



Play, Learn, and Read at Home

Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five

Story this month: The Big Wide-Mouthed Frog by Ana Martin Larranga

Focus skills for this book: While reading the story have your child repeat the phrase “I’m a wide-mouthed frog and I eat flies.” Once they are able to do this, read the story and pause to allow your child to say the phrase on their own. Point to the words as your child reads them.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Language/ Communication Skills	<p>Singing to your child builds language skills—try this fun song with your baby.</p> <p>Five Little Speckled Frogs</p> <p>Five little speckled frogs, sitting on a speckled log, eating the most delicious bugs, YUM, YUM</p> <p>One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool, now there are 4 speckled frogs, GLUB, GLUB (repeat until there are none left).</p>	<p>Go through the story and have your child name the animals and what they eat. Do this by pointing to the animal and ask “What is this animal called?” Then ask “What does the Koala eat?” Then model the phrase, “Koala eat leaves.”</p> 	<p>In the story there are a variety of animals your child may not be familiar with. Go through the story and point out different animals. Then go on-line (if possible) and “google” each animal. Show your child pictures of all the animals and information about the animal such as, where they live, what color is their fur, what sounds they make. You may also go to the library and find books about the different animals.</p>
Large/Gross Motor Skills	<p>Around 8-9.5 months your child may be able to crawl forward using their arms and legs. Make lily pads using a variety of textures such as, carpet squares (soft), sand paper (ruff), contact paper (sticky) and lay them around the room on the floor. Crawl from lily pad to lily pad, encouraging your child to follow.</p>	<p>Between 22-30 months your child should be able to jump with both feet leaving the floor. Put rugs or carpet squares down as lily pads. Have your child stand on a short stool or couch cushion and jump on the lily pad like a frog. Be sure to have adult supervision.</p>	<p>Around 4 ½ years your child should be able to hop forward on either foot without assistance. Place carpet squares or couch cushions on the floor and have your child <u>hop</u> from lily pad to lily pad. If you are able to get outside, sidewalk chalk would work well to make a lily pad path.</p>
Small/Fine Motor Skills	<p>Around 4-5 months, your child will be interested in reaching out and trying to get their hands on things! Lay your infant on their back on the floor. Tie a black balloon (fly) to a string and hang it down for your child to bat at. Make it slightly out of reach so they have to work a little to reach and bat at it. When your baby hits the balloon, move it slightly out of reach so your baby can watch it move with his/her eyes. This also teaches cause and effect, “I can make something happen in my world,” which is an important skill for learning. NEVER ALLOW A CHILD TO INTERACT WITH A BALLON WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION!</p>	<p>Children love to hit things for fun. Give your child a clean, unused fly swatter and have them hit black balloons as if they were swatting flies. This will improve their eye-hand coordination which will help with later reading and writing skills. Be sure to have adult supervision for this activity.</p> 	<p>Give your child a piece of white paper and have them paint it light green. Then draw a circle on the green paper to make a lily pad. When finished, let them use scissors to cut out the lily pads. After you have the lily pads, use a dark green bingo marker and have them put dots (frogs) on the lily pad. Count how many frogs are on the lily pad. You may also use a black bingo marker and then put dots (flies) on the lily pad.</p> 

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Problem-Solving Skills	<p>By 7-8 months your child will start to imitate gestures and actions. While your child is taking a bath, splash the water with your hands and pause to allow your child to imitate your actions. Never leave a child alone near water!</p> 	<p>By 18 months your child will start to be able to distinguish mommies from babies. Go through the story and have your child point to the mom and baby animals, i.e. "Where is the mommy kangaroo?" and "Where is the baby kangaroo?" Be sure to model 2 word phrases such as "mama kangaroo" and "baby kangaroo." Continue with the koala and possum.</p>	<p>Kids enjoy painting. Give your child different shades of green paint and have them cover a piece of white paper with each shade. After it dries, cut out "lily pads" so you have at least two shades that match. Have your child match the different lily pads. Build your child's vocabulary by giving names to your colors, "light green," "pine green," "forest green," and "dark green." Use crayon names for words to describe different shades.</p>
Self-Help Skills	<p>Around 9-12 months your child will start to feed himself using his fingers. Make some green jello and add bananas. Cut the jello into chunks and allow your child to feed himself using his fingers. You may also give your child a spoon and encourage him to scoop the jello. By 9-12 months your child should be able to hold a spoon and mouth it.</p>	<p>Make lily pad floats by having your child scoop lime sherbet in a cup using a spoon. Then help them pour lemonade over their sherbet. Give them spoons to eat and/or straws to drink. By encouraging your child to scoop and pour on their own you are improving their self help skills. Sucking from a straw helps develop their oral-motor skills.</p>	<p>Children enjoy doing things on their own. Your preschooler should be able to use a knife to spread. Have your child spread cream cheese (color it green) with a knife on crackers. If your child is not able to do this, help them by putting your hand over theirs to guide them. Place raisins on the crackers, pretending they are flies on lily pads. Count 1, 2, or 3 flies on the lily pad and then eat them up.</p>
Social-Emotional Skills	<p>Around 6-9 months your child will start to make silly faces to you or in the mirror. Have them imitate you, making a variety of facial expressions. For example: smiling, puckering, and sticking out your tongue.</p> 	<p>By 15-16 months, your child will begin to identify themselves in the mirror. They are learning to point to their image and/or remove a sticker from their face when they see it in the mirror. Look in the mirror together and ask, "Where's <u>child's name</u>?" Help them point to themselves. If your child understands this game, use the frog images below as a pattern to cut out and tape on your child head, nose etc. Have them look in the mirror and see if they notice the sticker and attempt to pull it off.</p>	<p>Sit down and make a book with your child. Write phrases such as, "I am (<u>child's name</u>) and I like to eat _____." And "I am (<u>child's name</u>) and I like to play with _____." After you write the phrase in the book have your child fill in the blank by cutting the appropriate picture from a magazine. After you finish making your book, read it together.</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

