



**Play, Learn, and Read At Home**  
 Developmental Activities for kids Birth to Five.  
 The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

---

**Tip for Parents:**

	<b>0-12 Months</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>
<b>Problem-Solving Skills</b>	Between the ages of 6 and 9 months your infant will develop a skill called object permanence. Simply stated, a child learns that an object continues to exist even when they cannot see it. Use a stuffed animal, (cat, and dog) and hide it under a blanket. Let your child watch you hide it and then encourage him/her to pull away the blanket to find the toy.	Counting is a skill that toddlers become interested in. Counting by rote means reciting the numbers in order. Around 2 ½ to 3 years of age a child begins to count to three then progresses to five and between ages 4 and 5 counts to 10. Count the buttons as they appear on the page.	A child between the ages of 4 and 5 should be able to sort objects by color. Have your child help you sort laundry – socks and towels by color.
<b>Language/ Communication Skills</b>	Young children need to hear words hundreds of times before they say them. This is a great time to point to pictures in the book and label them. Name the different animals in the story.	Children this age are starting to combine two words together. Point out the animals and toys in the book and name the colors, ex., “red trucks” “gray raccoon”	Children this age love to hear the same story read to them over and over.
<b>Small/Fine motor Skills</b>	Exploring with crayons is something that your child may be interested in as young as 10 months. They will try to make contact with paper. Allow your child to explore with crayons, markers and paint brushes with your supervision.	Make handprints with your toddler. Using different colored finger paints, have your child make a hand print. Show your child how to separate his fingers so you can see each one.	Most preschoolers are interested in coloring using coloring books. Select books with simple drawings. Allow your child to explore different color choices.
<b>Large/Gross Motor Skills</b>	At about 2-3 months, your young infant is interested in looking at things too. At about 2-3 months, your child should be able to visually track an object back and forth across the midline and up and down. Use a shiny bright colored pinwheel; this should be of high interest to your baby.	In the story, Pete’s buttons roll away. Show your toddler how to roll across the floor like the button. Sit on the floor and roll a ball back and forth with your toddler.	Between 2 & 3 your child will try to catch a large ball by trapping it in there chest. Between 3 & 4, your child will be learning how to catch the ball with their hands. Use different size balls and bounce them to your child to catch. Once they have mastered this, move on to catching smaller size balls.

	<b>0-12 Months</b>	<b>1-3 Years</b>	<b>3-5 Years</b>
<b>Self-Help Skills</b>	<p>Infants obviously require you to dress them. However, children as young as 10 months will assist in dressing by pushing their arms through to put on a coat or put their leg out to put on a shoe. Slowing down the dressing process and giving verbal prompts such as “push your arm” or “give me your foot,” will help develop this skill</p>	<p>By 18 months, your child should be able to remove their socks and shoes. A 2 year old will be interested in removing coats, shirts, and pants. By 2 ½ most children will begin to put on front opening shirts and pull up pants. Spend some extra time a couple of times a week at the beginning or end of the day to allow your child to practice his/her dressing skills. Your child will be very proud of his /her new skills.</p>	<p>Preschool age children love to play dress up. Watch for local yard sales for old costumes for your child. During the preschool years, children refine their skills with fasteners, so look for snaps, buttons, and zippered clothing for play. This allows your child to practice their dressing skills in an enjoyable way and offers opportunities for creative play.</p>
<b>Social-Emotional Skills</b>	<p>As early as 3 – 5 months, your young infants will begin to discover themselves. Lay your baby on the floor on his back. Place a bright sock on his hand or his foot. Place it on loosely so that with a quick pull it will come off. Squeal with delight that your baby found his fingers or toes. Before long, his toes will be in his mouth. Believe it or not, all babies go through this stage.</p>	<p>By one year of age, your baby is really starting to figure out that he is something special and enjoys being the center of attention. He will “perform” for your praise. Between 18 and 24 months he is entering the “me stage” and has a strong sense of his importance. Your child will want to do many things on his own without your help. Allow him to do as much as possible. Sometimes you may need to modify things like giving him a small pitcher of a large one to pour his own milk.</p>	<p>A preschool aged child can do many things by themselves and they are proud of it. They may be apprehensive about trying new things, encourage your child to try and praise his efforts.</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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org) or [www.familyfutures.net](http://www.familyfutures.net)

