



E2L Early To Learn
Partners for school readiness

Fun Activity Book

Show. Tell. Read. Sing. Play. Do a little. Every day.

Introduction

**Thank you for requesting
Early to Learn's Fun Activity Book!**

Early to Learn: Partners for School Readiness is a project of United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania that focuses on quality education, the healthy development of children and parental support to achieve school readiness for young children. This goal is being reached through the cooperative efforts of thousands of parents and more than 40 organizations in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Delaware counties.

Since learning begins at birth, you can make a real difference in your child's growth and development. The activities in this book provide fun ways to spend time together and encourage your child's readiness for school.

These activities have been taken from Early to Learn's Go2Guide for School Readiness: Resources for Families with Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers and "Home Fun" ideas that were developed by School Readiness Specialists at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Show. Tell. Read. Sing. Play. Do a little. Every day.



The complete Go2Guide
can be found online at

www.thebeehive.org/philly

For more information about childcare in
Philadelphia and the surrounding counties,
please call 1-800-831-3117

household fun:

Placemat Puzzles (age 2.5+)

Purchase foam backed or plastic placemats from the dollar or discount store. Cut into 2 or 3 curvy or angular pieces.

Tip: Choose placemats with bright colors and interesting patterns. When your child masters the 2-piece puzzle, cut it into more pieces.

Wild Talk

Talk about your favorite animals. For each:

- What does it eat?
- Is it's fur or skin soft?
- Where does this animal sleep?
- What color is it?

Guessing Game

Put toys in a paper bag. Ask your child to touch and name each toy.

Library Visit

Go for a walk to the library. Together, pick out a fun story to read at the library and one to take home.

Fruit Fun (age 3+)

This activity can be done with fruits or vegetables. Place 3 different fruits on the table. Make sure your child can name each one. Tell your child to close her eyes (or cover her eyes with a clean kitchen towel) and you will remove one of the fruits. Have her open her eyes and ask, "Which fruit is missing?"

Tip: For added fun, you cover your eyes and let the child take away one of the fruits. You can always make it more challenging by adding different fruits.

Chalk Time

Use different color chalk on the sidewalks or on paper.



Fun Activities with Infants:



Thank You

Hold out your hand and ask for a toy. Pass the toy back and forth. Say “thank you” when the toy is received.

Hugs for All

Did you hug your child today? Now is a good time.

So Big

Teach your child to lift his or her arms high. Ask your child: “How big is (Child’s Name.)? Respond with feeling “Sooo Big!”

Snuggle Songs

Sing softly to your child and snuggle together.



Sing.



household fun:

Breakfast Bingo (ages 3-6)

Use masking tape to adhere a placemat-size piece of contact paper, sticky side up, to a wall or table. Have scrap pieces of colored paper, magazine cut-outs, ribbon, fabric scraps or other decorative items available. Let children arrange scraps on the contact paper. When their work of art is finished, cover with another piece of clear contact paper. Voilà – instant art!

Tip: You can also use number cards and let children cover any letters they want with the matching number of cereal pieces.

LOOK WHAT’S COOKING

Apple Pudding

- 1 cup leftover cooked rice
- 1 cup lowfat vanilla yogurt
- 1 cup applesauce
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix rice and applesauce together in a large bowl. Add cinnamon and yogurt. Stir well. Spoon into dishes and serve. Makes six 1/2-cup servings.

Follow that Sound (age 2.5+)

Hide a portable phone (with a seek button that makes a sound), kitchen timer, or musical toy. When it is found, ask, "Where did you find it?" This will help your child learn position words, such as under the pillow, behind the couch, or on the bed.

Tip: If you want this to be a quiet, longer lasting activity, hide something that does not make a sound!

Follow the Leader

Play follow the leader tonight! Change the way you walk, jump or crawl around in the house.

Paint with your finger!

Ingredients:

- Corn syrup (1 tablespoon)
- Food coloring (a few drops)
- Paper plate (mix it up)

Spread the mixture on paper to make beautiful modern art!



Big or Small

Ask your child to point to something big or small. Reinforce what they say or guide them when necessary in their search for objects to describe.

Color Search

Ask your child to point to a certain color. Help them look for other objects of the same color.

LOOK WHAT'S COOKING

Orange Frosty

- 1/2 cup frozen orange juice concentrate**
- 1 cup milk or plain yogurt**
- 1 teaspoon sugar, optional**
- 4 to 5 ice cubes**

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor and blend. Makes four 1/2-cup servings. For variation, add a ripe banana, a ripe peach, or a cup of fresh strawberries.

household fun:



Pringle Pull (age 1+)



Use an empty tall Pringle chips container. Cut a small hole in the center of the plastic lid. Tie a few scarves together end to end with small knots. Stuff the scarves in the can and leave one end poking out of the hole in the lid. Hold the can and let the infant or toddler pull until all the scarves come out.

Tip: Colorful chiffon type scarves work well.

Cereal Counting (age 3+)

Use a set of nesting cups (available in the baby section of most dollar stores). With a marker, write a number inside each cup. Put out a bowl of cereal and help children count out the number of cereal pieces to match each number.

Tip: Use cereal that is easy to pick up one at a time (Chex, Cheerios, Bite-size shredded wheat). As soon as the cups are filled, the eating can begin!



LOOK WHAT'S COOKING

Homemade Popsicles



Freeze any fresh fruit juice (except pineapple juice which does not freeze well) and pour it into small paper cups or ice cube trays. Insert popsicle sticks. Freeze until solid. Remove popsicle from cup by running under hot water for about 10 seconds. Blending yogurt with fruit juice is another option.

Go Fish

(age 3-5)

Try this activity the next time your child has a friend over. Set out pretzel rods or pretzel sticks, a small container of soft cream cheese or peanut butter and a plate of small goldfish crackers. Tell the children to use their pretzel 'rods' dipped in 'bait' to catch the 'fish!'

Tip: Be sure children do not have peanut allergies before setting out peanut butter.

Camping

Make a tent by putting a blanket over a chair. Place stuffed animals around the outside of the tent to represent wild life. Make up stories about being in the jungle.

Ball Roll

Sit on the ground and roll a ball back and forth. This helps to develop hand-eye coordination.

Fun Activities with Infants:



Vibrations

Make funny noises by blowing on your child's belly, arms or back. It tickles!

Reach Out

Place a toy just out of reach and encourage your baby to lean over and get it. It is a fun exercise!

Bang! Clang!

Give your baby two objects. Bring them together to create a new sound.



Show.



Fun Activities with Infants:



Dance! Dance!

Play your favorite dance music. Pick up your child and glide, dip and boogie around the room.

Bedtime Story Time

Start a bedtime routine. Read a book and give hugs and kisses. Repeat the next night.

Table Talk

Talk to your baby during meal time. Discuss the flavors and temperatures of the food. (Hot, Spicy, Cold, Sweet.)

Show and Tell

Point to objects all around and name them. A great way for a young child to develop language skills.

household fun:

Mirror, Mirror On the Wall... (age 2.5-5)

Who's the fairest of them all? Keep a non-breakable mirror around for a quick discovery activity time. Children can experiment with catching a ray of sunlight, something colorful or a funny facial expression. Ask leading questions such as, "Can you find your foot in the mirror?" "Can you find something blue in your mirror?" "Can you make a silly face in the mirror?"

Safety Tip: Purchase non-breakable locker-size or personal size mirrors. Most have a plastic frame around them. Do not use a mirror that has square, sharp corners.

What Happens Next?

When reading a book, ask, "What is going to happen next?"



Instant Books

(age 1+)

We guarantee this will be your child's favorite book. Purchase a photo-size (3x5 or 4x6 inch) soft-plastic covered photo album (at a dollar, discount or photo store). Fill the book with pictures of family members and friends. Have the book handy for all transition times (in the car or bus, waiting for food, etc).

***Tip:** Don't forget to include pet pictures. Close up pictures of faces will be most effective.*



Tell.



Tasty Shapes

Look at an orange together. Point out the circle shape. Cut it into slices. Break the edge and open it up. Point out the triangles.

All Mixed Up

Mix up several pairs of shoes or socks and then have your child match them.

Home Book

Make a picture book with your child with words and drawings about home activities such as dinner time or bedtime.

LOOK WHAT'S COOKING

Kitchen Kapers

Use a cookie sheet as a magnet board. Buy a set of letter or number magnets from the dollar store. Young children will enjoy putting them on and taking them off the board, older children will begin to identify and sequence them.

reading fun:



Choosing Books for Your Preschooler

Young children love to have someone read to them and enjoy having books around that they can “read” alone. Surrounding children with books sets the stage for their growth in language skills, problem solving and comprehension. And they really enjoy having a grown-up to snuggle up to when the story is being told. Here are a few tips to follow when you are choosing books for your preschooler.

Look for books that:

- Tell stories that are interesting and can be remembered by your child.
- Highlight characters that look like them and live like them, as well as books about different places and things.
- Focus on going to school and making friends.
- Use simple words that your child can memorize.
- Ask your child to count, use the alphabet or learn new words.
- Have colorful artwork and pictures that give you and child a lot to talk about.

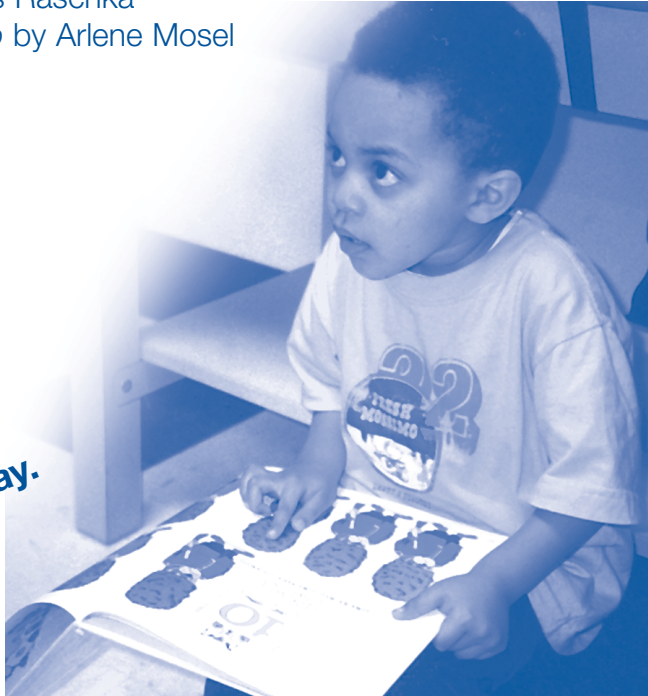
Remember: Show. Tell. **Read**. Sing. Play.



Some selected titles that you can find
at the library or bookstore are:

- *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *Animal Tracks*, written and illustrated by Arthur Dorros
- *A Pocket for Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* by Ruth Heller
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus
- *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble
- *Curious George* by H. A. Rey
- *Gregory, The Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat
- *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
- *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow
- *Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka
- *Tikki, Tikki, Tembo* by Arlene Mosel

Do a little. Every day.



To receive additional
copies of this book,
please call 215-665-2411.