

BUBBLES

Every kid loves to play with bubbles, but there is much more that can be done than just play with some suds. Here are some ways that you can use a bottle of bubbles to support every area of your child's development! So get your kiddo, grab a bottle and blow!

Area of Development	What to do??	How does this support kindergarten readiness?
Oral Motor (the muscles and coordination in and around your child's mouth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pucker and blow *Blow into a straw while pointing it at the hole in the wand *If this is too hard, use other types of blowers that your child can put her mouth around 	This activity helps develop muscles important for speech.
Visual Motor (the coordination involved in moving your hands and eyes together to do something)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *You blow the bubbles and have your child watch the bubbles floating with their eyes *Blow bubbles and have your child clap their hands together to pop them 	This activity helps develop skills that are important for reading.
Fine Motor (the coordination of the muscles in the hands and fingers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Blow bubbles and have your child poke at them with an index finger *Have your child hold the wand with his thumb and pointer finger (pincer grasp) 	These activities help your child develop the muscles that will be important for holding a pencil.
Gross Motor (the coordination of large muscles or muscle groups of the body)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Reach out and bat at the bubbles while lying on back *Crawl to get bubbles and pop them *Get a "bubble lawnmower" and push the mower while walking *Walk on bubbles *Jump off of a step to pop bubbles *Stomp on bubbles 	These activities help support good posture control for sitting and writing. Movement/activities also "turn on" the brain, which in turn promotes overall learning.
Concepts (academic based skills such as body parts, numbers, colors, size differences, direction words etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Blow bubbles on things to teach vocabulary (eg. let blow bubbles on the flower) *Blow bubbles on different body parts (head, feet, tummy, ears etc.) *Count the bubbles *Teach direction words (blow bubbles up, down, under, on, between, in front, behind etc.) *Find BIG bubbles and little bubbles 	These activities help your child develop an understanding of words and concepts that will be important for language and math activities in school.
Crossing Midline (crossing over the imaginary line that runs down the center of the body with your eyes, hand or foot in order to do something on the other side of that line)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Have the child hold the bubble wand in one hand and reach across his body to the other side to dip it in the bottle. *Have the child sit on the floor and hold his hand down. Blow bubbles on the same side that the hand is held down and encourage your child to use the other had to cross over his body and pop the bubbles. 	These activities support reading and writing development.



Area of Development	What to do??	How does this support kindergarten readiness?
<p>Communication (how your child understands words; uses gestures or language to expresses themselves; and how they put sounds together to make words)</p>	<p>*Have your baby as young as 12 months say or imitate /ba/ for bubbles, /pa/ for pop. *Have your child fill in the blank, “Ready, set _____” Wait for them to say go before you blow! *Model simple phrases for your child to imitate (I want bubble) then reward by blowing bubbles or letting your child blow them *Have your child ask for “more bubble” before you blow them *Let your child direct with their words where they want you to blow the bubbles (body parts -on my feet; directions-under the table etc)</p>	<p>These activities help your child understand that their words can be powerful in communicating to and directing others.</p> 
<p>Social-Emotional (how your child bonds and attaches to you; develops their sense of self, independence and compassion for others)</p>	<p>*Celebrate when your child blows or pops the bubbles. (eg. You did it! You blew many bubbles! You popped it!) *Play bubbles with your child! *Allow them to hold the wand or even the bottle.</p>	<p>These activities support attachment and independence.</p>
<p>Self-Help (how your child learns to care for themselves such as eating, dressing, bathing and taking care of their own belongings)</p>	<p>*After a great time of bubble play, have your child help clean up by wiping surfaces or washing and drying their own hands. *Put the bubbles away where they belong.</p> 	<p>These activities help your child understand how to care for himself, and his things.</p>

Very young children grow and develop at their own pace. Development occurs in a predictable manner with children mastering major developmental milestones within windows of time. For example, most children start walking between 12-15 months of age; however some children walk a little earlier and some a little later. If you have any concerns about your child’s development, check your child’s skills on the developmental wheel and if you still have concerns, do not hesitate to call Early On at the Montcalm County Intermediate School District at 1-616-225-6146. For more information on the Parent Coalition, please visit our website at: <http://greatstartmontcalm.org/>



Montcalm County