

MARCH

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

- Rachel Carson

Sparkling Children's Imagination and Creativity

When children's imaginations are encouraged, they are more likely to be good problem solvers.

- Watch your child play and find out his/her interests. Use those interests to help your child learn new information.
- Children can be creative in many ways: through art, movement, music. Look for opportunities for your child to express himself.
- Children can use their imagination to create interesting stories that the family can write down and retell.
- Encourage your child to draw, paint or sculpt to express feelings or ideas. Drawing to music can be a very creative activity.
- Display your child's art work in your home. Show pride in your child's creativity and abilities.
- Children will be more creative with materials that don't have a single purpose. Help your child pretend that a box is a car or bus, or use a blanket over a table to make a fort or house.
- Give your child lots of plain paper for drawing or painting. When children create their own designs, they feel good about themselves and their abilities.
- Join in your child's play as he or she practices real situations or roles. Talk during play and ask questions, like, "Oh, you're a waitress. What are your specials today?"
- Have fun! Be silly and stretch your imagination. Children will follow a good example.

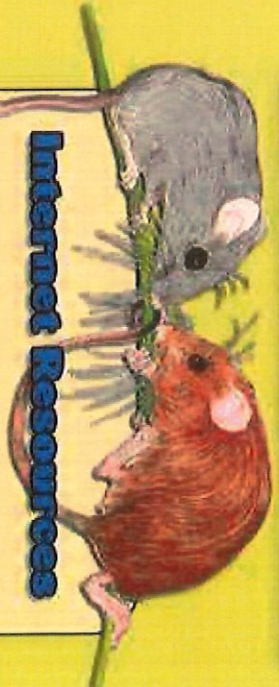


Me Book

Ask your child to cut out pictures from magazines or newspaper flyers that represent things that are his/her favorite color. Help your

child glue them to paper and label them. Label the page, "My Favorite Color". Date it and save.

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Internet Resources

www.pbs.org/parents
Pennsylvania CHIP
www.chipcoverspakids.com
 800-986-KIDS (5437)
 Pennsylvania's CHIP program puts health coverage within reach for all uninsured kids and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.

A Week of Activities!

- 🔍 Make bubbles! Mix together liquid dish soap and water. Put the mixture in a cup and show your child how you can blow into it with straws to make more bubbles. Dip in a slotted spoon or other objects and wave them around the room to make bubbles.
- 🗑️ Clean and save eggshells. Break them into small pieces and give them to your child to glue onto paper.
- ▶️ Collect lids of different sizes from containers. Ask your child to put them in order from smallest to biggest.
- 😊 Collect different kinds of things around the house that you and your child can use to build with. Use objects like pillows, shoe boxes, empty cereal boxes, cans, etc.



A Week of Activities!

- 📄 Draw together on different types of paper, like newspaper, wrapping paper, sandpaper, or foil.
- ➡️ Sit on the steps outside your home. Close your eyes and listen. What sounds do you hear? Talk about the sounds and what they represent.
- 🍎 Play "Magic Carpet Ride." Ask your child to sit on the floor in the middle of a towel or blanket and hold on. Pull the towel across the floor. Next, see if your child can pull you or a heavy object around.
- 😊 Sort laundry together. Sort by color, by types of items (all the shirts together) and by family member.



A Week of Activities!

- ➡️ Help your child make a list of "Things I Can Do Myself." Ask your child what special things s/he can do alone. Put them on a list and post it on the refrigerator.
- 🔍 Go to the library to check out books about life cycles. Look for books that show how caterpillars turn into butterflies or how tadpoles turn into frogs.
- ➡️ Ask your child to write a letter to a friend or relative. Take it to the post office to mail. Talk about the things and people that are inside a post office, such as the mail carriers, the stamps, the packages, etc.
- 📖 Recite nursery rhymes together. Leave out the final rhyming words and encourage your child to fill in the blank. "Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall... Humpty Dumpty had a great ____ (fall)!"



A Week of Activities!

- ▶️ Make number cards by putting the number 1-5 on pieces of paper. Ask your child to put the correct number of beans, stickers or other small objects on each card.
- ➡️ Encourage your child to order his/her own meal at a restaurant by saying, "tell the waiter or the clerk what drink or what sandwich you'd like."
- 🍎 Help your child draw straight, curly, wavy or zigzag lines across a piece of paper. Give child-safe scissors for him or her to practice cutting.
- 📖 At bedtime, use a flashlight to make shapes or letters on the ceiling. Ask your child to guess what you're making.



Check these out!

- Abuela by Arthur Dorros
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff
- The Painter by Peter Catalanato
- Loftier's New Beach Towel by Petra Mathers
- Turn Around, Upside Down Alphabet Book by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen



- 😊 Approaches to Learning Through Play
- 📄 Creative Thinking and Expression
- 🗑️ Language and Literacy Development
- ▶️ Mathematical Thinking and Expression
- ➡️ Social and Emotional Development
- 🍎 Health, Wellness and Physical Development
- 🔍 Scientific Thinking and Technology
- ➡️ Social Studies Thinking