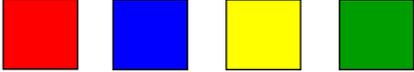




Play, Learn, and Read At Home

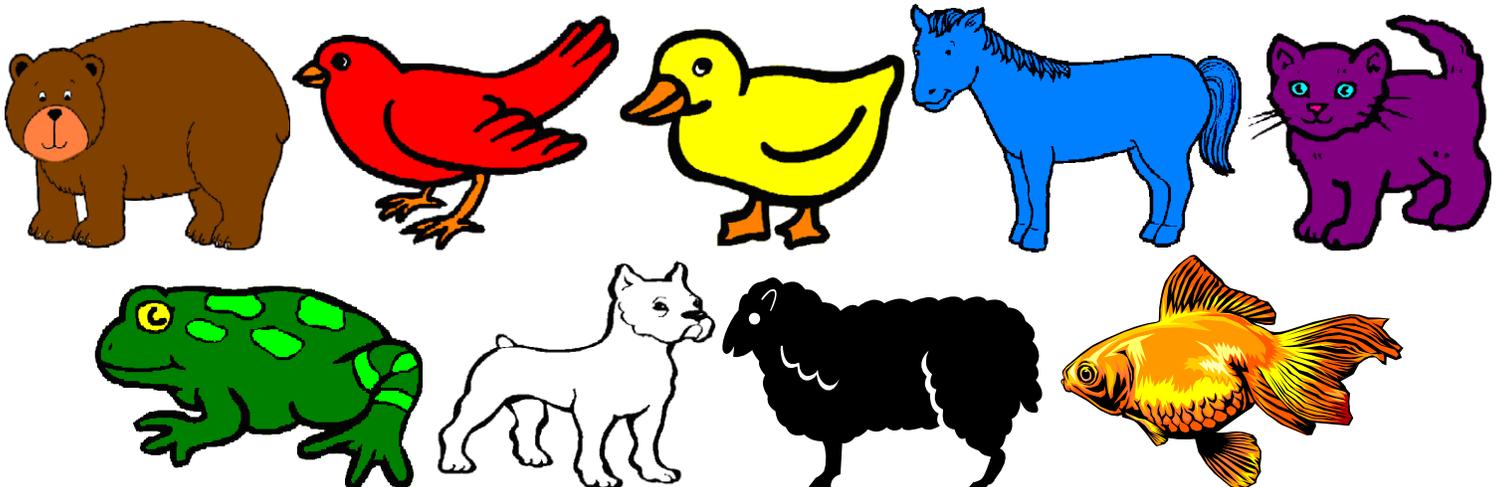
Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	<p>This book is wonderful for young babies because it has only one picture per page. Infants as young as 8-9 months will show interest and look at specific pictures in a book. Pat the picture as you say the name of the animal. Your 14-15 month old will start to do this as well.</p> 	<p>This book is nice to start teaching children about colors. Most 2-3 year olds should be able to match basic colors such as red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, and brown. Use basic square pieces of colored construction paper. Show your child a color and have them find the picture in the book that matches.</p> 	<p>This book teaches children about patterns in the sense that each page starts with the same phrase. Show your child how patterns can be created with pictures. Use the animal patterns at the end of the second page to trace and cut out your own small animal shapes. Play a game with your child where you make a simple pattern, bear-duck, bear-duck, bear-____. See if your child can figure out what comes next. Have your child create their own patterns.</p>
Language/Communication Skills	<p>Close to your child's first birthday, they will be interested in imitating animal sounds. When you read the story, model these sounds for your child:</p> <p>Bear: growl Sheep: baa baa Cat: meow Duck: quack quack Frog: ribbit ribbit Horse: nay nay Bird: peep peep</p> 	<p>Children this age are starting to combine two words together. Color words are often words used to describe objects (ie. yellow duck). Make a book with your child that focuses on just one color per page. Have your child select pictures from magazines that they want, then match it to the page with the same color. Title your book, "Child's name, Child's name what do you see?"... then as you read it use the phrase "I see a red ball" or "green tree" etc. looking at me." Your child may imitate the phrase "red ball," but that does not necessarily mean they understand the concept yet. The focus of the activity is putting words together and not naming colors.</p>	<p>Hearing and discriminating sounds within words is a necessary skill for learning to read later on. Play a matching game that focuses on the initial sound of the word. Use pictures to trace, cut, and put on index cards. Add other pictures from magazines on other index cards that start with the sounds /b/, /d/, and /f/. Mix all the cards up and have your child draw one. Say this phrase, "Child's name, Child's name, what do you hear." "It sounds to me like a /b/ (you provide the sound) is near." Then say the word, "ball." Draw another one to see if you hear the /b/ at the beginning again, such as "bear." Talk about how they sound the same and/or different.</p>
Small/Fine Motor Skills	<p>Exploring with crayons is something that your child may be interested in as young as 10 months. They will try to make some contact with paper. Allow your child to explore with crayons, markers, and paint brushes <u>with your supervision.</u></p> 	<p>When children begin writing, an easel is helpful as they have better control in this position. Children 18 months to 3 years will start to imitate and experiment with different strokes. First try modeling up and down (vertical strokes), the round and round (circular strokes), and finally side to side or (horizontal strokes). Allow your child to explore with different tools such as crayons, markers, and paint brushes. Of course...bring on the COLOR!</p>	<p>The board book provides a nice pattern to trace. Help your preschooler trace the animals on white paper to color. Encourage them to be creative; just like we don't normally see purple cats, maybe they would like to make a rainbow bear or a polka-dot horse! Cut out, then hang up to display.</p> 

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>Around 4 months of age, your child will enjoy flying like a bird. Hold your baby around his chest with his tummy towards the ground. Fly him around like a bird. Your 4 month old should be able to hold his head up and by 6 months he should be lifting his legs as well. Movement stimulation such as this, provides important information for the brain that helps with visual development, muscle tone, and balance.</p>	<p>Toddlers love to crawl in places and explore. Talk about the bear in the story and how he lives in a cave. Make a cave by hanging blankets over the edges of a card table and chairs or form a tunnel for them to crawl through.</p> 	<p>Preschoolers like to be silly and they like it when you are too! As you go about your day imitate the movements of the animals in the book such as walk like a bear and crawl to bed on all fours. Try these other motor activities as well; fly like a bird to the dinner table, waddle like a duck to the store, gallop like a horse to preschool, hop like a frog to the bath, and stretch like a cat in front of the TV.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>Babies age 10-12 months are interested in feeding themselves. They are developing a grasp with their finger and thumb that allows them to pick up small items. Play a game with your baby and say, "Child's name, Child's name, what do you see? I see a cheerio looking at me!" Place the cheerio at different places on the child's tray so they will need to reach and use both hands to get them.</p>	<p>Toddlers love to have small snacks. Provide them with goldfish and teddy bear crackers for snack. Have them in a bowl with a spoon so they can serve themselves just a few at a time. Teach them this phrase, "Tummy, tummy what do you see, I see a gold fish looking a me!"</p> 	<p>Preschoolers will be interested in making a simple snack independently. Allow them to make a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich, including opening the jars and using the knife to spread. Give them a simple cookie cutter shape and have them cut out an animal shape from their sandwich.</p> 
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Babies love simple interaction games. Hold your baby on your lap facing you while you are sitting. Call their name in this song, "Jared, Jared, what do you see? Use a slow voice that builds as you move your baby closer to you. As you get just about to your face say, "I see mommy or daddy looking at me." Then reward with kisses. Place baby back down calmly and wait for signal that your baby wants to play again. If your baby looks away or starts to cry they are probably are done with the game.</p>	<p>Many toddlers have a special stuffed animal, toy, and/or blanket that they must have when they are moving from one activity to another or going to be going away. This is often referred to as a transitional object. A child may need this for nap-time, a car-ride, or when they go to daycare. The presence of the object provides comfort and allows the child to transition from activity to activity or setting to setting much easier. This is a healthy stage that many children go through.</p> 	<p>If you have a child that is interested in books and crafts, then this activity may be for you. Start a family tradition of making a personal book with your child. Use the pattern provided in Brown Bear to highlight each season. For example, have your child make one about Thanksgiving and say "Turkey, Turkey what do you see." Cut out pictures from magazines or draw pictures that correspond with the vocabulary for that season. Make a book about Halloween, Christmas, and Easter as well.</p>

Patterns:



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