



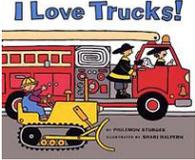
Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five

Story this month: I Love Trucks by Philemon Sturges

Focus Skills for parents: Use the Echo Reading strategy with your child, where you read the text then have him repeat it back.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	As early as 3 months your infant is beginning to understand that objects exist even when they cannot see them. Take a colorful truck and slowly roll it in front of your infant. Move it behind a small barrier such as a piece of paper. Your infant will continue to look at the barrier expecting it to reappear. As your child gets older, try running a sturdy car across their high chair tray and let it drop to the floor. Your baby will begin to look over the side to see where it went.	Use the book to point and count the different wheels. Each time you say a number point to a wheel. For a younger toddler have him watch and point with you as you say them, soon your child will start to imitate the numbers and eventually count them himself. Most of the trucks in the picture only have 2-3 wheels in view. 	Find two empty shoe boxes, cover them with paper and decorate to turn them into dump trucks. Take turns with your child getting “loads” of things to take to the weigh station. Use a variety of things such as, socks, spoons, cans, blocks, toys, etc. Bring each load to the scale (weigh station) and first predict by looking in the trucks which will be heavier. Then by lifting them up predict which one will be heavier. Finally weigh them on the scale to see if your prediction was correct.
Language/Communication Skills	Infants are interested in changes in the sounds of your voice. As you look at the book with your infant, make some of the noises that trucks make such as: Swish, swish for the street sweeper; vrooom for a passing semi; beep beep for one backing up; woo woo for the fire truck and a siren sound for the ambulance. As your child approaches one year of age, they may start to make their own truck sounds!	Build your child’s vocabulary by teaching them specific names for all of the trucks. This can be done by looking at the beginning and end of the book where all of the trucks are labeled with their proper names. Find a picture of one of these trucks at the front or end of the book and then try to find it inside the story. For example, this is a cherry picker; let’s try to find it in the story. The object is to just look thru the book to find and name the matching truck.	Using the pages at the beginning and end of the book teach your child unique facts about the truck and what it does. Play a game where you describe what the truck does and your child finds the picture or names it. For example, “This truck has loud sirens and helps people when they are hurt by taking them to the hospital. What is it?” Your child can look thru the book to find it or say ambulance!
Small/Fine Motor Skills	Cut pictures of trucks out of ads, magazines, and/or take pictures of your own local trucks (fire, mail, grandpa’s, Schwan’s, delivery trucks, etc). Paste the pictures’ on tag board and make your baby their own truck book.. They can point to pictures and turn the pages by themselves.	Get out play dough and a small rolling pin. Let your child work small pieces of play dough in their hands to make small creations. After she has made some things bring out the steam roller (rolling pin) and flatten everything. If your child has a small dump truck they can fill it up with play dough pieces, dump, and then flatten!	When reading the book with your child point out how many of the trucks are made of different shapes. Cut out squares, circles and rectangles of different sizes and have your child arrange them to make different trucks. Try and have them draw a truck by copying the basic shapes. A 5-year-old should be able to copy these basic shapes. (See back page)

<p>Large/Gross Motor Skills</p>	<p>Place a toy truck out of your child's reach so that they have to roll, crawl, and/or walk to get it. By 6 months they should be rolling to get an object, 9 months crawling, and 12-15 months walking.</p> 	<p>Turn your laundry basket into a truck. Cut a hole in the center of a paper plate and have your child pretend to drive as you push them around. Allow them to get in and out of the "truck" with your assistance. Practicing this skill helps toddlers develop coordination, balance on one foot, and motor planning skills.</p>	<p>Make an obstacle course and pretend to be the different kinds of trucks. For example: Tow truck: pulls something Street sweeper: sweeps Bulldozer: crawls Steamroller: rolls Cement Mixer: spins around Backhoe: digs Dump truck: dumps things Cherry Picker: reaches high Fork Lift: lifts things Fire Truck: goes fast (runs)</p>
<p>Self-Help Skills</p>	<p>Babies 9-12 months will start to be interested in putting hats on and off. Get a toy fireman's hat or construction hat for your child to play peek-a-boo and practice putting on and off their head. The more you laugh and make a big deal about it, the more they will do it!</p>	<p>Have toddlers begin to help around the house by throwing things away. Have them throw things away in the garbage (ie. diapers, tissue, etc.). Tell them that the garbage truck will come and get the trash.</p>	<p>Though it can be a very messy venture, every child should experience eating an ice-cream cone. Buy your own cones and use just a small portion of ice cream so your child can manage it. They will enjoy doing this on their own.</p>
<p>Social-Emotional Skills</p>	<p>Add this song to your repertoire of songs you sing with your child. Rev Rev Vroom Vroom, My big truck (Move your hands like you are revving motor bike handles) My big truck, Up on a hill or down in the muck (put your hands way up high and then way down low), Your big truck wheels (Spin your hands around each other) Spin round and round, I see them race across the ground (put your hands around your eyes like you are looking thru binoculars) Rev Rev Vroom Vroom, (revving up handle bars) My big truck, Up on a hill or down in the muck (put your hands way up high and then way down low)</p>	<p>Take a trip to see BIG trucks. You can see them while out for a drive on the highway or at your local grocery store. Find out what day trucks make deliveries and watch in the parking lot to see the different types of delivery trucks. Call to ask about a trip to the local fire department to see fire trucks and ambulances up close. If road construction is happening in your neighborhood-take time out to see the different kinds of trucks they have there.</p> 	<p>In the book, there are three trucks that help people; the fire truck, ambulance and police car. Talk with your child about why someone might need one of these trucks. Seeing the point of view of others and having empathy for them is part of a child's social-emotional development. Look for other books that deal with helping people such as: <u>Maisy's Fire Engine</u>, <u>Lucy Cousins</u> <u>I Drive an Ambulance</u>, <u>Sarah Bridges</u> and <u>Big Mike's Police Car</u>, <u>Leslie McGuire</u></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

