

*It is hard work being a parent. It is rewarding work, because parents are a child's first and most important teachers.*

*You will do many things with your child that help learning. Be sure to reward yourself along the way: take plenty of breaks to watch and join in your child's laughter. It will pay off for both of you!*

*Just as all people are different, children grow and learn in their own special way and time. These pages are filled with games and ideas to help you share in your child's playing and learning through the years. At the top of the pages is a suggested age range and stage for the activities. Use this as a guide, not a rule. Do any or all of the activities that seem fun for you and your child.*

*Hang this booklet like a calendar on your wall. You might want to record special moments as the months and early years of your child's life go by. Save this booklet after your child has grown and you have turned all the pages. Many years from now, it will be a treasure.*

*The paper version of this child development calendar was first published and distributed to schools and hospitals in Vermont by the Vermont-National Education Association. The Instruction and Professional Development Division of the Tennessee Education Association updated and edited the document for distribution in Tennessee in 2008.*



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# *The* **Observer**

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## *Your New Baby, Birth to 6 Months*

**This is the time in your baby's life when what's important is touching, rubbing, closeness, affection, talking, patting, nuzzling and looking into your eyes.**

**Your baby is learning, even before birth. Your baby knows your voice and other sounds from your house and family.**

**Your baby is listening and watching the world, soaking in new experiences like a sponge, quietly and completely.**

**Even a little baby has a personality. Before words, your baby uses his/her body to talk to you. Keep the conversation going at your baby's level.**

**Try these ideas:**

- Imitate your baby's cooing and babbling.
- Talk to your baby in a pleasant voice — refrain from baby talk.
- Be exciting. Use your face to show what you are saying.
- Provide sounds for your baby — music, singing, noisy toys.
- Talk about all the house sounds, like water and pet noises.
- Use variety and expression in your voice.
- Hang shiny, colorful, safe things above the crib and out of reach.
- Show the baby objects around the house. Remember that what is ordinary to you is fascinating to this tiny new person.
- Look in the mirror with your baby and talk about what you see.
- Talk as you are changing diapers, feeding or bathing your baby. Talk the storyline for your daily activities: "Now it is time to go to bed." Shorten your sentences and repeat a lot. This is great for your little one.

- Sing in the car to your child, who is securely buckled in the car safety seat.
- Peek-a-boo is a great first game.
- Dance with your young partner. Holding your child while dancing to different types of music develops rhythmic responses and can be great exercise for you too.
- Read books aloud to your child, even your own book. Your voice is a source of learning and security to your little one.
- Child proof your house now. Crawling will start sooner than you anticipate. If you have questions about "baby proofing" your house, your local school nurse is a knowledgeable resource.
- Hold your baby when feeding rather than feeding in a carry seat. Babies need the physical touch and up-close facial interaction.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Baby's First Cloth Book* by George Ford
- ❖ *Hush Little Baby: A Peggy Cloth Book*
- ❖ *The Pudgy Peek-a-Boo Book* by Amye Rosenberg
- ❖ *Tickle, Tickle* by Helen Oxenbury
- ❖ Recite the stories and rhymes you remember from your childhood — nursery rhymes, lullabies, poems, stories



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# *The* **Toucher**

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## *Your Baby, 6 to 12 Months*

**When your baby sits, the world changes. Watching is not enough. Your baby uses hands as well as eyes to explore.**

**Your child will want to explore his/her new world. You'll need to be one step ahead, always watching for danger, as well as chances to share.**

**Here are activities to consider:**

- Parents joke that this time in a baby's life should be called "in-the-mouth" because babies try to put everything in the mouth. It is important to give your baby objects — without sharp edges — that are too large to swallow for holding, exploring and playing.
- Remember that everything is new to your baby, so measuring cups and spoons are as much fun to hold and play with as expensive complicated toys.
- All day long, talk and listen, talk and listen.
- Your baby loves repetition. It is reassuring in a strange world, and it helps your baby learn — so sing the same songs, tell the same stories and tell your baby again and again about things you are doing.
- Carrying your baby is important for your baby's learning. Many more things come into view when a baby is higher. From the floor, your baby's world is chair legs and feet. In your arms, your baby can wonder at the many things you see and talk about. Baby backpacks can be delightful for parents and baby.
- Although carry seats are great, be mindful that your baby is basically laying down or in a reclined position. This does NOT allow for much physical activity or ability to interact with the environment.
- Praise your baby. Your baby wants to make you happy, so your delight pleases your baby. What you say isn't as important as the happiness and pride in your voice and on your face. Anything, even "you're so smart" or

"your song is so pretty," will make your baby feel special.

- Your baby will begin to love and play along with baby games like "Where's your mouth?" hide and seek, and patty cake.
- Give your baby children's books that are OK to play with. Your baby will learn to turn pages and concentrate on pictures.
- Set aside specific times in the day to "read" with your baby.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Bedtime* by Kate Duke
- ❖ *Spot's Toys* by Eric Hill
- ❖ *Clap Hands* by Helen Oxenbury
- ❖ *Family* by Helen Oxenbury
- ❖ *Friends* by Helen Oxenbury
- ❖ *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt
- ❖ *Spot's First Walk* by Eric Hill
- ❖ *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- ❖ *Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill



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## *The* **Mover**

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### *Your Pre-Toddler, 10 to 20 Months*

**Always moving, always climbing, always, always busy. Your delightful, cuddly companion has become a challenging mass of energy — so demanding, but so full of wonder and enjoyment in life and learning.**

**Your pre-toddler will begin to want to do things for himself/herself, even when he/she can't. Watch your child carefully. Sometimes naughtiness is frustration and emerging independence hidden behind wild behavior. Distraction with another activity or gentle firm assistance is sometimes all that is necessary to turn your pre-toddler into a cooperative eager person again.**

**Here are some activities to try:**

- Read books with simple, everyday, colorful pictures. Use a few familiar books over and over so your child can learn the story.
- Change the rules of games and the stories in hard books so they are simple enough for your pre-toddler to enjoy.
- Use “board books” so that your pre-toddler can hold and enjoy them alone, without the fear of damage.
- Repeat a new word over and over and use gestures to help your child build his/her listening and understanding.
- Teach bye-bye waves and kisses which are fun for everyone.
- Watch for a child's own hand words, like pointing to a refrigerator when hungry.
- Bang on pots to make music; dance to your songs. Your pre-toddler loves movement and noise.
- Sing in the car, too. Treat yourself and share your favorite songs with your child. Your pre-toddler doesn't love only nursery rhymes.
- Your busy, busy, busy child loves to experiment, touch and make “messes.” Help meet that desire on your terms: finger paint with pudding on a cookie sheet, play with shaving cream in the bathtub, put a plastic table

cloth on the floor, play with play-dough or eat a popsicle with fingers.

- Your pre-toddler will have some “words.” These words might not sound the way our words do, but praise your child and enjoy this sign of early learning and achievement — even if your pre-toddler's favorite words are “no, more, mine.”
- Continue to talk with your child throughout the day, using complete sentences.
- Make animal noises when you read animal books. Pretend to be animals by making noises and crawling together.
- Water is fascinating to your pre-toddler. Bathtub play with plastic cups and scoops will delight and amuse your child. You must always be there to watch, no matter how little water is in the tub.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Baby Talk* by Anne Miranda
- ❖ *Baby's First Words* by Lars Wik
- ❖ *Doggies* by Sandra Boynton
- ❖ *Max's New Suit* by Rosemary Wells
- ❖ *The Real Mother Goose* published by Rand McNally
- ❖ *Two New Sneakers* by Nancy Tafuri
- ❖ *Where We Sleep* by Nancy Tafuri
- ❖ *Eye Winker, Tom Tinker, Chin Chopper: 50 Musical Fingerplays* by Tom Glazer
- ❖ *Holes and Peeks* by Ann Jonas
- ❖ *Tickle Tickle* by Dakari Hru



## *Your Toddler, 17 to 26 Months*

**Your child is off and running,  
building knowledge of the world.  
Your toddler's block towers,  
climbing skills  
and longer sentences  
are signs of independence.**

# *The* **Builder**

**Hang on! Your toddler won't stay this busy forever.  
Here are some activities to try:**

- Make life easier for yourself. If you don't want something touched or broken, put it away for a while.
- Don't set yourself up for a hassle. Supervise messy stuff and put those crayons and play dough away when you aren't around so you won't have toddler-decorated walls. Keep stools and chairs away from higher areas you don't want bothered. Toddlers become expert climbers at the most unexpected times.
- During nap times, treat yourself to a break. Do something you really enjoy before you start catching up on household chores. Also try to remember your morning: Did your toddler say a new word? Stack more blocks? Help with a chore? Toddlers learn and change so quickly that every day brings growth. Find time to recognize and enjoy it. Maybe you will even want to write down in a journal or tape record some of the more exciting changes you see.
- Expand your child's sentences. Say what your toddler says, but add a few extra words. Talk about everything you do, and encourage your toddler to talk, too.
- Build with blocks and other toys. For toddlers, mowing down a tower is as fun and instructive as building it. Try it with your toddler; it really is fun.
- Narrate your toddler's play, but don't question and quiz. Your toddler doesn't have the words to answer yet.
- To help build following-direction skills, give your toddler one or two simple tasks and praise him/her for being a wonderful helper.

- Homemade puppets are a treat. A white sock with a colored magic marker face will delight your toddler.
- Start pretend games like "feed the baby". Teach your toddler to be a caring person, like you!
- Dress-up fun in mommy's hat and daddy's boots will entertain your toddler and help give him/her practice with dressing.
- Talk with your child. Take time to listen as you tell your child about the world.
- Bedtime is a special time. Talk in the dark. Tell stories.
- Kids are starting to play with each other. Look for play groups or start your own. Kid to kid, parent to parent, we both need folks our own age.
- Your toddler's favorite words may be "no, want it, me, mine." Action words will be coming soon.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *But Not the Hippopotamus* by Sandra Boynton
- ❖ *Field Animals* by Valerie Greele
- ❖ *Jack Goes to the Beach* by Jill Krentenz
- ❖ *Max's Breakfast* by Rosemary Wells
- ❖ *My Friends* by Nancy Tafuri
- ❖ *Spot Looks at the Weather* by Eric Hill
- ❖ *What's on Top, Head?* by Nancy Bentley
- ❖ *Are You There, Bear?* by Ron Maris
- ❖ *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- ❖ *Just Like Daddy* by Frank Asch
- ❖ *Joy* by Joyce Carol Thomas



## *Your Mature Toddler, 23 to 32 Months*

**“The world is me,”  
says your toddler.**

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# *The* **Super Helper**

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**You will spend more time listening. It takes a lot of time for toddlers to share all the wonderful things they are discovering.**

**Your older toddler is still busy, and will spend longer amounts of time playing at one thing. Your toddler has explored the world with eyes, mouth, hands and legs. Now comes exploring by thinking.**

**Here are some fun things to try:**

- Learn about colors: sort blocks, socks and clothes by color, saying the color word many times.
- Find different uses for the same thing: dig with a spoon, eat with a spoon.
- Make stories longer, and try different books more often.
- Knob puzzles with 1–5 pieces are fun. So is dropping buttons or dry macaroni in small plastic bottles.
- Your toddler is using short sentences like “my shirt, mommy eat, want now,” and, of course, knows the name of everyone in the family.
- Finger painting and fat crayons are treats and good learning tools.
- Make everything an adventure. Your toddler loves enthusiasm.
- Do exercises together, with or without TV help.
- Begin to tell your toddler about plans for the day — such as shopping and doctor's visits — before you go.
- Your toddler thinks chores are a game. Enjoy it and praise lavishly when your toddler picks up toys, puts clothes in the basket or puts things in the trash for you.
- Make faces in the mirror together and describe how the two of you look.
- Roll big balls while sitting on the floor.

- Explore with hands: half fill a dishpan with beans, rice or snow and practice shoveling, pouring, dumping and funneling.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *At the Playground* by Ann Rockwell
- ❖ *Patrick and His Grandpa* by Geoffrey Hayes
- ❖ *Taryn Goes to the Dentist* by Jill Kremenz
- ❖ *Zoo Animals* by Valerie Greeley
- ❖ *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- ❖ *Is It Red, Is It Yellow?* by Tana Hoban
- ❖ *Sam Who Never Forgets* by Eve Rice
- ❖ *Singing Bee! A Collection of Favorite Children's Songs* by Jane Hart
- ❖ *10, 9, 8* by Molly Bang
- ❖ *Boo Hoo Boo-Boo* by Marilyn Singer
- ❖ *Busy Toes* by C.W. Bowie



## *Your Talker, 28 to 38 Months*

**Flitting and soaring  
through the fresh world,  
butterfly steady in movement,  
your child reaches out  
to talk and play with others.**

# *The* **Butterfly**

**Your child speaks in three- to four-word sentences and has something to say about everything. True conversations begin with your little one. The butterfly child can play side by side with other children peacefully for longer amounts of time without the need for parent referees.**

**Here are some activities to try:**

- Begin the public library habit. There are taped stories and books for check out. There are also story hours which delight children and allow parents time to browse the books or just listen and rest.
- Act out songs, learn songs with actions and make up your own songs.
- Build things with blocks, duplo, pillows or popsicle sticks.
- Pretend to be an animal and live under the table.
- Crayons or fat magic markers on old newspaper make wonderful pictures.
- Puzzles with 5–10 pieces are about right.
- Go on a walk and look at bugs, sticks or interesting rocks. Talk about everything you see.
- Play copy cat with your body and your words.
- String cheerios or fruit loops on a string for a beautiful good-tasting necklace.
- Play with bubbles and plastic dishes in the sink.
- Say-sing nursery rhymes and counting songs.
- Read your favorite stories, letting your child fill in frequent words of the story.
- Make up your own songs to match whatever you are doing.

- Identify and sing songs about parts of the body: eyes, knees, nose, feet, hands, ears.
- Talk about time passage, things that are past and things that are in the future.
- Play action games with hopping and skipping.
- Ripping and tearing is a fun natural desire at this age, so provide scrap paper and old newspaper to avoid having books and magazines shredded.
- Attend your local school's pre-school screening. Your child will enjoy the different activities, and you will get to share your child with his/her future teachers. You will also find out about playgrounds and story hours.
- Make sure your child sees you read. Don't always save your own books and reading for when your child sleeps.
- Tell your child you're reading when you use the phone book, a cookbook, shopping guides, newspapers and magazines.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Alfa Gives a Hand* by Shirley Hughes
- ❖ *Ask Mr. Bear* by Marjorie Flack
- ❖ *5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Christelow
- ❖ *Freight Train* by Donald Crews
- ❖ *Have You Seen My Duckling?* by Nancy Tafuri
- ❖ *How Do I Put It On?* by Shigeo Watanabe
- ❖ *I See* by Rachel Isadora
- ❖ *Mary Had a Little Lamb* by Sarah J. Hale
- ❖ *Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins
- ❖ *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter
- ❖ *You Can Do It Too!* by Karen Baicker



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# *The* Questioner

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## *Your Child, 35 to 46 Months*

**Will it grow?? Where does it go? How come?  
Can I see?? When can we go? How does it work?  
Why???**

**So curious and so competent. Your questioner has long sentences, uses “I” correctly, knows everyone in your family and the neighbors’ families, too. Your child knows his/her full name and the name of the town where you live. Your questioner loves feeling in control.**

**Here are some activities to try:**

- Offer choices whenever it’s realistic: Do you want to brush your teeth before your bath or take your bath first?
- Help your child choose his/her own clothes in the morning.
- Enjoy any kind of arts and crafts: drawing, painting, cutting and gluing.
- Let your questioner choose a book and tell you the story from pictures.
- Make a book from paper and pictures cut from a magazine.
- Read a familiar story, but add something silly. Let your child catch your mistakes and tell you the way it should be.
- Tape your child’s made-up stories. You’ll enjoy listening to them later.
- Singing and dancing in costume is a special treat.
- Play Follow the Leader and Simon Says.
- Be selective about TV programs. Watch with your child.
- Plan and pretend how to act in new places and situations.
- Help your child share with others, but allow him/her to have one thing he/she doesn’t have to share with his/her friends.
- Since fantasy is more elaborate, puppets and stuffed animals can be animals in the jungle, in the zoo or kings at a tea party.
- Help your child notice the seasons and the changes in nature.
- Talk, pretend and discuss feelings often, both feelings your child has and feelings others have. Being able to pretend you are someone else is the first step in understanding others and being able to get along and share.

- Call a friend on the phone.
- Dress all in one color and look for that color all day everywhere you go.
- Make rock animals with rocks and magic markers. Glue eyes on for an added treat.
- Sort your little toys into coffee cans — animals in one, trucks in another.
- With vanilla wafers and a tube of frosting, make face cookies for dessert.
- Squeeze your own orange juice.
- Look at family pictures. Discuss ages and relations.
- Doctor your baby doll or stuffed animal before going to the doctor’s office.
- Buy different colored dried beans to use for sorting into egg cartons, glue on art projects and counting.
- Encourage your child to have a friend over to play, with their parent. Then, encourage your child to visit a friend without you. Keep the visits short and positive.
- Crayons or fat magic markers on old newspaper make wonderful pictures.
- Puzzles with 8–12 pieces are about right.

***It’s never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ Traditional tales — *The Gingerbread Man*, *The Three Bears*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Three Little Pigs*
- ❖ *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion
- ❖ *Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* by Nancy Carlstrom
- ❖ *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- ❖ *Poems to Read to the Very Young* selected by Josette Frank
- ❖ *1, 2, 3* by Tana Hoban
- ❖ *Singing and Dancing Games for the Very Young* by Esther L. Nelson
- ❖ *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- ❖ *Chicken Sunday* by Patricia Polacco



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# *The* **Expert**

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## *Your Young Preschooler, 44 to 50 Months*

**As you watch your young preschooler move, talk, play and work, you are amazed at how much your child has learned and accomplished in so little time. The “expert” will remind you frequently of these accomplishments.**

**Your child is ready for the challenges of complicated toys, books and adventures, but still can tire easily from the excitement. Your preschooler needs your help in setting limits and finding quiet time to unwind.**

**These are the accomplishments of your preschooler: identifying the eight basic colors and four basic shapes; counting things up to four; counting from memory to 10; speaking in sentences of 4–5 words; expressing complicated ideas; making up wonderful stories (but sometimes has trouble telling make believe from truth); speaking clearly, except for some hard sounds like z, th, v, l, s, sh, ch and r.**

**Your young preschooler still asks many questions, but doesn’t always wait for the answer or will even argue that your answer isn’t right. Your child is beginning to reason things out. Like everything, reasoning takes practice, so be patient with some of the strange notions your child insists are right. Here are some fun things to try:**

- Write out made-up stories, then act them out with family as audience.
- Cooperative play is great fun for your child, so provide times to spend with other children the same age. Develop a childcare co-op. Find a parent or two with children your child’s age and set up a play schedule. Your child will have a chance for fun and learning with others, and you will get some time for yourself to talk to other parents.
- Explore all the playgrounds in local parks and schools. Your child will love the variety of places for physical activities.
- Play with elaborate puzzles with 18 to 25 pieces.
- Legos are good additions to your basic wooden blocks. Encourage your child to name and make up a story about everything that is built.
- Make a list and then take a trip to the grocery store. Talk about the groups of foods, and let your preschooler hold the

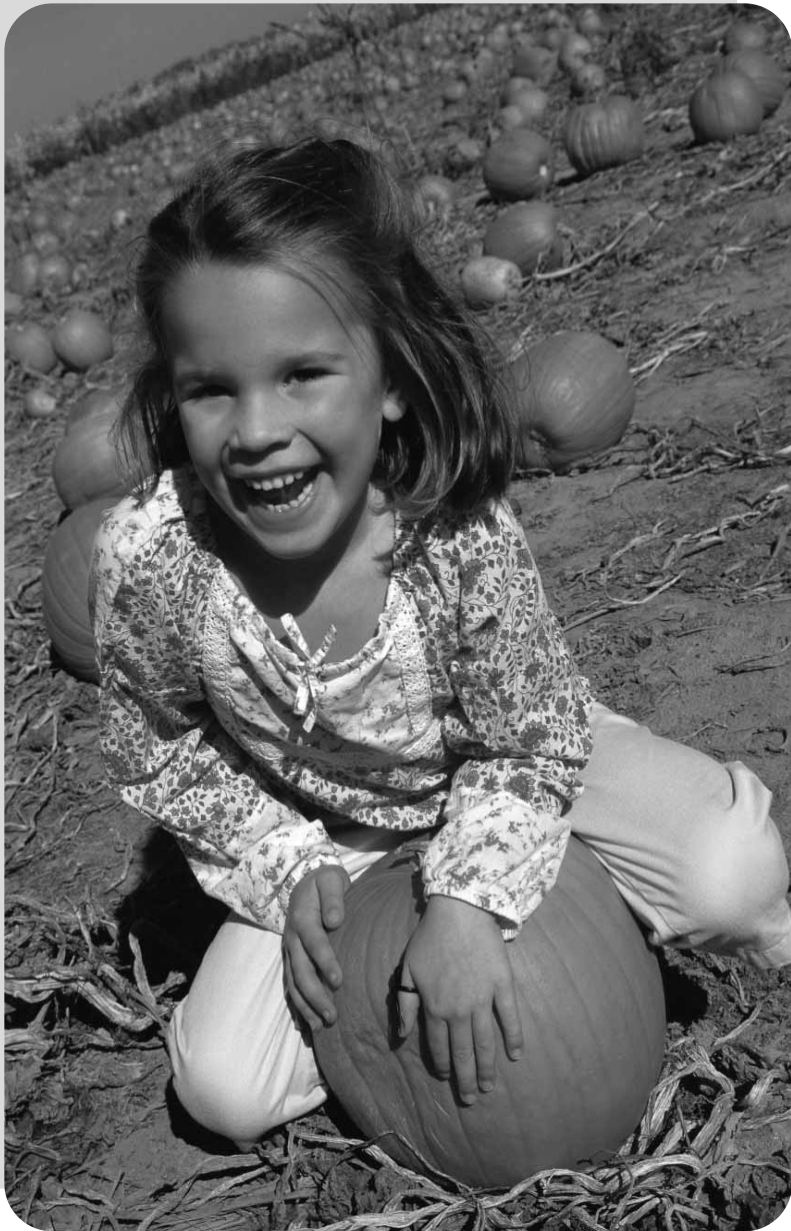
coupons. Show your child which items to cross off the shopping list.

- Sort through clothes. Talk about how small your child was when wearing the things that are too small, and how much bigger your child will be next year.
- Talk about yesterday and try to remember as many things as possible. See who can remember the most.
- Make a pretend house under the table. Invite each other for a picnic.
- Make a number book: Cut out magazine pictures and glue one on the page with a 1, two on the page with a 2, etc.
- Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Find a small leaf, a big leaf, a round rock.
- Use markers and glue to make animals, people and bugs from your rocks.
- Cut strips of colored comics and glue loops together for a chain to celebrate a birthday or spring or just for fun.
- Use a deck of cards to match the numbers.
- Record a letter to family members.
- Have your child help plan the weekend. Having pancakes for breakfast and a walk to the playground are reasonable requests you might not know about unless you include your child in the planning.

***It’s never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Alfie Get in First* by Shirley Hughes
- ❖ *Anno’s Counting Book* by Mitsumasa Anno
- ❖ *Going to Day Care* by Fred Rogers
- ❖ *First Comes Spring* by Ann Rockwell
- ❖ *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone
- ❖ *More, More, More Said The Baby* by Vera Williams
- ❖ *Nobody Asked Me If I Wanted A Baby Sister* by Martha Alexander
- ❖ *The Very Quiet Cricket* by Eric Carle
- ❖ *When You Were A Baby* by Ann Jonas



## *Your Child, 48 to 62 Months*

**Ready, set, go and growing  
is your preschooler.**

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# *The* **Preschooler**

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**Your preschooler is a great companion, a real buddy, an independent and astonishingly competent person. Only occasionally will you catch glimpses of the little one with whom you lived so recently.**

**Here are some activities to try:**

- Mark on a door frame how much your child has grown, and then measure it.
- Cut out paper snowflakes or paper dolls.
- Decorate a small box with paint and macaroni for tiny treasures.
- Decorate a large box with paint or magazine pictures as a treasure box to store toys.
- Shop at a different grocery store and talk about how things are the same and different.
- Cut out coupons from the paper together and then sort them by groups.
- Talk about your feelings and the feelings of playmates and of people in stories and on TV.
- Watch appropriate TV programs with your child and talk about real and fantasy during commercials.
- Fly paper airplanes.
- Make cookies or sandwiches.
- Plan and pack a bag lunch to eat outside or during a walk.
- Help your child joyfully anticipate kindergarten.
- Become part of preschool library hour.
- Attend school concerts and plays. Your child will be fascinated watching “big kids.”
- Walk by the kindergarten rooms, the bathroom and the library each time you visit school with your child. Encourage the “my school” feeling of ownership with your child.

***It's never too early to read with your child.***

Suggested books:

- ❖ *Arthur's Nose* by Marc Brown
- ❖ *The Bus Stop* by Nancy Hellen
- ❖ *Each Peach Pear Plum: An I Spy Story* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- ❖ *Feelings* by Alike
- ❖ *Hattie and the Fox* by Mem Fox
- ❖ *Making Friends* by Fred Rogers
- ❖ *Mr. Gumpy's Outing* by John Burningham
- ❖ *Chicka Chicka 1,2,3 Chicka Chicka 1,2,3* by Bill Martin
- ❖ *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra
- ❖ *Olivia and the Missing Toy* by Ian Falconer
- ❖ *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin
- ❖ *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin
- ❖ *Too Loud Lily* by Sophie Laguna
- ❖ *Itsy Bitsy the Smart Spider* by Cherise Mericle Harper
- ❖ *Boris and Bella* by Carolyn Crimi
- ❖ *Late for School* by Mike Reiss
- ❖ *Elves and the Shoemaker* by Jim LaMarche
- ❖ *What Kind of Babysitter Is This?* by Dolores Johnson

### Check out these organizations and Web sites for more information and resources:

**National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)** has developed the Parent Empowerment Project, a curriculum that seeks to educate, motivate and inspire parents to excellence as their child's first teacher. [www.nbcdi.org/programs/pep/pep.asp](http://www.nbcdi.org/programs/pep/pep.asp)

**Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC)** publishes the four-session discussion guide, "Helping Every Student Succeed: Schools and Communities Working Together", that helps parents get to know each other, understand the issue, find common ground and develop steps for action and change. SCRC also publishes discussion guides to help communities work together on issues and challenges facing schools today, guides for training study circle facilitators, and a step-by-step how-to guide on organizing community-wide dialogue for action and change. [www.studycircles.org/pages/issues/studentachievementhome.html](http://www.studycircles.org/pages/issues/studentachievementhome.html)

**Center for Education Reform (CER)** publishes *Parent Power!* an e-newsletter for parents who want to know more about the issues that affect their children's education. CER also provides easy access to state report cards. [www.edreform.com/ParentPower](http://www.edreform.com/ParentPower)

**Connect for Kids** provides information on its Web site related to what parents can do to support their children's education including getting kids ready to go to school, participating in the classroom, helping with homework and improving the educational system. Parents can also sign up for a weekly newsletter that includes information related to family involvement in education. [connectforkids.org](http://connectforkids.org)

**Families and Advocates Partnerships for Education (FAPE)** offers publications for parents of students with disabilities. [www.fape.org/pubs](http://www.fape.org/pubs)

**Families and Work Institute** offers parents articles and publications about balancing work and families. The handbook, "Parents Becoming Leaders: Getting Involved on Behalf of Children", tells the inspirational stories of seven parents who became advocates for children and provides insight and advice for parent advocates. [www.familiesandwork.org/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=47](http://www.familiesandwork.org/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=47)

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** offers short articles, brochures and books for parents. [www.naeyc.org/ece/eyly](http://www.naeyc.org/ece/eyly)

**National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)** publishes various resources for families, including tip sheets related to learning motivation and advocating for children with disabilities. [www.naspcenter.org/home\\_school](http://www.naspcenter.org/home_school)

**National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)** provides workshops and resources for African American children, their parents and communities around family involvement. Love to Read, NBCDI's national early literacy public education, offers resources related to parent involvement and reading. [www.nbcdi.org/programs/LTR](http://www.nbcdi.org/programs/LTR)

**National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL)** offers parent guides to reading with children. [www.familit.org/Resources](http://www.familit.org/Resources)

**National Center for Fathering** provides research-based training, practical tips and resources to help men be involved in their children's learning and development. [www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com)

**National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** writes the Our Children newsletter for parents and has a section of its Web site dedicated to tips for parents to help improve student achievement. [www.pta.org/pr\\_category\\_details\\_1122916501015.html](http://www.pta.org/pr_category_details_1122916501015.html)

**Parents as Teachers National Center** offers parents e-newsletters, parenting tips and some Web-based courses through its Web site as well as early literacy videos and tools through the e-store. Many items are available in Spanish. It also offers curricula, professional development training and Web-based courses through the Parents as Teachers University on the website and professional tools such as an early literacy kit, CD-based training and parent handouts. [www.parentsasteachers.org](http://www.parentsasteachers.org)

**Parents for Public Schools (PPS)** provides technical assistance for building parent organizations. PPS also provides presentations, articles, reference materials and newsletters to help parents understand public school improvement issues such as school finance, role of school boards and the effect of No Child Left Behind, as well as best practices for parents to engage in to support public school reform. [www.parents4publicschools.com](http://www.parents4publicschools.com)

**Partners for Public Education (PPE)** offers information and tips for how parents can be involved with children at home and in school. Topics include "when your child has a big school project," "asking your child about school," "good books for children to read" and "help prepare your child for college." PPE also offers the Comprehensive Parental Involvement Toolkit. [www.schoolsuccessinfo.org](http://www.schoolsuccessinfo.org)

**Public Education Network (PEN)** publishes No Child Left Behind Action Briefs to help parents and communities better understand No Child Left Behind (NCLB). PEN also wrote an action guide for community and parent leaders, "Using NCLB to Improve Student Achievement." [www.publiceducation.org/nclb.asp](http://www.publiceducation.org/nclb.asp)