



# Play, Learn, and Read At Home

## Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

**Story this month:** Clap Your Hands by Lorinda Bryan Cauley

**Focus Skills for parents:** This book is simple yet full of rich vocabulary. Read the book and teach your child all of the actions first (ie. What does it mean to stomp). Then read the book together and do the actions as they appear in the story. Be silly and have FUN!!!

	<b>0-12 Months</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>
<b>Problem-Solving Skills</b>	Imitation of actions is a critical skill for later learning. Your 7-8 month old should be able to imitate an action that they already do (ie. Patting, clapping or banging). Your 11-14 month old should make attempts at imitating new gestures such as closing eyes, shaking a toy or giving a kiss.	Counting is an important readiness skill. A 2 ½ to 3 year old should be interested in counting to three. So practice counting up to three with your child. After you have done this several times, pause after you say one and see if your child can fill in two and three. Count objects so your child begins to understand that each number means something.	Somewhere between age 4 and 5 your child should be able to count to 10. Make the counting meaningful (How many spoons do we need?). Every time you finish reading two pages count all the animals and children on the pages. Point to each one as you count them. Count those with hats, glasses etc. Write the number down so your child can see what the written number looks like.
<b>Language/Communication Skills</b>	Children at this age will begin to understand the names of basic body parts if they are taught them. Use a stuffed animal and have the animal “kiss your child’s hands, feet, tummy, arms, head, toes, nose, eyes and ears”. Make it a playful game, pausing and waiting to see if your child anticipates where you will get him or her with the animal.	Toddlers love you to be silly! Do all of the actions in the story teaching your child the action words. There are many of them: shake, stomp, roar, growl, kiss, wiggle, purr, clap, wave, jump, slap, spin, close, bark, crawl, stand, roll, march, hop, flap and fly! Use these words in other situations such as watching a bird fly over or shaking up the juice in the morning for breakfast.	This book offers many unique animals to learn about: goose, bear, mouse, lion, giraffe, frog, kangaroo, mole, monkey, elephant, seal, ape, bird, rabbit, hippopotamus, dog, cat and tiger. Check out books from the library to learn about what they eat, where they live, how big they get etc. One of these spring days take a trip to the zoo to see them firsthand!

	<b>0-12 Months</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>
<b>Small/Fine Motor Skills</b>	A 5 ½ to 7 month old will be interested in watching you scribble with a crayon. An 11-12 month old will try to imitate scribbles. Place your child in a high chair and use large crayons when doing this activity. Scribble back and forth and say “back and forth, back and forth” in a sing-song voice. Do the same making “round and round” scribble movements. Always provide supervision for these activities.	By 16 months of age your child should be able to isolate his or her pointer finger. Use chocolate pudding, yogurt or finger paints if your child won’t eat it. Have them imitate you making polka dots on paper by dipping their fingers in the material and dotting it on the paper. Find the animals in the book that have polka dots on their clothing.	Usually by age 3 a child can make a vertical and a horizontal line. Use white paper and cut out different patterns for shirts, pants and socks. Have your child make strips on the clothing. Look in the book to talk about the animals or children they see wearing strips. Help your child describe them, “white pants with green stripes.”
<b>Large/Gross Motor Skills</b>	Babies begin to roll from their tummy to their back sometime between 2 and 5 months. Rolling from their back to their tummy is usually accomplished by about 7 ½ months. Place an interesting toy to one side and encourage your baby to roll to get it.	Your 1 to 2 year old will be able to do some of the more simple actions in the story such as: reach for the sky, crawl, roll, blow a kiss, and wave bye-bye. A 2-3 year old will add more such as jump, fly like an airplane and spin in a circle.	Preschoolers will be able to do all the actions in the story and might enjoy a game of “Simon says”, where they follow the directions with the actions that you learned in the story. This would be really fun if a sibling, friend, parent or grandparent played along.
<b>Self-Help Skills</b>	Since this story centers around actions an action your infant should be able to do somewhere between 6 and 9 months is hold their own bottle. Some infants may want to put their hands on your hands as you hold the bottle.	Toddlers love to be helpers so why not let them get in on the housekeeping action around the house. They will enjoy dusting, wiping and sweeping especially with child size brooms and vacuums that they can easily handle.	Your preschool age child will love to play dress up. This is great for practicing dressing skills. Be on the look out at garage sales for clothes a little bigger than your child to dress up and play with. Be sure to find some stripes and polka dots. When friends come over have a dress-up parade.
<b>Social-Emotional Skills</b>	Usually around 6 months of age, your infant should be recognizing his own name when called. He may make sounds and/or turn his head to find you when you call him. Play games where you call his name and peek out from another room. Provide lots of reinforcement such as giggling, tickling, and getting excited when he/she turns to his name being called.	A 2 ½ to 3 year old should be able to say his first and last name when asked. Use singing and music to help your child learn his name by making a silly song such as: “Your name is Bob Brown, Your name is Bob Brown, Your name is Bob Brown and your three years old.” By age three a child should be able to tell his age.	Between the ages of 4 and 5, your child should be able to recognize his own name in print. Put your child’s name on things every chance you get (ie. Coat, boots etc.) that might go to school. Use index cards and label your child’s bedroom door with his name. Point to it at bedtime and read the name. Put names of other family members on other doors so your child begins to see how they are different.

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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)

