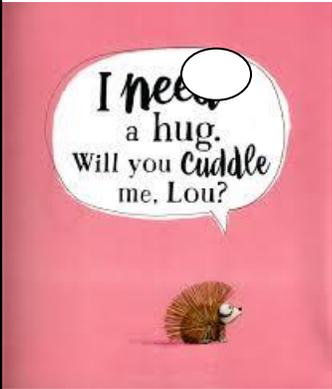




## Play, Learn, and Read At Home

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

**Story this month:** I Need a Hug by Aaron Blabey

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<b>Problem-Solving Skills</b>	As your child grows they will gain new skills, allow them to try something first before jumping in to help, unless it is safety then please assist so no injuries occur. An example is as they may want to open a toy, allow them to attempt to open the item before modeling for them how to do it. Remember to always be teaching them as they are learning new things every day.	Teaching your child your daily routine teaches them where items go as they grow, you may start with something simple like putting the laundry in the basket, and then as the child gets older they may assist with moving laundry from the bin to the washer or washer to dryer.	Begin asking simple questions when they show you something asking where might it go. They have to think about where the object they are holding may need to go. It may be a shape sorter, so where does the circle go. It could be a dirty shirt, where do we put that?
<b>Language/ Communication Skills</b>	Pausing when you say NO or Stop is learning about what these words mean. It is also the beginning of your little one learning what No means. Modeling when they don't want something you are handing them, No you don't want that.  You can use the animals to make silly sounds as you read as well! Porcupine-ouch! Rabbit/Bunny-hop hop hop Moose- Boing! Bear-run run run Snake- ssssslither	During this age group your child may learn the word "No!" and use it any chance they can. It is best to respect the no, but if they are unable to indicate yes, it may be rough.  Offering choices is a great place to start! You can start with snack time or even clothes. Only offer two items to choose from to start, if they say no to both then wait and try again. You control the choices but then they control the choice they make.  Then move to verbal choices and this is where you can work on No or Yes. Sometimes children say no when they mean yes, do not give the item when they say no. Offer the choice again and see if they will say yes to what they truly want.	As you read in the phrases that are repetitive leave out the word hug or cuddle and see if you little one can put that word in as you pause.  
<b>Self-Help Skills</b>	Your little one as they grow should be begin to reach for their own items, if they drop or throw something and they would like it back they should begin moving towards it. Encourage this movement and exploration of their environment safely.	Children should begin making choices on their clothes to help learn how to pick out what they want to wear. You can start by holding up two outfits they choose and over time create a spot where they can go and pick out their own outfit. You may label drawers with photos to help remind them they need a top and bottom to their outfit.	Now that you have worked on picking out clothes and they may still need a little help in this age group they should start to be able to do buttons and zippers on clothes. They may need help getting a zipper started or the buttons may need to be bigger.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<b>Social-Emotional Skills</b>	<p>At this age little ones may not communicate the word no but they will show they don't like things or people by avoiding, pushing away, clinging to someone they do like/trust etc.</p>  <p><a href="https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/reluctant-hugs-why-you-shouldnt-force-kids-to-show-physical/">https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/reluctant-hugs-why-you-shouldnt-force-kids-to-show-physical/</a></p>	<p>Throughout the book our main character asks for a hug, and many animals say no. It is important to teach your child the importance of the word no. If they do not want a hug that is OK. They may request one later or just not feeling it at the moment.</p> 	<p>Working with your little one on stranger danger is important. They may not see all family often, so some family members may go in for a hug or ask and they may say no because they do not know this person. You may work on a fist bump, high five, or the new elbow bump!</p> <p>I know as students enter preschool/kindergarten at these ages teachers may have a morning greeting as the children walk in. Offering options to show a hello instead of just a hug or even kiss is a great way to build up their rapport with others.</p>
<b>Small/Fine Motor Skills</b>	<p>In the book are a variety of animals, the main animal happens to be pokey. Introducing your little one to a variety of textures as they grow will help them explore new things and learn what they may like and what they may not like. Examples are blankets of different fabric, toys that make a crinkle noise, stuffed animals, or toys that are plastic (bath toys).</p>	<p>At this age you may notice your child not liking a variety of textures, and you may think to yourself "I introduced grass last summer and now they don't like it?" Living in Michigan we only have certain outside textures for part of the year, and exposing each year should be slow, but also super fun! Scooping and digging in dirt or sand is a fun way to use both hands/arms in play.</p> 	<p>You can create your own porcupine at home using golf tees, a Styrofoam ball cut in half, and a child size hammer. Cut the Styrofoam ball in half, paint or add fabric if you so choose. Then hammer in the golf tees to create the spikes!</p> <p><a href="https://www.allfreekidscrafts.com/Kids-Fathers-Day-Crafts/Golf-Tee-Porcupine">https://www.allfreekidscrafts.com/Kids-Fathers-Day-Crafts/Golf-Tee-Porcupine</a></p> 
<b>Large/Gross Motor Skills</b>	<p>Playing with your baby on the floor builds all their muscles. As they explore and grow they will find their hands, then they will begin grabbing their feet and pulling their feet to their mouth. As they begin to find things too far away to reach they begin to roll or scoot across the floor to reach it, so placing things just out of reach helps create a fun movement activity.</p>	<p>The animals in the book all leave the porcupine in a different way! The bunny hops, the moose jumps a way, the bear runs, and then they all run past him, and a snake slithers up. See if you can pretend to be the animals and copy their actions.</p>	<p>Hopping activities is a great way to get moving for this age group! You can do this through hop scotch pattern on cement drawn with chalk, painters tape on your carpet hop to each spot with both feet and then to make it harder with one foot.</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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)

