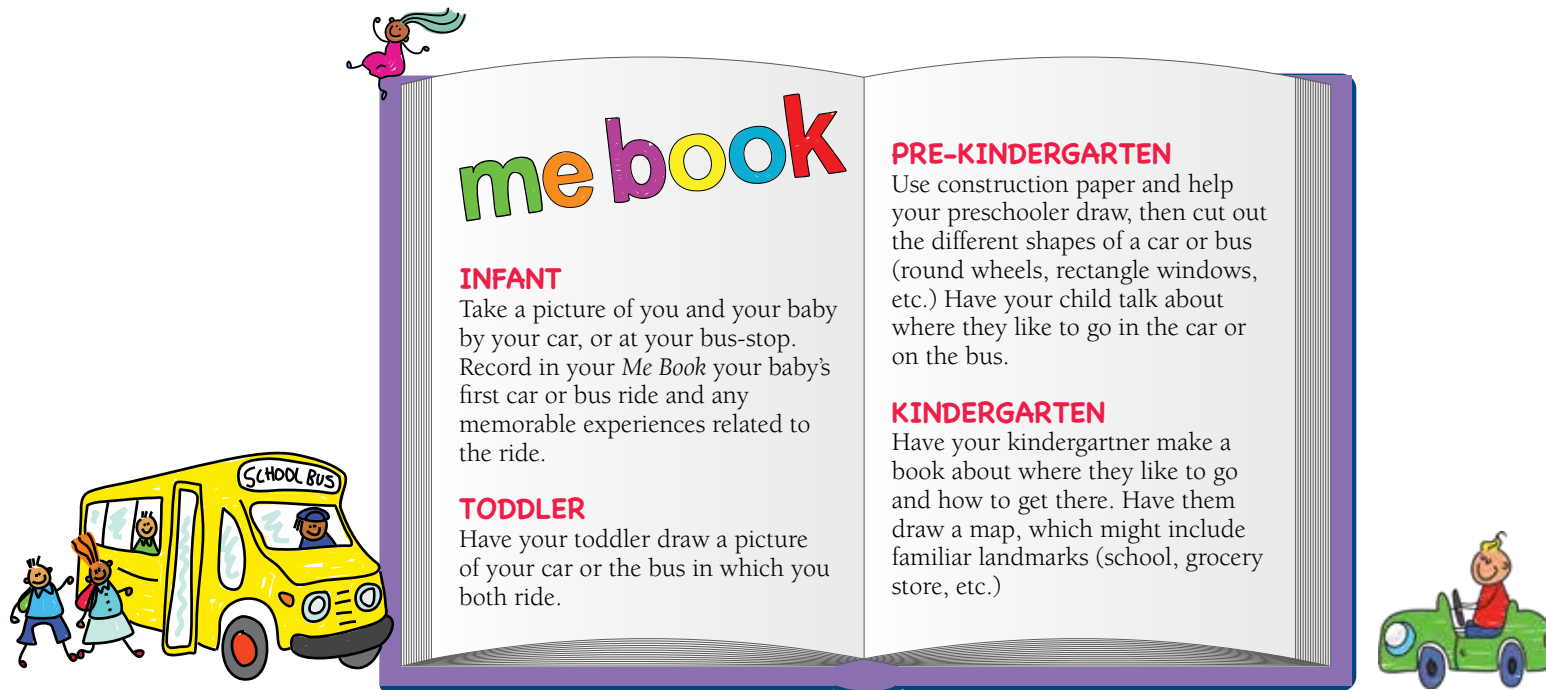
Tub Toys by Terry Miller Shannon, Timothy Warner, & Lee Calderon

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 four years to be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat anywhere in the vehicle. Children from age four up to age eight 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 them 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 they can gaze at it while in her car seat.

TODDLER: Provide your toddler with books about traveling. Ask them 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 them 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?



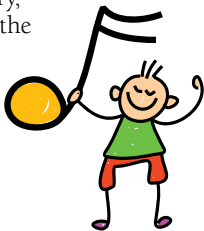
Activity 3: TAKING ALONG A SONG

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 them 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 they 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 they 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: Babies are drawn to colorful objects. Supply them 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 they can gaze at it while in their car seat.

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 they 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

GREAT FREE RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY.

CHILDREN LEARN FROM BIRTH, IN LITTLE WAYS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE LATER IN LIFE. HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE IT BIG BY STARTING SMALL. VISIT THESE FREE RESOURCES!

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children

- Learn what to expect as your child develops—and what to do if you need answers or help along the way.
- Discover playful activities you can use to help your child gain new skills at home, and learn how to prepare for preschool and kindergarten.
- Find early learning and child care programs, learn how to keep your child healthy, and get help with responding to a child's challenging behaviors.
- Find other families and professionals ready to support you with expert advice, medical care and financial assistance.

www.papromiseforchildren.com

Early Learning GPS

- Choose between infant, toddler and preschooler and find 10 questions about your child. Get information about your child's brain, their development, you and your child, and when your child is not with you. You'll also get a list of helpful resources.
- You can stop the quiz at any time and jump right to the resources! Responses are not recorded, and you don't give any personal information about yourself or your child.

www.earlylearninggps.com



COMPASS - Early Learning Program Search

The new COMPASS early learning program search offers a simple zip code search to quickly find programs near you, or a more advanced search to meet your specific needs.

- Search for a variety of early learning programs, like regulated child care and Keystone STARS programs, Home Visiting programs, Head Start, Early Intervention, and Pre-K Counts.
- View inspection history of child care programs.
- Filter by financial assistance, like Child Care Works or scholarships.
- Compare programs and create a personalized summary report.
- Search for programs that offer overnight care.

www.findchildcare.pa.gov