

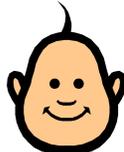


Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five

Story this month: I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont

Focus Skills for parents: Paired Reading-Pause and let your child fill in the phrase "I ain't gonna paint no more!"

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<p>Problem-Solving Skills</p>	<p>In the story, the little boy uses piled up boxes to reach the paint in the closet. He understands that using this "means" will help him reach his "end" which is the paint. Young babies begin to learn this between 8 and 12 months. Place a desirable toy on a small blanket and try to have the baby pull the blanket towards him/her to get the toy. You can also have the baby pull a string on a pull toy. You don't want to be interested only in the string-should want to get the toy.</p> 	<p>As young as 18 months children are beginning to notice differences and discriminate color. Between the ages of 2 and 3 most children will be able to match primary colors. Select three different objects that are red, blue, green, etc. and hide them in one or two rooms of your home. Place colored pieces of construction paper on the floor. When your child finds an object, have him/her go to the colored squares and put the object on the square that matches it.</p> 	<p>Children at this age are beginning to recognize and be interested in patterns, which is a pre-math skill. In the story, the child's leg is painted like an Easter Egg. Talk about this & help your child see the pattern. Look for patterns in clothes, socks, dishes, etc. Help your child create patterns with objects, (straw, spoon, straw, spoon). See if your child can predict what comes next. Help your child create patterns with crayons, paint, stickers, material, buttons, etc. Make a paper Easter egg decoration that you can display during that holiday!</p>
<p>Language/Communication Skills</p>	<p>Understanding the concept of "no" is something your child will do between 9-12 months of age. As you read the story shake your head "no" each time you read the word. Use this gesture with the word during your daily routine and before long, your child will be imitating it and using it back to communicate with you. A simple shake of the head will be a much more desirable communication strategy than a bowl of food flying across the room to indicate "no more"!</p> 	<p>This story offers some wonderful vocabulary to teach your child. Between 12 and 18 months your child should be taught most of the facial body parts (eyes, nose, mouth, hair, ear, etc.) Color names are of interest for a 2 year old. In the story, specific words are used for parts of a room (floor, ceiling, walls, door etc.). Use this opportunity to teach your child these words for the different rooms in your house (ie. kitchen floor, bathroom door, etc). Between ages 2 and 3 your child should be imitating these simple 2 word phrases.</p> 	<p>After you have read the story a few times, pause when reading to see if your child can complete the rhyme. "So I take some red and I paint my....." wait for your child to complete it. If they can, extend the activity for playing a rhyming game when you are in the car, or at bath time. Say, I'm gonna find something to rhyme with <u>bed</u>. Then take turns with your child making real and nonsense words that rhyme (ie. Ted, Fred, wed, med, dead, lead, ed, ked). It does not matter if they are true words. Being able to create rhymes is an important pre-literacy skill-so have fun and be playful with it!</p>

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Small/Fine Motor Skills	<p>Between 9 and 12 months your baby will be interested in poking at things with his index finger. Spread a thin layer of pudding on his/her tray. Show your baby how to make pokes with his finger in the pudding. Use yogurt, mashed potatoes or other edible mediums. This is a great sensory activity and supports self-feeding skills.</p> 	<p>When beginning to develop early writing skills, your child will do best when standing up at an easel. If you do not have an easel uses a piece of plywood and lean it up against a wall. Let your child explore different colors and different size brushes (small, fat, rollers, etc.). Make just basic strokes of up, down, and side to side. Talk about how they look different with the different brushes.</p> 	<p>By age three your child should be able to make some simple shapes. Use the same easel idea as the previous activity to focus on making a circle then turning that into a face. Here is an example with different shapes:</p>  <p>Between the ages of 4 and 5 your child should be able to draw a figure that resembles a person.</p>
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>As young as 6-10 months, some babies are interested in pulling themselves to a standing position. At this point their arms are doing most of the work. They enjoy this position and will want to practice standing while holding onto something for a few seconds. Provide your baby with supervision and support if he needs it. Even though your baby may enjoy standing, crawling is of primary importance. Don't just place them in a standing position but provide the opportunity for them to pull to stand under their own power! Once he masters this, he is going to want to move along the object he pulled himself up on.</p>	<p>Stairs are a toddler's playground—they love to practice this skill which begins with crawling up and down. Take cushions off the couch or chairs and create a two to three level series of "steps" for your baby to crawl up and down. Always provide supervision when your child is attempting to go up or down real steps and make sure the steps are gated so your child can not get to them on his own—as they will be an area of high interest!</p> 	<p>Standing on one foot is a skill that is hard for most preschoolers. Put on some music and take turns with your child making up "dance moves". Incorporate standing on one foot into the act at first by hanging on to something and then letting go for a few brief seconds. If your child is able to do this, teach them how to do an arabesque like the statue is doing in the story.</p> 
Self-Help Skills	<p>Bringing toys to their mouth and exploring them is very important for young babies. Between the ages of 3 and 5 months, this will be a high interest activity for your baby. Provide a variety of appropriate teething toys with different textures and colors for your child to explore visually and orally. This stage is very important for feeding and later for your child's speech and language development. Always provide close supervision when your child is exploring objects with their mouth.</p>	<p>After a messy playtime with paint a bath might be just what your toddler needs. Allow your child to use a wash cloth to wash his feet, arms, hands etc. Name the body parts as he/she washes them. Never leave your toddler alone in the bathtub!</p> 	<p>Your preschooler will begin to be able to do more and more with respect to their self-care skills. Provide supervision when your preschooler is in the tub, but allow your child to wash some of their body, help rinse their hair, dry off, dress, and comb their hair. This may take more time but your child will take pride in doing some of these things for themselves.</p> 
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Your infant between 5 and 7 months old will love to explore your face by poking, patting, and touching. Hold your baby facing you and allow them to explore your face. Name the body parts as your child touches them- "nose, mouth, eye etc."</p>	<p>When your child starts moving between 9 and 12 months, will be very interested in exploring environment. Will be comfortable moving away from you and exploring under tables, in closets, in drawers, or wherever they can get. Make sure your environment is safe for exploration.</p>	<p>Preschoolers love to be recognized for what they have done. Use the opportunity this book provides to create art and frame some of your child's creations. This will boost your child's self-esteem and make a wonderful keepsake for the future.</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