

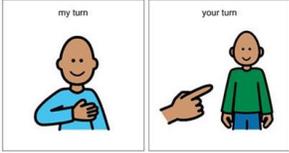


Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: Little Owl's Day by Divya Srinivasan

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	Using Little Owl's Day tracking the owl through the book as he is on all but one page. You can question when you get to that page, where is owl? Is owl checking in with mom?	Going through the book naming the animals, and turning the pages. At this age your little one may not sit for you to read the book, so reading the pictures or naming just the animal on the page as they are turning they are learning the words. 	Talking to your child about Owl who generally sleeps through the day and is awake at night. "Why do you think owl is awake at night? Some animals are nocturnal and sleep all day." They can even talk about their sleep schedule, as humans we generally sleep at night and are awake during the day, but some people in your life may work 3 rd shift and they are awake at night.
Language/ Communication Skills	Using the sounds of the animals and exploring the sounds through the book. Owl says WHOO WHOO Squirrel says chiket chiket Wolf pups howl AHOOOOOOO and also yip yip. The piglets squeal. Snakes hissssss Bears ROARRRRR 	Continuing with the sound but adding the animal's names. Using the book, you can point to the animals and name them while also doing the sound. Putting the name to the sound the child may get the sound first but is also learning the animal who makes that sound. Turtles may not make a sound but the shell may hit the ground and make the noise clunk clunk clunk. Foxes make a scream like sound but are generally quiet animals. What does an opossum say? You may have to research with your child. (After looking it up, they hiss with their mouth open or growl rrrr).	Using animals, you have at home or finger puppets you can retell the story of the owl! Who did he visit? Where might these animals live? Talking about the forest some animals lived in the trees, some in dens or caves. Bear lived in a cave. Snake lived in the reeds. Owl lives in a tree. Squirrels live in holes in trees. Bunnies live in burrows on the ground.
Small/Fine Motor Skills	Feeding animals is a great way to work on picking up cheerio's or other smaller food items. Or you can practice holding a spoon and feeding the stuffed animal. 	You can create a puppet using a toilet paper roll. Fold the tops to create pointy ears. Use white paper and draw two circles with black centers, cut these out (with parent help) and glue them to the toilet paper roll for eyes! You can use a stick from outside to put your owl on the end and fly him through the air just like Little Owl.	Drawing using chalk or sticks outside is a fun way to practice making animals in the dirt or on the driveway! You can also practice letters and copying. When it rains, it washes away your work, but when it dries out again you can start over with new drawings!

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>While your child is on your lap you can play silly clapping games as well as silly arm movements such as flapping like the owl, holding their hands over their head to turn into a snake, crossing their arms in front of them like a bear may put their paws on top of each other while they nap.</p> <p>A song to listen to make noises while you pretend to be animals with your child is One Little Owl by Family Sing Along Muffin Songs (on YouTube).</p>	<p>Acting out the animals from the book is a fun way to move through your home (or outside) by flapping your arms you become an owl, slithering on the ground around furniture makes you a snake, quietly tip toeing makes you a fox, and creating a cave with a blanket makes you a bear crawling in and out!</p> 	<p>Moving outside creates even more space to jump, run, hop, skip and bear crawl! Using sticks or lines created by chalk you can jump over these, run around a tree, bear crawl with your butt up in the air using hands and feet to walk (this can be tricky but is a fun new way to walk), hopping like a bunny through the yard, maybe you will even see bunnies if it is early in the day or late in the evening, and skipping is a fun one to learn at this age.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>Working on your turn and my turn with your little one will create a nice set up for the future when they need to learn how to share (not until they are 5ish). While reading the book you may point, then they may point this back and forth can occur with toys: my turn to push the car, now it is your turn to push the car!</p> 	<p>Picking up toys (or animals) is a tough job to work on, but by making it fun it takes away from the have to do this to the THIS IS FUN and we are getting things done! Using a laundry basket, they can toss their stuffed animals in.</p> <p>Gobbling up trash is a fun way to throw things away! You hold the bag while your little puts the item or trash in, you can pretend to gobble their arm to make it even sillier!</p> 	<p>Little Owl is awake during the day for this book so the morning routine can be taught and modeled as your child ages they will begin to do steps on their own!</p> <p>Wash face with a washcloth and water/soap.</p> <p>Brushing teeth- putting the toothpaste on, and making sure they get each area of their teeth (front, back, sides, etc.).</p> <p>Washing hands- pumping soap (how many pumps), water and scrub, top/bottom, around thumb, sing a song and then you are done!</p> <p>Getting dressed- making choices for top/bottoms and then working on getting the clothes on.</p>
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Teaching your little one about how to be gentle with animals (and you as parents) is a great skill to work on. You will need to model how gentle looks. If you have a pet at home, this may be hand over hand how to pet the animal or touch hair (instead of pulling it). You model and then they may try it. This may need to occur over and over to learn and keep this skill as they get older and hear, be gentle. You may also use nice touch, but be consistent in the word you use while learning how to pet animals (or touch hair).</p>	<p>Little Owl knew many of the animals he was talking to as he met them while he was awake at night.</p> <p>Teaching your little one who is ok to talk to and when and who not to talk to and when takes a lot of practice and repetition.</p>  <p>Photo from Sunrise Children's Hospital</p>	<p>Continuing the stranger conversation as your child ages they will then need to know who is safe to talk to within their community. Decide who is a good person; a neighbor they see often may be a safe person for them in case something is to happen at home. Teaching them police, fire fighters, teachers, or these types of professions are safe people if there is an emergency.</p> <p>This is also a great age when your child may be going to others homes and learning when it is safe to approach an animal or to ask the owner.</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