










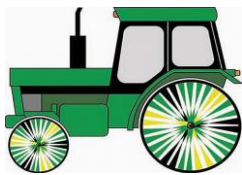


Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five

Story this month: Dig, Dig, Digging by Margaret Mayo

Focus Skill for Parents: C.A.R.: Comment about the story/pictures as you are reading, Ask your child a question, Repeat what your child answered and add more words to help expand their language.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<p>Problem-Solving Skills</p> 	<p>Between 6-11 months children should be able to “slide” objects back and forth as a way to play. Demonstrate to your child how to slide a car back and forth after giving them time to explore it. Guide your child’s hand to help them feel the sliding motion.</p>	<p>Children between 18-22 months are figuring out how things work! At this age, they will attempt and accomplish activating a mechanical toy. Give your child the opportunity to explore vehicles that have switches, buttons, and winding knobs. For example, vehicles that move by pushing or pulling, buttons that produce sounds or make the vehicles move, or flipping a switch for a battery operated vehicle.</p> 	<p>Look through magazines and store ads for pictures of any vehicles in the story. Help your child search and find at least two of each kind. Cut them out and save them in a shoe box. Once you have two of each kind, glue each one on a square of construction paper and make your own matching game. Turn all the squares picture side down and pick two to turn over. Say the phrase, “I see a <u>firetruck</u> and a <u>tractor</u>. No match.” Turn back over and play again until you get a match.</p>
<p>Language/Communication Skills</p>	<p>Babies between 8 and 12 months should be able to imitate some simple consonant- vowel combinations. As you read the story, say “beep-beep” as you point to each vehicle. See if your child will imitate what you say. If they say, “bee-bee” that is close enough for a child at this age.</p>	<p>Children between the ages 18-21 months should be able to learn the names of these different kinds of vehicles. They might start out calling every big vehicle a truck, but by 3 years of age, they should be able to name each kind of vehicle in the book.</p>	<p>After you have read the story several times, turn to the last pages of the book. Ask your child to name each of the vehicles and tell you what they do.</p> 
<p>Small/Fine Motor Skills</p> 	<p>Babies between 4 ½-5 ½ months are learning to coordinate their eyes and hands well enough to reach and grasp objects. Place your baby on his/her back and hold the toy in front of him so he needs to reach up to the middle to get it. Hold it off to the right side and the left side so that your baby will be encouraged to use each hand to reach for the object.</p>	<p>Blocks are a great toy for young children. Building towers with blocks helps your child practice eye-hand coordination and small muscle skills. Build a tower with your child using blocks. Children between 12-16 months should be able to stack 2 blocks; 18-22 months, 4 blocks; 23-26 months, 6 blocks; and 28-31 months, 8 blocks. Let your child knock down the tower with a toy vehicle and then make another one!</p> 	<p>Preschoolers love using scissors to cut! Create a vehicle with your child by drawing shapes on a paper. Ask your child what vehicle they would like to make and draw shapes that resemble that particular vehicle. A rectangle for the body of the vehicle, squares for the windows or front, circles for the wheels, etc. Allow your child to practice their cutting skills by cutting out the shapes using their scissors. After cutting, have your child glue the shapes on a piece of paper to make a vehicle.</p>

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>Help your baby learn to roll just like the “Rollers” in the story. Between 2-5 months your child should roll from their stomach to their back. While your child is lying on his stomach, move a toy slowly across your child’s line of vision towards their back. Encourage your child to follow the toy to the point where your child needs to roll over to see it. Let your child play with the toy after working so hard to get it!</p> 	<p>As your toddlers balance and control with walking improves, they will be ready for new movement challenges. Get a laundry basket and tie a string to it to make your own, “dump truck”. Demonstrate to your child how to fill up their dump trucks with stuffed animals, toys, books etc. Have your child pull the truck or push the truck and then “dump” their load. Add weight to the box to make it more challenging!</p> 	<p>Encourage your preschooler to pretend to be different vehicles from the story. As your child is on the floor, say “Pretend you are a digger and “dig, dig, dig.” As you say this, move your arm in a digging motion. Say “Now you are a fire engine and race, race, race.” Crawl around the room very fast as if you are racing. “You are a rescue helicopter and you whirl, whirl, whirl.” Put your arms out to the side and pretend to be whirring in the air. “You are a roller and you roll, roll, roll.” Roll around on the floor as if you are a roller.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>Between 9-12 months old your child is getting ready to “dig” into their food to feed themselves with a spoon. At mealtimes, give your child an extra spoon to hold, explore, and practice with as you are feeding your child with a spoon. As your child attempts to feed themselves, use food that will stick to the spoon such as mashed potatoes, pudding, oatmeal, yogurt, cottage cheese.</p>	<p>Toddlers between 18-24 months are able to help put things away. After playing with their toys, provide your child with a box or shelf that your child can put their toys in. Tell your child “It is time to put your trucks in your toy box.” At this age, they are not able to put all of their things away, but they can help. Praise all of your child’s help. “Thank you, you really helped me clean up!”</p>	<p>Preschoolers are becoming very independent and want to do as many things on their own as they can. At meal times allow your child to serve themselves by scooping their food and pouring their drinks. As your child is scooping their food say “_____ is good at scoop, scoop, and scooping.” As your child pours their drink say “_____ is good at pour, pour, pouring.” “They can work all day.”</p>
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Sing the song and do the motions with your baby.</p> <p><u>The Wheels on the Tractor</u></p> <p>The wheels on the tractor go round and round, round and round, round and round. The wheels on the tractor go round and round all through the farm.</p> <p>The lights on the fire truck go flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash. The lights on the fire truck go flash, flash, and flash all through the town.</p> <p>The horns on the truck go beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep. The horn on the truck goes beep, beep, beep all through the town.</p> 	<p>Rough and tumble play is a favorite social activity for toddlers. Try some of these activities with your child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pretend to be cars and crawl on your hands and knees, fast to race each other. 2) Crawl over pillows to pretend to climb up a hill. 3) Throw sheets over chairs and crawl through a tunnel. 4) Let your child ride on your back and pretend you are a dump truck, dumping your load. 5) Pretend with your child that he is a “roller” and help him roll side to side on the floor or help him do a somersault. 6) Pretend that your child is a crane and hold him up high so he can touch the ceiling. 7) Pretend your child is a helicopter and zoom your child through the air. 8) Pretend your child is a truck and give him a piggy back ride while saying “beep, beep.” 	<p>Hop in the car and go for a ride to play a game of “eye-spy” with different vehicles. Look for police cars, ambulance cars, tractors, transporters, dump trucks and semi-tractors. As you see one, say I spy a green dump truck! This is a game that can be played over and over when you go on car rides. For an older 4 or 5 year old child, have them make marks on a paper every time you see one and then count at the end of the ride, how many vehicles you saw.</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