







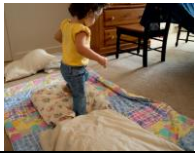




Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie By: Laura Joffe Numeroff

Focus Skill for Parents: Prediction-Ask your child what they think the mouse will want next!

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	<p>If you offer a 5 month old a small toy they will reach for it and hold it. If you offer them another small toy your child may drop the object he is holding then reach for the new one with the same hand. Your 5-7 month old may transfer the first toy from one hand to the other then reach for the new toys. Try this you're your infant to see how they solve the problem.</p> 	<p>Your 19-24 month old will begin to show an interest in sorting objects. Combine straws, cups and cookie cutters into a large pile keeping one of each object separate. Encourage your child to separate the items from the large pile into individual piles, such as all cookie cutters together. As your child gets closer to age 3, you can have them sort like objects (straws, cups) by color or size.</p> 	<p>Preschoolers are beginning to understand concepts such as more, less and same. Have a milk and cookie party with your child. Use mini-cookies and clear glasses. Put different amounts of cookies and milk in the glasses. Have your child talk about who has more or less. Vary portions at meal times and use additional works such as big, bigger, small or smallest. These are pre-math concepts you're teaching your child.</p> 
Language/ Communication Skills	<p>Infants enjoy looking at themselves in the mirror. Sit with your baby facing the mirror and point to their nose, ears, eyes and mouth. Sing this song: "Where's your nose?" "Where's your nose?" "On your face" "Let me try to find it" "Let me try to find it" "Here it is (touch nose)" "Here it is (touch nose)" (tune "Where is thumbkin")</p> 	<p>Use this book to teach your child about action words.</p> <p>eating – cookie drinking – milk looking – mirror sweeping – floor washing – floor jumping – off pillow drawing – colors writing – name climbing – on cupboard sitting – chair sleeping – nap reading – books</p> <p>Many of these action words are not in the book but you can use them to talk about what the mouse is doing in the book.</p>	<p>Associations between objects are something that preschool age children are beginning to understand (i.e. milk and cookies). Make your own book with your child using associations write them down to read later. Here are some ideas: If you give (child's name) a french fry, he will want _____ If you give (child's name), a bath, he will want _____ If you give (child's name), a ball, he will want _____ Make up your own! Younger children may offer something that does not make sense that is okay!</p>

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Small/Fine Motor Skills	An infant between 10-12 months of age will be very interested in getting their hands on a crayon. Use the large crayons and see if your child will grasp it and attempt to scribble on paper. By 13-18 months your child should be making definite marks on paper and scribbling.	Using crayons for short periods of time will be of interest to your toddler. Give your child a crayon and keep one for yourself. Imitate strokes going up and down; scribble in a circle and up and down. Take turns playing and making these strokes. Use different colors to create an interesting picture.	By age 3 your child should be able to copy and circle and imitate making a cross +. Between ages 4-5 your child should be able to trace his name. Have your child sign birthday cards, letters etc... by himself. Around 5-6 he will begin to copy his name and soon be writing it on his own.
Large/Gross Motor Skills	Your 8-9 month old should be able to sit independently for 10 minutes or more. Infants at this age are also interested in crawling forward. Have a cupboard of SAFE Tupperware items that your child is free to explore. Sit your child in front of the open cupboard and encourage them to take things out. Encourage your child to crawl to get the items in the back. Remember... if you let your child empty the cupboard you will have a mess!	Climbing is something the boy did in the story to get something he wanted. This is something most toddlers will enjoy doing as well. Between 18-21 months your child will be interested in climbing into an adult size chair. Small slides will delight a 2 year old as well. Always supervise your child when they are learning this skill and for many years afterwards. Remember...if you teach your child to climb he will probably use this skill to get things he wants!	Preschoolers love to move! Place objects from the story such as a pail, garbage can, stacked boxes, large pillow etc. randomly on the floor creating a running course. You and your child take turns and run changing directions around the objects. Weave in and out of objects scattered around the room. This is a great activity to do outside. 
Self-Help Skills	Drinking from an open cup is something your child can begin to practice between 6-12 months of age. Offer support by holding the cup for them. By 12-18 months your child will hold the cup and drink on his own with some spilling expected. 	By 15 months of age your child should be able to manage drinking with a straw. This requires your child to close their lips tightly around the straw and suck in the drink. Straws are fun to use and help strengthen the muscles around the mouth. Vary the textures from juice to milk to a thick shake.	This is a great age to give your child some responsibilities. Have your child help put groceries away, sweep the floor, and wipe off the table etc...Have them start doing specific chores such as making their own bed and putting their clothes away.
Social-Emotional Skills	Between 5 and 8 months of age your child will be interested in the mirror. Your child will smile at their image in the mirror. They will begin to laugh, pat, reach for, and kiss the cute little baby they see in the mirror. 	Toddlers take great pride in their accomplishments. When you are doing the fine motor activity of coloring, tape your child's masterpieces up on the refrigerator. Have your child show friends and family members the picture they made. 	Preschoolers around the age of 4 will begin to start to offer to help with tasks. They love to help and want to be part of family routines and rituals. Be patient while children dress themselves,, help clear the table or make a birthday card for grandma. If you praise and appreciate your child for helping, they will want to help more! 

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