



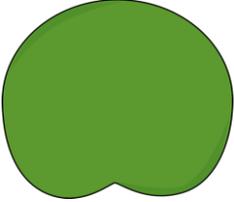
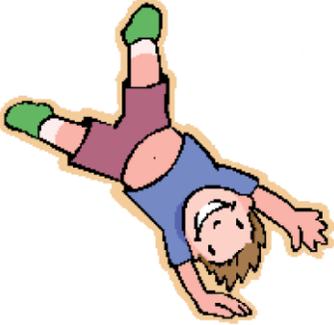
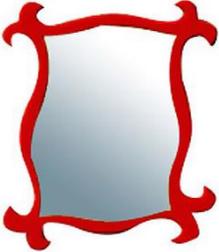
Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five.

Story this month: Silly Tilly by Eileen Spinelli

Reading Strategy: This book is about a silly goose that likes to do jokes and pranks. It has rhyming verse that is fun to read as a rhythm. Talk with your child about the words that rhyme. Try to think of other words that rhyme as you read through the book. Remember, it's silly, they don't have to make sense.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	Your baby begins to make logical connections between action and reaction. Play finger games or hand games with them. When your baby does something you like, move your fingers or hands. You can wiggle your fingers whenever they smiles. Or you can rub their tummy whenever they grab their feet. Soon they will learn that when they does something it makes you do something too.	Play a sorting game with your child's own toys. Familiar categories might be <i>dogs</i> , <i>cats</i> , <i>farm animals</i> and those exciting <i>jungle animals</i> (wow, an elephant!). Talk with your child about all the places you've seen dogs and any dogs you know. Think about the stuffed animals in the toy box, the animals she's seen in story and picture books, trips to the zoo, walks around the block and trips in the car.	Silly Tilly is a silly story with silly sentences. Encourage your child's creativity by making a silly story. Cut out a picture from a magazine and ask your child to make up a story about it. As they tell their tale, write it down. Display it along with the picture somewhere they can see it. They will want you to read their story again and again and may even start to identify some of the words themselves.
Language/Communication Skills	This is a great game to teach your baby about body parts and also to strengthen your relationship with your baby. Sit with your child in your lap and say: "Where is your toe?" "Here it is" (touch their toe) "I love your toe very much" Do the same with other body parts and facial features. 	Young children learn rhythm and rhyme when we sing with them. Sing with your toddler Old McDonald Had a Farm: <i>Old McDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O And on that farm he had a cow E-I-E-I-O With a moo moo here And a moo moo there Here a moo, there a moo Everywhere a moo moo Old McDonald had a farm E-I-E-I-O</i> Now do the same with pig, duck, sheep, chicken, goat, and horse.	In the book, the other animals realize that they laugh when Tilly does her pranks, and they missed her. Ask your child this question: "_____ makes me laugh when _____". Have a conversation about what makes you and your child laugh. 
Small/Fine Motor Skills	Wrap a ball of waxed paper in a scarf and tie it up. Let the children reach for it, grasp it, squeeze and crinkle it. Watch their faces to see if they are interested or surprised by the sounds the package makes. You can put into words what you see on their faces, "Wow! It crinkles and crackles. What's inside?" Games like this encourage tactile awareness, reaching, grasping and language development.	A good small muscle activity for toddlers is trying to hammer golf tees into playdough with a toy hammer. Get playdough out for your child and allow them to hammer golf tees or a different object into the playdough. 	It is wintertime with snow on the ground. This is a good time to practice scissor use with your child. Show your child how to cut snowflakes out of paper by folding the paper in half and then a quarter and cutting on the folded edges. This activity will strengthen their small muscle skills and give them more control over the scissors.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<p>Large/Gross Motor Skills</p>	<p>Cut out big green circles from paper and scatter them across the floor. Suggest your child hop from lily pad to lily pad. Talk about what they are doing as they hop along. Games like this build motor skills while encouraging children's imagination, creative thinking and language skills.</p> 	<p>This time of year is a great opportunity to go sledding. Silly Tilly sled down the hill on cookie trays. Pretend with your toddler they are sledding on cookie trays. Even the smallest slope is good practice for them to practice balance and climbing up a hill.</p> 	<p>Tilly did cartwheels on a cow. Your child can't do it on a cow, but you can practice safe cartwheels with your preschooler on the floor. You can also do other activities such as a balance beam by putting tape on the floor for your child to walk on, or books and old boards lined up.</p> 
<p>Self-Help Skills</p>	<p>Singing songs with your baby is an important language activity. You can incorporate self-help skills into the songs you sing. <i>This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands. This is the way we wash our hand so early in the morning.</i> Substitute other self help skills in the song: brush our teeth, comb our hair, wipe the table etc.</p>	<p>Let your child do more things for themselves. Let them pick out their own clothes. Giving them a choice between two or three items will help them make a choice, rather than looking at all their clothes at once.</p> 	<p>Writing their name is an important activity for a preschool child. They should start working on that as they get older before school starts. A couple different ways to practice their name are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a dry erase board and have your child practice their name. You can write it first and have them try to copy the letters. • Spread flour on a cookie sheet and have your child practice their name in the flour.
<p>Social-Emotional Skills</p>	<p>Use a child-safe mirror with your baby. Make silly expressions and talk with your baby about what they see in the mirror.</p> 	<p>Staging a puppet show is an excellent way to let children identify and label emotions. Building an emotional vocabulary helps children understand and give a name to the feelings they are experiencing. Use puppets, socks, dolls or other materials to talk about the book and the feelings in the book.</p>	<p>The animals said they were sorry to Tilly for telling her to stop doing the jokes. Talk with your child about a time they had to say they were sorry to one of their friends or family and why it is important to be sorry for hurting someone's feelings.</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

