

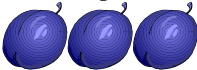






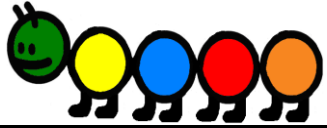



Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for kid's birth to five

Story this month: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Focus Skills for parents: Paired Reading: every time you get to the phrase "...But he was still hungry," pause and let your child complete the sentence.

| | 0-12 Months | 1-3 Years | 3-5 Years |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Problem-Solving Skills | <p>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 can not see it. Use a stuffed animal, butterfly, caterpillar or glowworm 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</p> | <p>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 foods as they appear on the page (i.e. 1 apple; 1, 2 pears, 1,2,3 plums). Count other things up to 10 such as spoons, cups etc.</p>  | <p>Preschool age children are beginning be able to retell stories and explain events. Highlight for your child the basis steps of becoming a butterfly: egg, caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly. Go to the library and check out other books about the life cycle of a butterfly to view actual pictures. If you are really adventurous, plan a trip to the Meijer Gardens to visit the butterfly exhibit.</p> |
| Language/ Communication Skills | <p>Use an old sock and draw some eyes on to make your own caterpillar puppet. Pick up a few plastic fruits for your child to "feed" the puppet. Between 7 and 12 months your infant should be interested in responding to the "give me" command when provided with a visual cue such as an outstretched hand. Extend your hand with the sock puppet and encourage your child to pick up any item and release it into the puppets mouth. Praise your child and provide simple language such as, "Eat apple, yum, yum."</p>  | <p>Let's go shopping!! For this activity you will need to cut out pictures of fruits from the weekly store flyer and paste them on index cards. Take your child to the store, place them in the cart and give them one of the index cards. Go to the fruit section and look for the item. When you find it point and model, "I see an apple," and encourage your child to imitate it. If you choose to buy some, remember to count how many you put in the bag.</p>  | <p>As your child gets older (4 or 5) they will need to use language items that they have stored in their brains to solve problems and answer questions. List out loud all of the foods the caterpillar liked to eat in the story. Then close the book and with no visual cues, ask your child to name as many foods that they like to eat. Practice this skill with other categories, such as things you wear, things you ride on, names of animals, things in your kitchen, etc.</p>  |

| | 0-12 Months | 1-3 Years | 3-5 Years |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Small/Fine Motor Skills | <p>Transferring an object from one hand to another is a skill most infants develop between 5 ½ to 7 months. Use a small rattle and hold it out to one side for the baby to grasp. See if he/she will transfer it to the other hand. Try it both right to left and left to right. Play this game while the baby lies on his/her back and while in supported sitting.</p>  | <p>Make a caterpillar by covering an old Pringles can with green felt or paper. Cut out pictures of foods from store ads and paste on index cards. Cut so pictures fit in the can. Give the child the caterpillar in one hand and cards in the other and encourage them to feed the caterpillar. Do this both ways to encourage crossing the midline of the body.</p> | <p>By three years of age your child should be able to copy a circle when given a model. Give your child a model to copy several circles in a row to make their own caterpillar. Have them color it, cut it out and place on a large piece of paper. Use store ads to have your child rip around food pictures for the caterpillar to eat and paste those on the collage.</p>  |
| Large/Gross Motor Skills | <p>Somewhere between 8 and 9 months most babies are interested in crawling forward. This may be a “combat” crawl with their belly on the ground. Between 9-11 months, your child will progress to crawling using his hands and knees. Use a favorite toy to entice your child to crawl forward to get it.</p>  | <p>Become a butterfly with your child. Toddlers enjoy imitating actions. Get ribbons or streamers and walk quickly around waving your arms up and down with the streamers pretending to be a butterfly.</p>  | <p>Have your child act out the life cycle of a butterfly. Curl up like a ball and become the egg lying on a leaf. Turn into a caterpillar and crawl around and then crawl into a sleeping bag for the “cocoon”. Next pop out of the cocoon and give your child ribbons or streamers to fly around moving their arms up and down like a butterfly.</p> |
| Self-Help Skills | <p>Around the ages of 8 to 13 months your child should have an interest in feeding themselves simple finger foods. Cut up small pieces of bananas or slightly cooked apples for your child to feed themselves.</p> | <p>Make ants on a log snack together. Cut a banana in half down the middle and then in half again to make 4 pieces. Have your toddler spread peanut butter on it with a small table knife. Next allow child to place small raisins on the banana</p> | <p>Make a fruit salad together using as many of the fruits in the story as possible. Allow your child to cut pieces of apples, pears, plums, strawberries and oranges. Encourage your child to scoop out some salad with a spoon to serve others.</p> |
| Social-Emotional Skills | <p>Caterpillar There was a little caterpillar crawling all about. He worked and he worked without a doubt. (Index finger wiggling) Wrapping himself in a snug cocoon. Waiting and waiting, will it be soon? (Cover index finger with other hand.) Look, he’s coming out, my oh my! For now he’s become a beautiful butterfly. (Cross thumbs and let fingers be butterfly wings).</p> | <p>Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar Fuzzy Wuzzy Caterpillar Into a corner will creep (make fingers creep) He’ll spin himself a blanket And then go fast asleep (Rest head on hands. Close eyes.) Wakes up by and by. (Children wake-up) To find he has wings of beauty changed to a butterfly.</p> <p>**Try these finger plays with your child. You should do it and they will anxiously anticipate the emergence of the butterfly.</p> | <p>Get out your child’s baby book when they were an infant and toddler. Talk about what they looked like and were able to do then and as compared to what they look like and are able to do now. Talk about the difference, how much they changed and what a beautiful butterfly they are becoming.</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