



# Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five

**Story this week:** Let It Shine by Maryann Cocco-Leffler

**Focus Skills for parents:** Echo Reading: You read the words as you move your finger under them and your child repeats what you say.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<b>Problem-Solving Skills</b>	<p>As young as 7-8 months, your baby will begin to imitate familiar actions such as patting and banging objects. Show your baby how to bang their hands on the table and then WAIT for them to imitate you! By 9-12 months, your baby will imitate simple movements like feeding a baby doll, pushing a truck, or pulling a string to get a toy.</p>	<p>As you look through the pages encourage your child to find the teddy bear and/or the dog on the pages. On the pages where the dog and bear don't make an appearance, challenge your child and ask, "Where do you think the bear is? What do you think the dog is doing?"</p> 	<p>The flashlight makes a shadow of the dog inside the tent. Your preschooler will enjoy making shadow puppets with you! If you're talented enough, make puppets using your hands and fingers. For a simpler way, use paper cut outs attached to sticks. Play with the distance of the flashlight as you can make images bigger or smaller. Take turns telling stories about your animals!</p>
<b>Language/ Communication Skills</b>	<p>Children learn to communicate nonverbally way before they communicate using words. Around 4-5 months, your baby will move their body to encourage you to keep bouncing them after you stop. Around 5-9 months, they will lift their arms to be picked up. Observe your baby closely to see what they are trying to tell you!</p> 	<p>This story has short simple sentences much like your child's communication skills during this age. Around 18 months, your child will start putting 2 words together (more juice, boy hat). By three years, they will use simple sentences. Whether your child is using single words or more, add to what they say. For example, your child says, "Want shoes," you can say, "You want the red shoes!"</p>	<p>There are many descriptive words in this story such as lazy, sticky, hot, sandy, sparkling, sweaty, spooky, chilly, shiny and wilted. Some of these words will be new to your child and will need some explaining. Search through the story and see how many things your child can find that fit the descriptive words such as hot or sticky. After finishing the book, continue your search throughout your home!</p>
<b>Small/Fine Motor Skills</b>	<p>Like the boy with the pail full of shells, your child will enjoy filling a pail with their toys around 9-10 months. With her sitting and watching you, put a container in front of her and a variety of toys. Put a couple of objects in and then give her a turn by handing her a toy. Dump them out and start over!</p>	<p>Make your own fireworks using the end of a toilet paper tube. Cut 2" fringes around the end and fray it open so it lays flat on the table. Place a thin layer of paint onto a plate. Use the roll as a stamp. Add glitter to the paint to make the fireworks sparkle and shine!</p>	<p>This story consists of activities that happen during the day and at night. Make a collage that represents things that she does during the day and a separate collage for the night. Look through magazines and find pictures that would go with both concepts. Let her practice with scissors and/or rip out the pictures.</p>

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<b>Large/Gross Motor Skills</b>	<p>Like the children waving the flag, your baby will take an interest in waving around 6-9 months. Make waving a part of your daily routine as you come and go throughout the day.</p> 	<p>If your daughter is interested in bikes, you can introduce a small balance bike around 12-18 months. Balance bikes do not have pedals and will help her learn to balance and steer. Start with requiring a helmet to keep her safe. She will be able to ride a foot to the floor toy around 18-24 and a tricycle by the age of 3.</p>	<p>Preschoolers are coordinated enough to begin learning how to swim. Teach your son how to float on his back by using your shoulder as a pillow while supporting his body. Have him take a deep breath and hold it. This will help him feel like he can float. His toes should be peeking out of the water. Let him know you have him and that he is safe!</p>
<b>Self-Help Skills</b>	<p>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.</p> 	<p>Taking clothing off is one of the first skills young children learn. By 18 months your child should be able to remove their socks and shoes. A 2 year old will be interested in removing coats, shirts and pants. By 2 ½ most children will begin to put on front opening shirts and pull up pants. Make a point to allow your child to practice his/her dressing skills each day. Your child will be very proud of his new skills and steps toward independence.</p>	<p>The girl in the story is pouring her lemonade, all by herself. Your child will be interested in pouring but will need a lot of practice. He will need to master how fast and how long to pour, where to turn the spout and when to stop. Let him practice in the bathtub or outside to minimize the mess. Offer small cups and buckets in the sandbox to practice pouring. Be patient and if they make a mess, clean it up with them!</p>
<b>Social-Emotional Skills</b>	<p>Singing and holding your baby is a wonderful way to feel close. Incorporate singing into your daily routine.</p> <p>You are my sunshine, my only sunshine You make me happy when skies are gray You'll never know dear, how much I love you Please don't take my sunshine away.</p> 	<p>The girl must wait her turn to take a shower. Taking turns is the beginning to learning how to share. Find opportunities during your day when you can take turns with your child. You can take turns with teeth brushing, playing cars, coloring, stacking blocks, etc.</p> 	<p>Spend the evening together making a tent using cardboard, tables and couch cushions. Drape over a sheet or blanket and you are all set! Camp out under the tent and enjoy a snack while reading books. Remember to let your child do some of the work and offer help when needed!</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)