

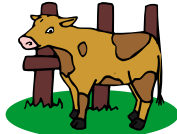





Play, Learn, and Read At Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five.

Story this month: The Big Red Barn By: Margaret Wise Brown

Tip for Parents: This book is filled with rhyme. After reading the story several times, pause and let your child complete the rhyme. For younger children, model pointing to the different animals when reading this book.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Problem-Solving Skills	Between 6 and 9 months of age your baby begins to understand that objects still exist even though they can't see them. Use a stuffed animal and hide it under a blanket. Encourage your child to pull off the blanket to find the "doggy." If your child has trouble with this, let them watch you hide it or leave a small portion of the toy exposed.	Your 18 to 24 month old will be interested in matching the animal sounds you make to the animals in the story. For example, "What says, oink, oink?" Your 2-3 year old will be noticing the difference between big and little. Talk about and compare common objects at home that are big and little (ie. Spoons, cups, chairs etc.).	Your preschool age child will be interested in the colors of the animals and objects in the book: red dog, brown horse, white hen, green fields, black cats, grey donkey, yellow sun. Wear a red shirt one day and talk about everything you see that is red (red car, red book, red phone etc.). Focus on exposing your child to color concepts.
Language/ Communication Skills	Infants as young as 9 months old begin to show you by their behavior that they are understanding words in their world. When you read this book, focus on naming the animals and pointing to them as you do. By about 12 months of age your child will begin to point out some animals when you name them.	There are many, many animals in the story. Name the animals and make the animal sounds for your child to imitate. By age three your child will be able to make most of these sounds on their own. 	A great language game for preschoolers is to give them characteristics about the animal and have them name it. For example, "What is brown, says moo and gives us milk?" Your child will learn to say "cow". This requires your child to use information that they have learned and stored in their brain.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Small/Fine Motor Skills	Get plastic eggs and tape them closed. As you read the story, have your 10-11 month old either place the eggs in a basket or in an actual egg container.	Simple puzzles are a great activity for toddlers. Find animal puzzles that have no inter-locking pieces. Remember they still may need your help to get the pieces in place.	A preschool age child can begin to do some simple puzzles that “fit-together”. Remember to do this activity with your child until he is successful. This is an activity he will want to repeat over and over.
Large/Gross Motor Skills	Somewhere between 6-10 months your child will pull to stand and then begin to cruise along furniture. Encourage this skill by placing a stuffed animal at one end of the couch and encourage your child to cruise down to the other end to get it.	Between 2 and 3 years your child will begin to imitate your movements. Try to stand on one foot like the chicken and flap both arms to fly like birds. 	Play follow the leader with your child and do some of the movements like the animals in the story: *Stand on one leg *Waddle like a goose *Fly like a bat *Gallop like a horse *Stomp like a horse
Self-Help Skills	Your 9-12 month old is interested in feeding himself with his hands. Put scrambled eggs on his highchair tray and let him work on mastering this task.	Between 15-24 months your child will want to scoop food onto a spoon herself. Let her try this with scrambled eggs. Allow your child to watch as you prepare the eggs.	Preschoolers are interested in dressing up. Make a scarecrow with your child. This will allow lots of practice with fasteners such as buttons, zippers and snaps.
Social-Emotional Skills	Four to eight month olds are becoming very social-beings and enjoy frolic play. Gently gallop like a horse while you hold your infant.  Galloping Bounces!	Many toddlers love and adore animals. However, some children between the ages of 24-30 months develop sudden fears especially of large animals. Be in tune with how your toddler is feeling and behaving as you talk about and show them animals in their world. 	All of the animals live together in the big red barn. Make a story poster with your child about everyone that lives in your home. Use concepts like big and little (maybe about siblings) and colors (ie. black cat). Draw, cut out magazine pictures, or use real photos-be creative. Print simple words on your picture (the little white house etc.) Put the picture of your home on the refrigerator where everyone can see.

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