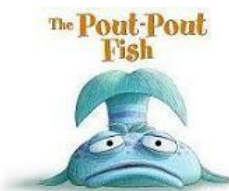












Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: Pout Pout Fish By Deborah Diesen Pictures: Dan Hanna

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	As your child grows, they should be learning to look at what you are pointing too. They may in the beginning stages of pointing to or grabbing things. As you go through the book point to the bigger creatures, and as you read it multiple times you can point to smaller creatures.	In this age range kiddos start to name pictures in a book, turns pages in a book and starts to scribble. Coloring is fun at this age and they may use both hands as they are still deciding which hand to use.	Children at this age start to request stories, starting to tell you what is going to happen next in a story, and can start to count to ten. Using the variety of animals, you can count the fish, find certain fish, or count the other sea creatures.
Language/ Communication Skills	Blowing bubbles using a variety of tools is a great way to introduce blowing to get the air flowing from the lungs out, this will help as sounds, and words develop. I few items that are easily found around the home that could be used: Pipe cleaner Straw Fly swatter Cut a water bottle in half-blow through the drinking end. Spatula w/holes	While reading the story you can have your child, help with the silly noises the Pout Pout Fish makes. Blub Bluuuuub Bluuuuuuub. As you are reading, you can have the other animals make noises as well. The jellyfish could make a pop pop sound. The Octopus could go oomp oomp oomp. The squid could say swish swish swish. Kissing noise is what the Kiss fish says!	As you read the story, leave pieces off and see if your child can fill in the word/words that you have left off. Have your child “read” the pictures to tell you the story of the Pout Pout Fish. They could make up their own story as well. 
Self-Help Skills	Simple water play is a fun way to work on dumping and scooping for later developmental use. Washing your hair, finding items in it, or wash the baby doll! 	Making choices about a variety of things is a great way to introduce independence. Such as: Choosing your outfit, your shoes, your cereal, your snack, your cup, etc.	Working on putting a bathing suit, goggles, flippers, bathing cap, etc. is a great way to problem solve these hard to put on items. 

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<p>Small/Fine Motor Skills</p>	<p>Working on picking up little things like an octopus or a crab is a fun activity to work on hand control. You can use food that is age appropriate (cheerios, puffs, etc.) or pom poms.</p> 	<p>Making a Jelly Fish is a fun way to introduce a variety of textures of string, yarn, plastic bags (cut into strips), etc. Decorate a paper bowl bottom with markers or crayons, flip over and attach the textured strands using glue or tape.</p> 	<p>Creating a fish with several easily accessible items, you can make one with an old CD or a paper bag. On the CD, you can attach foam pieces/gems/or sequins. Cut out a tail, lips, and fins out of construction paper.</p> <p>Using a paper bag, you can draw all over it, stuff it with newspaper or paper and tie the open end of the bag. Cut out fins/lips then glue these on.</p> 
<p>Large/Gross Motor Skills</p>	<p>Catching items, such as balls, balloons, clothes, sock balls, etc. like a clam is a great way to use your arms.</p> <p>Acting like a starfish and stretching on the floor is a great way to activate all your muscles!</p> 	<p>If you have access to a pool (indoor, outdoor, little kiddy pool) with adult supervision or getting in swimming is a great way to play with your child and talk about fish, snails, shells, crabs, etc. and what lives in our lakes here in Michigan vs. what lives in the oceans.</p> <p>If you do not have access using the pool accessories to climb over, jump on, etc.</p>	<p>Walking like sea animals is a fun way to discuss each animal. Have the children guess/express how certain animals walk or move in the water on the floor. Or you can move and have them guess what animal you are.</p> 
<p>Social-Emotional Skills</p>	<p>Labeling children's emotions helps them deal and put some meaning to this emotion. When they get hurt, labeling it, offering a quick hug or another sign of comfort and moving on helps build more self-confidence. Adults staying calm when a child is hurt is helpful to the child because it allows them to remain calm (sometimes).</p> 	<p>Using colored playdough or slime, you can discuss emotions through colors. Keeping their hands busy while discussing, keeping it short and expanding, as they get older is a great way to teach emotion, and let them know it is OK to feel this way.</p> <p>Anger could be red Disgust can be green Happy can be yellow Sadness can be blue Fear can be purple.</p>	<p>Stranger danger may be taught at this age. Teaching your child when it is ok to talk to others, and who to talk to. It is also ok to teach your child who to hug, kiss, or express love to, and the variety of ways this can be expressed. Teaching children this young helps them understand boundaries and how others may not like hugs, or they themselves may only accept them from certain people but not others.</p> <p>The Pout Pout Fish chooses to kiss the variety of animals who came to visit him, and they may have found this odd, or not wanted.</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