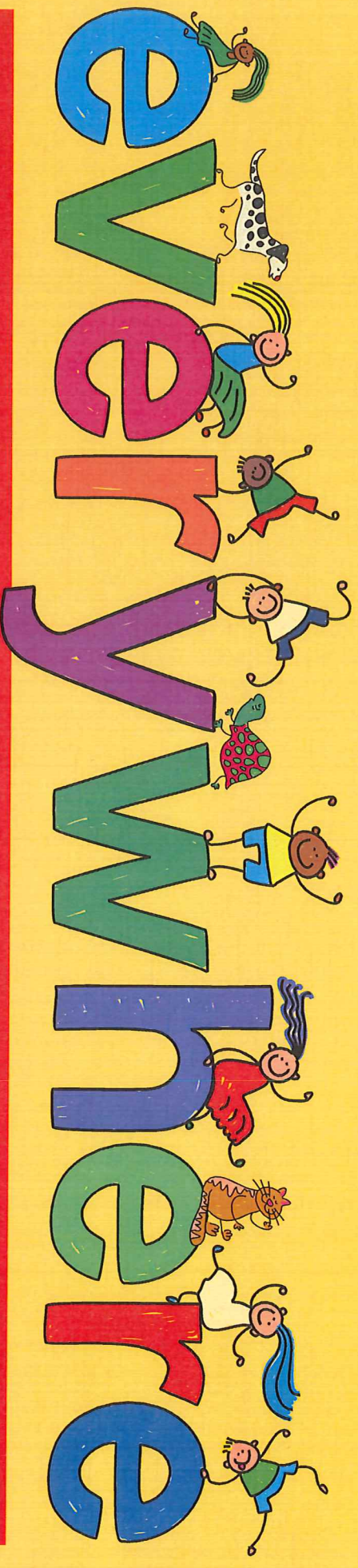
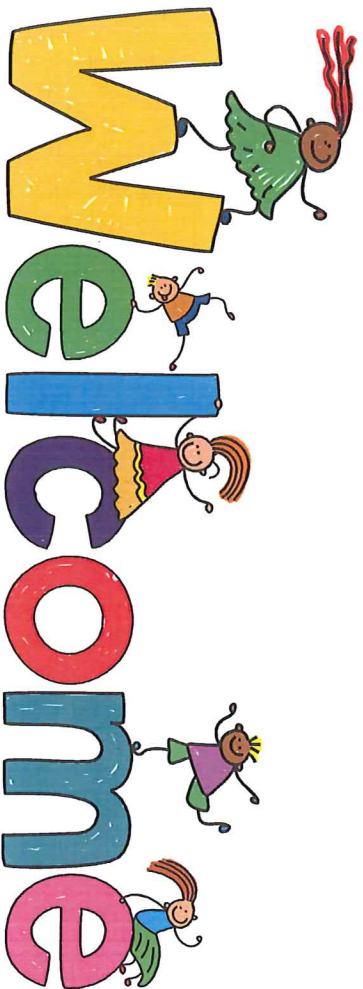


LEARNING IS



ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD



Welcome to the *Learning is Everywhere* calendar, with fun activities to help your young child learn and grow!

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST FIVE YEARS ARE SO IMPORTANT!

How your child's brain develops before age five affects how he will learn for life. By age five, 90% of your child's brain and brain connections are developed! Thousands of connections that build language, math and social skills for life.

Why does this matter? Because the connections made in your child's brain before age five set the foundation for all his learning as he grows up and becomes an adult. After age five, new brain connections are harder to make.

LITTLE ACTIONS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT!

Your love for your child and the bond you build together means more than anything else. It's the foundation for all of their learning and growth!

You are your child's first and most important teacher. You can support your child's healthy development by:

- Providing healthy foods;
- Building a strong bond with your child;
- Talking and reading to your child from birth;
- Learning typical milestones for your child's age and helping your child meet milestones; and



- Choosing a person or program that can care for your child as you would and help your child learn and grow.
- Check out the Early Learning GPS at www.earlylearningsgps.com or download the app for more tips and to follow your child's progress.

LEARNING IS FUN!

Children learn by playing. You don't need expensive toys or games to help them grow. Your attention and love will have a big impact. See what your child sees. Talk about it. Sing about it.

Playing helps children get excited about learning and get along with others. Play with your child (dress up is great!), have fun, and watch them grow. It's okay to play!

The activities in this calendar are based on Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards. Child care and other early learning programs, kindergarten and elementary school teachers use Pennsylvania's Early Learning Standards as a guide for what children typically can do at each age. These activities let you have fun with your child while you help them build skills they will use in kindergarten and beyond!

For more books and activities, sign up for monthly e-newsletters at www.papromiseforchildren.com.

ME BOOK

You and your child can make your very own book! Each month contains Me Book ideas you can do together. Save your pages each month and at the end of the year, put them together in a book you can share for years to come!



CHOOSE QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CHILD

How young children spend their day affects how they will learn things like their ABCs when they get older.

You want your child to be safe, well cared for and given lots of learning activities. Pennsylvania offers several programs for children from birth through school-age that are free or low-cost to eligible families. Find child care and other early learning programs near you at www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

Child Care Certification

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services regulates family child care homes, group child care, and child care centers to ensure they meet health and safety regulations. Programs are required to post their certificate of compliance, so if you don't see it, ask about it.

Child Care Works

Provides financial help to pay for child care. Families that earn up to 200% of the federal poverty level and meet work requirements are eligible.

Early Intervention

Provides children with disabilities or developmental delays with services such as parent education, therapies or other supports. If you have concerns about your child's development, call Pennsylvania's CONNECT Helpline at 1-800-692-7288. One of our experts can answer your questions, and connect you with a program that can help. There is no cost to families.

Early Head Start/ Head Start

Provides comprehensive early education and family support services from birth through kindergarten. Services can be in the home. Families earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level are eligible. There is no cost to families.

Healthy Families America

Strives to provide expectant and new parents with the opportunity to receive the education and support they need at the time their baby is born. There is no cost to families.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Helps low-income, first-time parents experience healthy pregnancies, promotes early literacy and encourages school readiness by helping mothers learn how to foster healthy child development. First-time moms in the first 28 weeks of pregnancy and family earning up to 235% of federal poverty level are eligible. There is no cost to families.

Parents as Teachers

Provides home visits with trained experts who educate parents on how to become the first and most important teacher in their child's life. There is no cost to families.

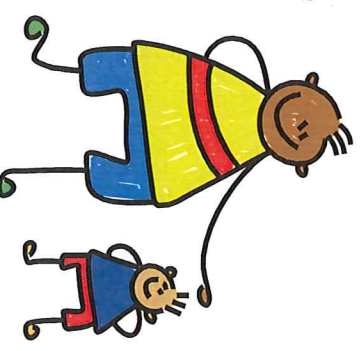
Keystone STARS

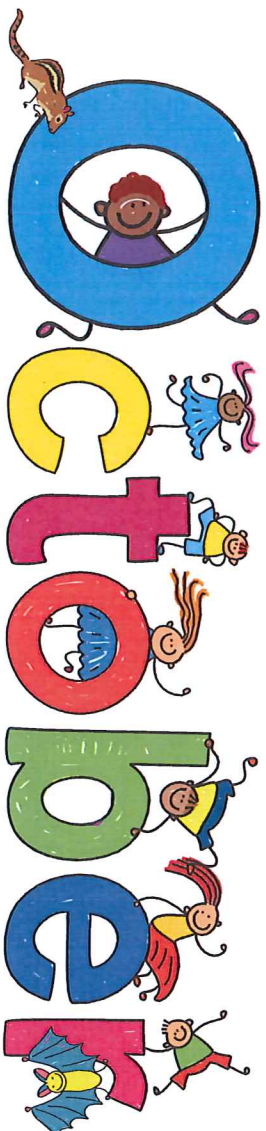
Rates participating child care and other early learning programs for quality with a 1 to 4 STAR rating for teachers, atmosphere and working with families. When looking for child care, ask about Keystone STARS. Families earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level may be eligible for financial assistance through Child Care Works.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

Pre-K Counts provides high-quality pre-kindergarten in schools, Keystone STAR 3 and 4 child care, Head Start, and licensed nursery schools. Families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level are eligible to apply. There is no cost to families.

For more information on quality early learning programs, call 1-877-PA-KIDS or visit www.papromiseforchildren.com.





IT'S PA'S PROMISE FOR CHILDREN MONTH!

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children month in October is an opportunity to celebrate the young children in our lives and the families, teachers, and leaders that help them reach their promise through quality early education.

Visit www.papromiseforchildren.com for ways to celebrate and educate!

me book

INFANT

Take a picture of you and your baby at your favorite outside spot. Record in your *Me Book* what your baby was interested in outside. You can repeat this activity every year at the same time.

TODDLER

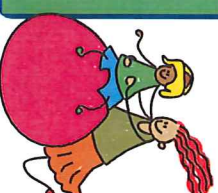
Collect different colors of leaves from outside. Help your toddler to create a collage with them. Label the leaves with words. For example: big, small, red, yellow, etc.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Use construction paper and cut out shapes which can be made into a pumpkin, such as squares, triangles, etc. Your preschooler can put together the pumpkin. Ask how the pumpkin feels: happy, sad, excited, scared, etc.

KINDERGARTEN

Take a picture of your child in their school clothes. Ask about their day at school: What did they do that was fun today at school? Who did they play with? What book did they read today? Record the answers.



Activity 1: WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP

Key Learning Area: Social Studies Thinking

INFANT: Read a book with people in different jobs, and point out different people and the kinds of jobs they might do, describe the person and the job. "This is a postal worker. He wears a blue uniform and delivers mail to families."

TODDLER: While reading about different jobs, ask your toddler to point out the people with different jobs. With pictures have him name person and job, or ask him to find a specific type of person (like the police officer, or the doctor).

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Ask your preschooler to describe the different jobs she knows about. Ask her what you or other caregivers, grandparents, or neighbors do as a job. Ask what she would like to do, and draw a picture of her at that job.

KINDERGARTEN: Using markers, crayons, pencils, ask your kindergartner to draw a picture of what he wants to be when he grows up. You can write underneath for him, "I want to be a ___ when I grow up because ___."



Activity 3: PLAYING WITH BUBBLES

Key Learning Area: Mathematics Thinking and Expression

INFANT: Have your baby on your lap or in a supported position. Blow bubbles and encourage her to look and reach for them.

TODDLER: Play a game of catch with bubbles. Take turns with your toddler, blowing and catching the bubbles.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Use different sized wands to blow bubbles. Talk about what type of bubbles each wand creates: big bubbles, small bubbles, lots of bubbles, one bubble at a time.

KINDERGARTEN: Make the bubble solution with your kindergartner. Talk about measurements of water and liquid soap. Experiment with different solutions. Talk about what works and what does not work. Create different sized wands by using materials such as pipe cleaners.



Activity 2: MY FAVORITE BOOKS

Key Learning Area: Language and Literacy Development: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

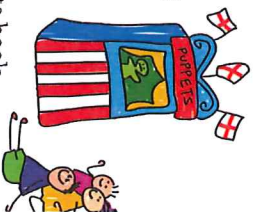
INFANT: While doing every day activities, such as changing a diaper, sing the ABC's to your baby.

TODDLER: Ask your toddler to pick her favorite books to read together. When reading, ask her about her favorite pictures and characters. For example, "Why do you like Clifford?" Ask your toddler to draw a picture of her favorite character.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Make a puppet show of your preschooler's favorite book.

Cut out characters from construction paper and role play the story on a sheet of paper. Ask him to tell the story as he moves the characters. When the story is over, glue the characters to the paper and he can write the name of the book across the top. Have him share what's happening in each picture, and record under the picture.

KINDERGARTEN: Ask child to pick her favorite book and to read it to you. Ask her to draw a picture that represents why this book is her favorite, and you can why it's a favorite.



Activity 4: GROWING UP

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Point out the difference in size between your baby's features and body parts and yours or other children. Talk about the differences, "Your nose is tiny now, but when you grow up it will be big like mine." Using child-safe finger paint, make impressions of your baby's fingers and toes.

TODDLER: Using pictures of family members, friends, or dolls of different ages, point out which are the youngest, and talk about how she will be bigger when she gets older.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Gather photos of your preschooler over time and ask him to put the photos in order of youngest to oldest to tell his story. "When I was a baby, I looked like this." If you don't have photos, ask your child to draw pictures of himself as a baby, toddler, etc.

KINDERGARTEN: Talk with your kindergartner about ways she has grown. Ask when she was a baby, a two-year old, three and four year old, what did she like to eat? What did she like to do? Did she crawl or walk? What does she like to do now? She can draw what she looked like at each stage in her life. Identify what can she do now that she couldn't do when she was one, two, three, or as a baby.



OCTOBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Inside Outside Upside Down (Bright & Early Books(R))
by Stan Berenstain & Jan Berenstain
Bump! Thump! How Do We Jump?: Experiments Outside (At Home With Science) by Janice Lobb, Peter Utton, & Ann Savage

Are You Ready to Play Outside? (An Elephant and Piggie Book) by Mo Williams
OutsideOverThere(CaldecottCollection) by Maurice Sendak
Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse by Lindsay Barrett George
Goodnight World Outside by Frances Gilbert

The Outside Play and Learning Book: Activities for Young Children by Karen Miller & Laura Burrey
Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert
Sam Who Never Forgets by Eve Rice
Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehlert

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com