



Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: MooDog by David Milgrim

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	<p>Since this story has many animals, using play animals or one stuffed animal that does not make noise, use that animal to work on tracking visually. You can slowly move the animal through the air in front of the child while making the sound of the animal.</p>	<p>Pretending with animals is a fun way to introduce pretend play as well as a variety of other things that we do every day. Pretend to feed the animals, talk about what they might eat or what noises they may say.</p>	<p>Talking about where the animals in the story live, what they might eat, who might care for them.</p> 
Language/ Communication Skills	<p>Since this story has so many animals in it, sounds are a great introduction to pre speech! At this age, your child might not sit for the story, so reading the pictures is a great place to start by pointing at the animal and then making the sounds the animal makes. You can use the pretend animals you have above also to introduce these sounds as well.</p> 	<p>Children will learn a variety of sounds, animal, vehicle and silly sounds that begin to represent their everyday actions, movements, and play.</p> <p>This book creates a silly play that the dog says moo, and as adults we know that dogs say, ruff ruff or woof woof,</p> <p>Incorporating songs, such as Old McDonald Had A Farm include the animals from the book, allowing a pause to allow your child to make the animal noise, or do the E-I-E-I-O part is a great way to learn patterns in communication.</p>	<p>During this age the child may begin reading this book based on the pictures, the sounds, or the simple fact that they have heard it several times. It is a great way to introduce reading and how we turn pages left to right, and practice our animal sounds.</p> 
Small/Fine Motor Skills	<p>Working on grasping objects out of reach that are a safe smaller size, picking it up, manipulating it in their hands, and exploring it with their mouths. They are working their hand muscles, their arms, and their visual skills and as they grow these skills will become easier and the grasps smaller.</p>	<p>Let's get messy!</p> <p>If you have little plastic animals you can walk them through playdough, which you can easily make with ingredients you might have at home listed below:</p> <p>1 cup flour, ¼-cup salt, 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil, ¾-cup water and stir well! Store in an airtight container.</p>	<p>Using blocks build your animals a place to them to live, like a barn, their own house, a walled in pen, or you can stack your blocks so your animals can walk across a bridge, or climb over mountains.</p> 

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Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>Working your way to an animal out of reach at this age is a awesome way to work on rolling over (back to front, front to back), rolling multiple times into an army crawl/scoot technique, then into crawling, pulling to stand if your child is ready, cruising a couch, or possibly even walking.</p>	<p>Walking like animals is a great way to get your whole body woken up and moving. A sloth moves SLOWWWW, a cheetah runs FAST, a bird flaps its wings (arms up and down).</p> 	<p>Visiting a farm or barnyard in your area is a fun way to walk around and meet the animals. You can walk fast, slow, imitate the animals and their speeds as you move from animal pen to animal pen. If you cannot visit a farm with animals you could place animals throughout your house or yard to visit and talk about those animals as well.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>At this age children may begin showing they want something or do not want something. They may push the toy/object/person away or they may reach out to these to show they want them. An example would be food if you are introducing foods, they may push your hand with the spoon away if they do not want the item. You can offer them their own spoon to explore the textures of the new food.</p> 	<p>Children during this time may begin making choices on what they are wearing. By the parent/caregiver, holding up two choices the child can then choose which shirt or pair of pants or both they may want to wear. They may begin helping with putting the clothes on but putting their arms up when asked, or pulling the shirt over the head once it is placed there.</p>	<p>During this age group, your child may begin participating in picking up or household chores. You may ask them to put all the shoes in a basket, help put the laundry in the dryer (or washer if they can reach), and they might help with pushing buttons once you set it. Giving them jobs they may need small reminders or help, making it a game or using a song is a fun way to make picking up a “game.”</p>
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>During this stage in early development, little ones rely on their parents/caregivers to help them through new situations and introduction to new people. They may require a comfort item such as a stuffed animal or blanket to stay with them to get them through a warm up/introduction to new people or places. Even family homes or if you are doing daycare, that drop off period will become more difficult.</p>	<p>Keeping your child’s day consistent and the predictability within their daily routine will help them, and if there needs to be change, you can prep your child with talking about the change, what is going to take place, and the expectations that may need to be in place.</p> 	<p>When introducing your child to other peers you may have to be near by to help with the sharing piece. They are learning how to share the item they may love or that they are playing with. They will begin by playing next to their peers, then they may begin going back and forth and this is the part where an adult “supervising or facilitating”</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