








Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five.

Story this month: Silly Sally by Audry Wood

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	<p>Provide your baby lots of play time, this time is where a lot of problem solving occurs. Examples include cause and effect, they hit a book or a toy and it made noise or felt soft, they can then decide do I like that or no I do not like that. Encouraging but not forcing is a great way to introduce problem solving.</p>	<p>Follow the child's lead. This way they direct the play, but you can also offer support if needed to help them accomplish the goal they set out to do.</p> 	<p>Helping your child process through their emotions and coming up with a solution to an issue allows them to take ownership, which makes them more likely to follow.</p>
Language/ Communication Skills	<p>There are a variety of animals within Silly Sally! Animal sounds is a wonderful, no pressure way to introduce speech sounds into your child's day. Reading the pictures make the animal sounds.</p> <p>Sheep-baa baa Pig-oink oink Dog-woof woof Loon- move tongue back and forth with a noise behind it, or you could do quack quack.</p>	<p>Repetition is great practice for your little one at this age! You may sound like a broken record in your every day activities, however Silly Sally does a nice job creating a rhythm and repetition, as you read leave a word out in the phrase, "Silly Sally went to _____, walking backwards, upside _____." Allow a pause for your child to fill in the blank.</p>	<p>Assist your child in reading the book, they may have read it so many times that they can do the Silly Sally sentence, then continue to leave blanks within sentences for your child to fill in. You may have to offer hints, as you go.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>By about age 1 your little one should be beginning to wash their face if you hand them a wet washcloth, they may need assistance to fully finish up. This is a great way to build independence and make it not a fight every time you go to wash their face.</p>	<p>Silly Sally has wild hair and often toddlers this age have wild hair, working and playing with a hair brush. They can brush their own hair, your hair, a dolls hair to learn how to be gentle. If your little one has longer hair you may need to talk to a hair dresser about how to approach the tangles so it doesn't hurt.</p>	<p>Working on getting dressed by themselves with little help is a good way to build some independence. You can offer choices on shirts, pants, etc. However your child may have some wild outfits and that is ok because they are still learning!</p> 

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Small/Fine Motor Skills	<p>If you have the animals, sheep, pig, dog, Loon (or duck), bring these animals together, as you read the pictures/story your little one can move the animals around. Talk about their textures also as you play with the animals.</p>	<p>Help your child draw themselves on a piece of paper with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. If they are older help them cut their person out. You could use a photo of their face if you'd like. Then as you read the book they can pretend their person is Silly Sally!</p> 	<p>Silly Sally has some wild curly hair. Using a paper plate, have the child hole punch across one part of an edge, this is where we will add the pipe cleaners to create hair. Have them draw a face on the plate, now they have their own Sally to go with their book!</p> 
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>Silly Sally walks upside down into town, your little one over time will be sitting, scooting, and crawling all over your space! If they are crawling create moments where they have to practice backing up out of a spot to go a different way.</p>	<p>Children this age like standing, hanging, or being on their head, just like Silly Sally! Holding your little one in your arms or facing you on your lap let them hang upside down by leaning back, you may have to hold their arms if they are sitting on your lap.</p>	<p>Help your child walk like Silly Sally! Holding their ankles tightly, have them walk on their hands, you can try facing away from you, and then you can walk forwards and backwards. Ask them what they see as they walk.</p> <p>Pig- Dance a jig! Dog- Play leapfrog! Loon- Singing a tune! Sheep- Pretend to sleep. Neddy- Tickles!</p>
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Being supportive of your child's discoveries can be a fun way to build your relationship as well as their skills. Playing a game of peek a boo and they pull the blanket down-"OH You found me!"</p> 	<p>You are your child's safety base. As they grow in play they may look back at you for reassurance that something is safe. If you are outside playing and a lawn mower starts up they may come back to you to figure out what it is, but also receive comfort as it could be "scary."</p>	<p>This age group can have strong feelings, by helping your child understand what they are feeling but also helping them and teaching them how to cope through that feeling will support a good base for future emotional responses.</p>

The Play, Learn and Read at Home activities are brought to you by the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative. 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

