







Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five.

Story this month: Click Clack Moo Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

Reading Strategy: Look at the front cover of the book and talk with your child about what the cows could be typing a letter about? Who could it be for? What do you think it says?

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	<p>Problem solving skills are beginning to develop in infants as they develop. One of the activities that you can work on with your baby is object permanence. Around 6-8 months babies are learning that objects don't disappear and but still exist when you hide it. Put some toy animals or people into a box or container. See if your baby can find them or 'discover' them.</p>	<p>Play a sorting game with your toddler with their toys. Some common categories could be animals, people, shapes or you could even sort them by the feeling: hard, soft, rough, smooth etc. Allow your toddler to try to work through it to decide where it goes and gently guide them to tell why they put it in that category.</p>	<p>In the book, the animals and Farmer Brown had a problem to solve. The animals wanted blankets, Farmer Brown wanted milk and eggs. Ask your child how they thought they could solve the problem between the animals and Farmer Brown. Why did the animals want electric blankets? Why would the farmer need milk and eggs?</p>
Language/Communication Skills	<p>Language in infants is such an important activity. You can talk with your baby anywhere, any time. Making eye contact when you talk and sing is also important. Singing and talking with your baby is good one-on-one time. Sing with your baby the Farmer in the Dell:</p> <p><i>The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell, hi-ho the derry-O, the farmer in the dell.</i></p> 	<p>Sing the song Old McDonald Had a Farm with your child. If you have any toy animals, use them to pretend they are making the animal sounds.</p> <p><i>Old McDonald Had a Farm E-I-E-I-O And On that Farm He Had a Cow E-I-E-I-O With a MOO MOO Here and a MOO MOO There, Everywhere a MOO MOO Old McDonald Had a Farm E-I-E-I-O</i></p> <p>Now use other animals as other verses.</p>	<p>Have your child write a letter to Farmer Brown. Ask your child, if they were in the barn, what would they want to ask for from Farmer Brown?</p> 

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Small/Fine Motor Skills	Fine motor skills are so important for young children to master. At this age they are learning to control their arm and hand control. If you have toy animals or people, use a box as a barn and help your child put the animals/people into the barn. If they can do it easily, try to use a smaller container to make it a little more challenging for your child.	Have your child write or draw a story about an animal or group of animals that can do things that you wouldn't normally see that animal doing. For example, a frog that can play soccer, or a rabbit that can sing songs. 	In the book, the cows and hens wouldn't give the farmer any milk and eggs. Talk with your child about different things you can make with milk and eggs. Try some cooking ideas with your child to make some scrambled eggs or bake something with eggs and show your child how to break open the eggs. It may not be perfect the first time, but they're learning how to control their fingers. 
Large/Gross Motor Skills	Gross Motor skills contribute to health, balance, coordination, strength, and to the development of Fine Motor skills... which eventually leads to writing! Simply rolling a ball back and forth with your baby can help develop those large muscles skills.	Encourage your toddler to walk around the room like an animal of their choice. Try to guess which animal they are. If you can't guess, say "click, clack (animal sound) to see if you can guess. If not, ask them to act out how the animal moves or what it does (rolls in the mud, waddles like a duck etc.)	Pretend play with your child that you are the farmer and the animals. Allow your child to choose which one they want to be and act out the book. To make it more challenging, if your child is the animal, try to guess which animal they are as they move around and make animal noises. You can act out different solutions too and see what other ways there are to solve problems.
Self-Help Skills	Babies are learning self help skills from young infancy to older infancy. They develop by exploring their surroundings. Make sure to keep materials around your infant they can explore without getting hurt. Most babies explore with their mouth, so everything they handle they put in their mouth. It's important to allow babies to explore their world safely.	Self help skills are skills that your children are learning as they develop. During the toddler years, children are beginning to learn how to use words to ask for help. . When you see your child start to struggle with something, encourage them to ask for help. They may need many reminders at first, but as they get more practice asking, it will become natural for them to ask for help before becoming frustrated.	During the preschool years, children are beginning to learn that others have needs and wants too. Read through the story and ask your preschooler what the animals and farmer wanted. Discuss how they solved the problem, and at the end of the book, the duck had something they wanted too. Ask your child if there was ever a time someone asked for something from them.
Social-Emotional Skills	Babies respond well to nurturing caregivers. As you feed and diaper your baby, they are learning to trust you to meet all their needs. Sing and talk to your baby while you meet their needs and build that trust.	Ask your child follow up questions about the books, such as, how does your child think Farmer Brown felt when the cows refused to give milk and the chickens refused to give eggs because they wanted the blankets. Use the words mad/angry/upset when talking about this so your child learns more about emotions. How did the cows and chickens feel when they finally got blankets? Happy? Relieved?	Preschoolers are learning how to compromise and how to problem solve. What was the problem between Farmer Brown and his animals? Ask your child what some of the other things Farmer Brown and the animals could have done to solve the problem.

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

