



Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five.

Story this month: A Bad Case of the Stripes by David Shannon

Reading Strategy: In it, Camilla Cream gets a bad case of stripes because she doesn't want to stand out, so she won't admit to liking lima beans. The illustrations are great, the story is fun, and there is an opportunity for talking with your child about being themselves.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<p>Problem-Solving Skills</p>	<p>Even infants can problem solve. Put a rattle just out of reach of your baby and watch your baby try to problem solve how to reach it. Does your baby roll over to get to it? Does your baby reach far to get it? Your baby is thinking through how to reach that rattle.</p> 	<p>Toddlers are beginning to notice and understand colors. Start by looking at the pictures in the book and pointing out the colors or the stripes and the other patterns on her skin.</p> 	<p>During this book, Camilla has a problem that she needs help solving. Ask your child some questions encouraging them to problem solve through the book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What made Camilla get stripes? *I wonder why her stripes keep changing. *What are specialists? *I wonder why the old lady thinks she can cure Camilla? *What finally changed Camilla back to herself?
<p>Language/Communication Skills</p>	<p>Between 10-12 months your baby will start to learn some basic body parts if you name them. In the story there are many opportunities to teach facial features. Take a picture walk through the book and point out Camilla's facial features. For younger infants start only with eye. As your infant gets older, begin to add the nose and mouth.</p>	<p>When Camilla had a bad case of stripes, her parents took care of her. Talk with your toddler about when they don't feel well, who takes care of them.</p> 	<p>Sing a color song with your preschooler: Tune of If You're Happy and You Know It.</p> <p><i>If your clothes have any red, any red If your clothes have any red, any red If your clothes have any red, put a finger on your head, If your clothes have any red, any red.</i></p> <p><i>Blue – finger on your shoe Yellow – smile like a happy fellow Black – put your hands behind your back White – stomp your feet with all your might.</i></p>
<p>Small/Fine Motor Skills</p>	<p>Babies are learning many skills as they play. Developing fine motor skills is crucial as your baby grows into a toddler, and then a preschooler. If your baby can sit well in a high chair, put some pudding on their tray and let them 'paint' with it. They are learning to work their hands and fingers and coordinator them the way they want.</p>	<p>Put water in a spray bottle and add some food coloring to it. Encourage your toddler to go outside and spray the snow. If there is no snow, have them spray a picture or the ground. Working a spray bottle is strengthening your toddler's hand coordinator.</p>	<p>Have your preschooler draw Camilla and all the different things that happened to her: stripes, stars, etc. Use stickers if you have them. Allow your child to be creative and add their own version of the problems Camilla experienced.</p>

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Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>When your baby is between nine and twelve months old, open a large box at both ends and encourage him or her to crawl through the new tunnel.</p> <p>Another fun tunnel can be made by placing a sheet over a table. Turn this into a game by calling your baby's name and rewarding him or her with kisses when he or she comes out of the tunnel.</p>	<p>Put a large piece of paper on the floor and trace your toddler's body. Let your toddler color stripes or patterns on their picture. This helps to strengthen the hips and shoulders as well as encourage the child to weight shift on their hands and knees to color, building better balance and coordination.</p>	<p>If you have ever watched a preschooler roll around on the floor, you know it's a sure-fire giggle producer. What you may not know is how great rolling is for their body and brain. It helps with balance, coordinated movements, sensory development, strength, and a tactile understanding of space. Play some games rolling around on the floor with your preschooler and share the fun.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>Babies love language, songs, and nursery rhymes. To the tune of Hickory Dickory Dock sing with your baby:</p> <p><i>Hickory Dickory Dock Let's put on our socks. We can walk around, without a sound, When we wear our socks.</i> (for additional verses, substitute other action words for "walk", such as slide, tiptoe and jump.)</p>	<p>Work with your toddler on colors. A good skill for that is sorting by color. No special toys are needed, as there are many household items young children can sort by color. A good one to start with is socks. Help your child sort laundry by color, they will be learning self help skills and their colors.</p> 	<p>Play a little memory game with your preschooler. Take five toys and lay them in front of your child. Have your child cover their eyes and you take one of the toys away. When your child opens their eyes, have them guess what toy was removed. If it seems too easy for your child, add more toys.</p> 
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Sing lullabies and tell your baby nursery rhymes in a soft voice. Your baby will benefit from any language you use with your baby and also learn to trust and attach to you as you talk to them.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to pretend play. Offer them some toy cups, plates, spoons, and pans. You can enjoy some wonderful 'soup' together.</p> 	<p>Lima beans cured Camilla's case of the Stripes. Why do you think Lima beans worked? Ask your child if they had a bad case of the stripes what would cure them? This is a good chance to have a conversation with your child about being comfortable with who they are.</p>

The Play, Learn and Read at Home activities are brought to you by the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Great Parents Great Start program. Children move thru predictable stages of development. The activities provided above are meant to be a guide. For more information on your child's development visit: www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

