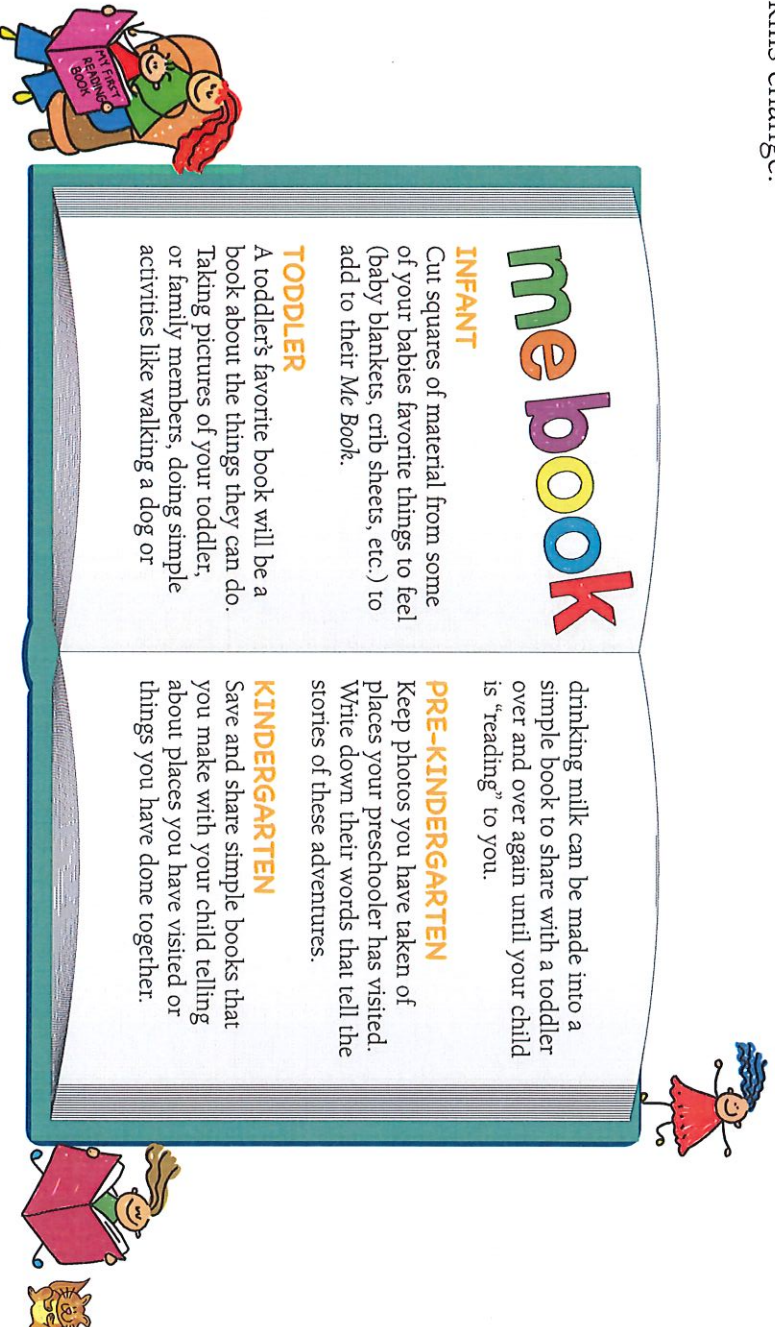


September

IN THE LIVING ROOM

The living room is a great place for socializing, sharing stories and building a young child's developing vocabulary. Think about your child's social, emotional & personal development, and communication and emerging literacy skills that are developing as you play with your child in the living room. Sharing books, pictures and conversation is important to your child at any age. Visit your local library to choose and read new books as your child's interest and reading skills change.



Activity 1: COMMUNICATE!

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

INFANT: Holding your baby on your lap, make eye contact and engage him in conversation by repeating back the sounds your baby can make. Your baby will delight in the sounds they are practicing with you.

TODDLER: Toddlers love action. Engage her in using "action words" like "up" "down" "wiggle" and "jump". Shout or whisper the word as you act it out together. For example, lie on the floor together, kicking the air as you say "kick, kick". Your next action word may be "laugh" or "jump".

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Your preschoolers world at age three and four is expanding. Encourage your child to tell you stories about places that she goes. If you have photos of places or people that your child has visited, sit together and listen as she tells you stories about the photos.

KINDERGARTEN: Help your child to make simple books by folding several pieces of paper together. Write down stories he tells you in simple sentences on each page that you can read back to him. He can add drawings to each page to illustrate the words.



Activity 3: EXPLORING FACES

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Faces are fascinating to your baby, especially yours! Let your baby touch your face and explore the silly, surprised and happy faces you can make for them. What a great show!

TODDLER: Toddlers are learning names and labels for the important people in their world. Share family pictures and photo albums with your child and let her point to and name the faces that she can recognize.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Share photos or pictures in books or magazines with your preschooler and ask him how he thinks people in these pictures might feel. Encourage him to notice and recognize feelings by looking at facial expressions and body language.

KINDERGARTEN: Share photos or pictures in books or magazines with your kindergartner and ask her why she thinks people portrayed might be feeling sad, angry, disappointed, scared, etc. Encourage her to tell you if she has ever felt that way and what she did about it.



Activity 2: BOOK SHARING

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

INFANT: Allow your baby to handle and touch soft books or washable plastic books. She will especially enjoy looking at faces and simple, colorful objects. Babies explore with all senses, so be prepared for your baby to "taste", as well as see books!

TODDLER: Toddlers love books and stories about routines that are familiar to them. Cuddle with your toddler and share a book about bath time or going to the store. Be prepared to read the same favorite books again and again.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Your preschooler will enjoy being part of familiar books and stories. Look for stories like "The Three Little Pigs" with predictable refrains and let him join you in saying the repeated phrases like "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in!"

KINDERGARTEN: Your kindergartner may enjoy being read to, and smuggling with you in living room. Read a story to her and stop a few pages before the story ends. Encourage her to tell you what she thinks will happen next.

FOR ALL AGES: Take your child to the library and read a book together!



Activity 4: IT'S ME!

Key Learning Area: Social and Emotional Development

INFANT: Hold your baby in front of a mirror and let your baby explore his own face. This will give you an opportunity to begin to identify your baby's expressions. For example, "You are so happy! Look at your pretty smile!"

TODDLER: Help your toddler to take pride in the new things that she is learning each day. Sit on the floor and play with your toddler praising her accomplishments and new skills. Be sure to use her name often. For example, "Zachary built a tall tower with blocks!" or "Keisha found the baby bear!"

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Talk about the new things that your preschooler is learning each day and praise his accomplishments. A clear plastic jar can be decorated with his name and stickers or pictures. Celebrate each new skill he can do (getting dressed, brushing teeth, etc.) by writing it down on a slip of paper and adding it to his I CAN jar.

KINDERGARTEN: Provide your kindergartner with a notebook that can become a journal of things she likes. Begin with her by writing on the first page "Emily likes red." Let her finish the page by coloring something red. Encourage her to add to this book as she tells you about favorite toys, things done at school, friends played with or places she went. Use pictures with words to help connect the picture with words.



SEPTEMBER SUGGESTED BOOKS

An Elephant in the Living Room - The Children's Book
by Jill M. Hastings and Marion H. Typpo

Lion In the Living Room by Caelach McKinn
& A. R. Stone

Kite Day: A Bear and Mole Story by Will Hillenbrand

Ciencia Magica en la Sala de Estar/Science Magic in
the Living Room (El Juego De La Ciencia/The Science
Game) by Richard Robinson and Alan Row

For more ideas visit www.papromiseforchildren.com