

# EARLY LEARNING CALENDAR

A year's worth of ideas  
to help you prepare your  
child for kindergarten  
and beyond.



# St. Clair County RESA: Your Early Childhood Partner

St. Clair County RESA coordinates a number of services for the families of children ages 0-5. The Department of Early Childhood Services can also refer families to additional resources, depending on each family's unique needs.







## **Early On: Answering questions about your child's development**

Early On is Michigan's system of coordinating early intervention services for children birth to age 3 who may have a developmental delay or a medical condition that could lead to delay.

Growing and learning are your child's most important jobs. Sometimes, parents notice that their baby or toddler does not seem to be at the same stage of development as other children the same age. Identifying concerns can begin at home. Early identification of possible problems can lead to early help so each child can be more successful.

### **Submit an online referral form at:**

[bit.ly/referralearlyon](http://bit.ly/referralearlyon)

### **More information available at:**

[www.sccresa.org](http://www.sccresa.org)



## **Great Start Collaborative: Offering support to all parents**

The St. Clair County Great Start Collaborative is a partnership of parents, child care providers, service providers, businesses and other community leaders who are committed to giving every child in St. Clair County a great start in life.

### **Great Start Home Visiting and Early Learning Groups**

Great Start Home Visiting has four FREE centers for St. Clair County families of children ages 0-5. Families can get information on home visits with a parent educator, lending library, developmental milestones and screenings, parenting tips, family resources, and Early Learning Groups.

### **Great Start Parent Coalition**

The Parent Coalition works to raise awareness and support for early childhood programming in the community. They give parents who are passionate about childhood issues a way to volunteer in their community.

### **More information available at:**

[www.GreatStartStClair.org](http://www.GreatStartStClair.org)



## **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Preschool: Helping your child be ready for kindergarten**

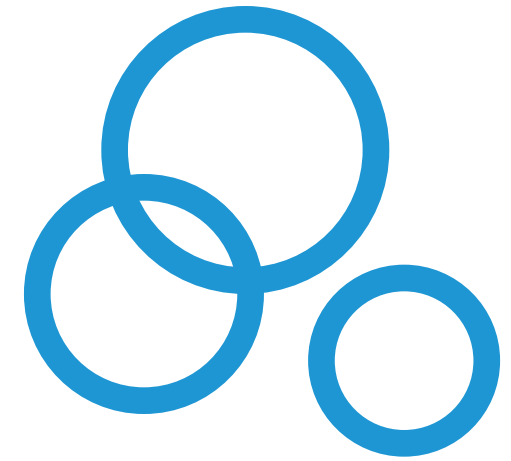
GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors that may place them at risk. The goal of the program is designed to ensure every child is prepared to thrive when they enter kindergarten. The program is based on learning through play. It is free to eligible families.

### **More information available at:**

[www.sccresa.org](http://www.sccresa.org)



# What children are like: Birth to age 5



Adapted from: “TOYS: Tools for Learning” NAEYC brochure #571

No two children develop and grow at exactly the same pace. Here are a few things you can look for as you watch your child’s growth and development. If you have questions or concerns about how your child is growing and developing, you may want to talk to your child’s doctor.



## Birth to 3 months

- Begin to smile at people, coo
- Follow moving person or object with eyes
- Prefer faces and bright colors
- Reach, discover hands, kick feet, lift head
- Suck with pleasure
- Cry, but often are soothed when held
- Turn head toward sounds

## 4 to 6 months

- Prefer parents and older siblings to other people
- Repeat actions that have interesting results
- Listen intently, respond when spoken to
- Laugh, gurgle, imitate sounds
- Explore hands and feet, put objects in mouth
- Sit when propped, roll over, scoot, bounce
- Grasp objects without using thumbs, bat at hanging objects
- Smile often

## 7 to 12 months

- Remember simple events, form simple concepts
- Identify themselves, body parts, voices of familiar people
- Understand own name, other common words
- Say first meaningful words
- Explore, bang, or shake objects with hands
- Find hidden objects, put objects in and take objects out of containers
- Sit alone
- Creep, pull themselves up, stand, walk
- May seem shy or become upset with strangers

## 1 to 1½ years

- Imitate adult actions
- Speak and understand more words
- Enjoy stories
- Experiment with objects
- Walk steadily, climb stairs
- Assert independence, but strongly prefer familiar people
- Recognize ownership of objects
- Make friendships, but also play alone
- Begin to understand what adults want them to do, but not yet able to control themselves

## 1½ to 2 years

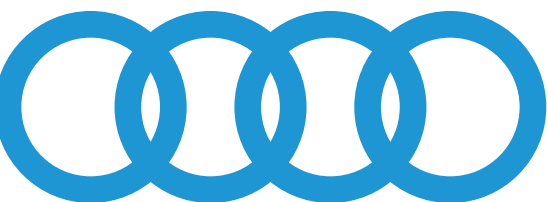
- Solve problems
- Speak and understand even more
- Show pride in accomplishments
- Like to help with tasks
- Exhibit more body control, run
- Play more with others
- Begin pretend play

## 2 to 3½ years

- Enjoy learning new skills
- Learn language rapidly
- Are always on the go
- Have some sense of danger
- Gain more control of hands and fingers
- Frustrated easily
- Act more independent, but are still dependent, too

## 3½ to 5 years

- Act out familiar scenes
- Have a longer attention span
- Act silly, boisterous, may use shocking language
- Talk a lot, ask many questions
- Want real adult things
- Test physical skills with caution
- Reveal feelings in dramatic play
- Like to play with friends, but does not like to lose
- Share and take turns sometimes





# Learning on the go



## At home

You can turn everyday household chores and activities into fun learning games for your child.

### Doing laundry

Laundry activities can build math and cooperation skills. Feeling useful also helps children feel good, which encourages them to continue to want to be helpful. Your child can:

- Make piles of light clothes and dark clothes.
- Find matching pairs of socks.
- Find all the shirts to put into a pile for folding.

### At meals

Mealtime discussions can help your child's development and foster learning. Mealtime interactions help children use language to analyze, sequence, and predict while promoting a love of language.

- Ask your child to tell you a story about their day or tell them a story about your day.
- Let your child help make the meal—tear the lettuce for the salad, stir the spaghetti sauce, or help set the table.

### At bedtime

Help your child wind down at the end of the day and make bedtime less stressful and more calming.

- Create a consistent bedtime schedule that your child can count on (e.g., take a bath, brush teeth, read a story, give a kiss, go to sleep).
- Your preschool child can help plan bedtime traditions such as listening to stories, making up stories, or talking about the day.

# Traveling

Use traveling time to enhance your child's natural curiosity and find ways to interact and connect with your child.

## In the car or bus

- Talk about your child's day. Ask specific questions: "Did you draw in preschool?" or "Did you eat a cheese sandwich?"
- Talk with your child about where you are going in the future to help them develop thinking and planning skills ("We are going to the market on the way home.")

## On a walk

Taking your child on a walk is not only good exercise, but allows them to experience nature and learn about the outdoors.

- Make up rhymes or sing marches as you walk. Try walking and singing or chanting fast, then slow.
- Help your child learn to be safe by stopping at corners and driveways and showing them how to look both ways for cars.
- Ask your child questions: "What sounds do you hear?" "What animals do you see?" "What is the weather like today?"

# Public places

## At the grocery store

Help keep your trips to the grocery store stress-free and educational.

- Let your child make food choices. Ask: "Should we buy apples, oranges, or grapes today?"
- Have your child find items on your grocery list.
- Let your child help put away the boxes and canned goods when you get home.

## At the park/playground


Discover ways to transform activity into learning.

- Ask your child questions: "How fast can you run toward the big tree?" "Which slide is bigger, the red one or the silver one?"
- Have your child count the number of swings or other children.

## At the library

Libraries are full of learning opportunities and are wonderful places for exploring language and books.

- Visit the library to get your child their own library card.
- Let your child pick out their own library books.
- Teach your child about the proper care and borrowing and returning of books.
- Attend storytime and other events at your local library.

Two thick, wavy, orange-red lines that curve across the bottom of the page, starting from the left edge and ending on the right edge.

Source: Born Learning by Mind in the Making, a project of the Families and Work Institute. For further information on early learning tips for parents, visit [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org).

# GETTING READY TO LEARN

Approaches to learning are ways that children respond to a task. The right approach makes it easier for children to learn.



Children are more likely to be successful in school and in life when they are encouraged to:

- Show curiosity
- Make choices
- Make decisions
- Value their work
- Persist in tasks
- Maintain concentration
- Experiment
- Explore
- Try new things
- Elaborate on original ideas

## BOOKS TO READ:

***The Carrot Seed***

by Ruth Kraus

***Maisy Goes to Preschool***

by Lucy Cousins

***LMNO Peas***

by Keith Baker

***My Heart is Like a Zoo***

by Michael Hall

## RHYME:

**Little Bo-Peep**

Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,  
And can't tell where to find them.

Leave them alone and they'll come home,  
Wagging their tails behind them.








































# January

Website to explore: [bornlearning.org](http://bornlearning.org)

Everyday life is a learning experience for children. Born Learning is a public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents, and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Read on the floor 	Practice dressing 	Experiment with water and food coloring 	Sweep the floor 	Find white things 	Read in a favorite spot 	Make up rhymes for your child's name 
Write a note to your child 	Build a fort with blankets and chairs 	Read a bedtime story 	Practice zipping 	Find red things 	Read with a flashlight 	Let your child choose a snack 
Make something with paper and tape 	Make patterns with blocks 	Find black things 	Practice buttoning 	Think of words that rhyme with pig 	Draw with markers 	Visit your library 
Count 5 toys and then put them away 	Set the table 	Find blue things 	Play hide and seek 	Play "I Spy" at breakfast 	Move like animals 	Make cookies 
Build a snowman 	Count your fingers and toes 	Find yellow things 	Draw shapes in shaving cream 	Go outside and shovel snow 	Sing the alphabet song 	Talk to your child about when you were younger 



Reading before bed is a time-honored tradition. What times can you find to read with your child? Try bath time, mealtime, potty time, and doctor's appointments.

# HELPING YOUR CHILD MATURE



Social and emotional development are ways that children learn to experience, express and gain control over their emotions and social interactions.

Children are likely to feel more confident and secure when they are encouraged to:

- Express their feelings
- Express their moods
- Express their opinions
- Become more independent
- Develop friendships
- Recognize similarities and differences in people
- Respect others

## BOOKS TO READ:

***When Sophie Gets Angry***

by Molly Bang

***More More More, Said the Baby***

by Vera Williams

***A Kiss for Little Bear***

by Else Holmelund Minarik

***Owen and Mzee***

by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Paula Kahumbu

## FINGERPLAY:

### Two Little Blackbirds

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill

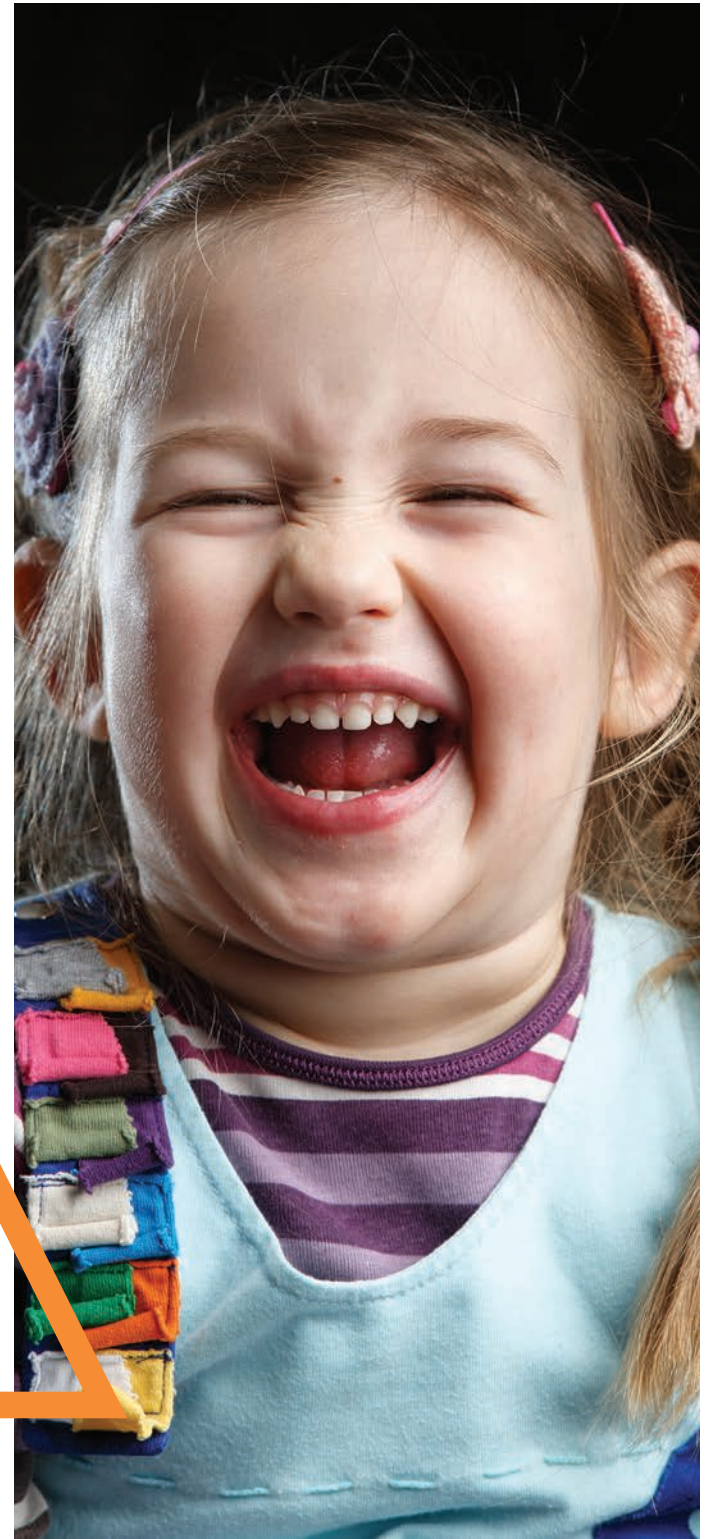
One named Jack (show left hand) and the other named Jill (show right hand)

Fly away Jack (fly left hand behind back)

Fly away Jill (fly right hand behind back)

Come back, Jack! (fly left hand back from behind back)




































Come back, Jill! (fly right hand back from behind back)



# February

**Website to explore: [starfall.com](http://starfall.com)**

Starfall helps children learn to read with phonics through interactive audiovisual activities. Starfall is an educational alternative to other entertainment choices for children.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Make a family photo album 	Read a book about friends 	Look for sad faces in books and magazines 	Help fold the laundry 	Turn off the TV 	Invite a friend over to play 	Visit the library 
Read a book about kindness 	Talk about different feelings 	Locate a calming place in your house 	Talk about different cultures 	Say thank you in Spanish (Gracias) 	Schedule a playdate with a friend 	Read a book about families 
Pretend to be angry monsters 	Draw a picture of your friends 	Help clean up your room 	Practice saying, "Thank you" 	Visit a relative 	Put on a play 	Read a book about differences 
Make different faces in the mirror 	Paint a happy picture 	Read a book about feelings 	Practice saying, "Please" 	Talk about how to be a good friend 	Look for happy faces in books and magazines 	Hop on one foot 
Cut out hearts 	Make a list of your family's safety rules 	Dress in the color red today 	Talk about all of your favorite things 	Jump high, jump low, leap like a frog 	Complete a puzzle together 	Help your child call someone special 



Talk through your child's day. Tell them what they will be doing, such as eating, taking a nap, or going to the store. Ask them what they think will be the most fun. This builds their everyday vocabulary.



# BRAIN POWER

Intellectual development is the way that children make sense of their world.

Children are more likely to think in increasingly advanced ways when they are encouraged to:

- Observe
- Explore
- Manipulate
- Listen
- Make predictions
- Reflect
- Identify characteristics of objects and events
- Classify items
- Experiment
- Make connections to past experiences
- Use different strategies to solve problems
- Ask questions



## BOOKS TO READ:

***The Napping House***

by Don and Audrey Wood

***Dinosaurumpus!***

by Tony Mitton

***Close Your Eyes***

by Kate Banks

***Goodnight Moon***

by Margaret Wise Brown

## SONG / RHYME:

**Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes**

*Sung to the tune of London Bridge is Falling Down. Throughout, touch corresponding part of your body.*

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,  
knees and toes.

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,  
eyes, ears, mouth, and nose.




































Head and shoulders, knees and toes.



# March

**Website to explore: [migreatparents.org](http://migreatparents.org)**

Find out what's happening in your county! This website offers lots of great information for families with young children including activities, health resources, services, community resources, child care, and parenting resources available in your community.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Predict whether it will snow again 	Build with blocks 	Find brown things 	Help fold the laundry 	Color a picture 	Find orange things 	Make lunch together 
Tell a story 	Talk about different feelings 	Find green things 	Give choices 	Measure things using a block 	Talk about signs of spring 	Name different kinds of animals 
Look for different shapes outside 	Read a new book 	Find purple things 	Make up a song about spring 	Find something small 	Make cookies 	Sort the laundry by color 
Move to music with streamers 	Read a funny book 	Find blue things 	Hide objects to find 	Make patterns with silverware 	Play a board game 	Name parts of a car 
Read a book 	Celebrate spring by drawing a flower 	Take a walk 	Use a new word 	Help clear the table and wash the dishes 	Play music and dance 	Make a book of your own 



Visit a Great Start Center for information on home visits with a parent educator, lending library, developmental milestones and screenings, parenting tips, family resources and Early Learning Groups. To find a location near you, go to [GreatStartStClair.org](http://GreatStartStClair.org).



# READING OPENS NEW WORLDS

Reading is one way that children develop language and early literacy skills.

Children grow into strong readers when they are encouraged to:

- Participate in playing with sounds—rhyming, finger plays, etc.
- Identify and associate letters with their names and sounds
- Use reading-like behaviors
- Understand book concepts—title, author, front, back, etc
- Understand stories and books read to them
- Predict, retell, and make connections to stories

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Sheep in a Jeep***

by Nancy Shaw

***A to Z***

by Sandra Boynton

***Jump, Frog, Jump***

by Robert Kalan

***Big Red Barn***

by Margaret Wise Brown

## SONG:

**The Eentsy Weensty Spider**

The eentsy weensty spider climbed up the water spout.

Down came the rain and washed the spider out.

Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.




































And the eentsy weensty spider went up the spout again.



# April

**Website to explore: [www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents](http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents)**

Reading rockets is a national multimedia project offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Think of words that rhyme with your name 	Read the beginning of a story 	Read at various times of the day 	Read a book with rhymes 	Read a story about families 	Ask your child to retell a story 	Ask: What is your favorite book? 
Point to the title, author, and words in a book 	Read an ABC book 	Look for letters as you drive 	Let your child turn the pages as you read 	Read a story about the zoo 	I like books about: _____ 	Read signs 
Model how to handle books with care 	Sing a rhyming song 	Read a story 	Find ABCs around the house 	Read a funny poem 	Point out the front of the book 	Read a story 
Talk about what authors and illustrators do 	Visit the library 	Find yellow things 	Help fold the laundry 	Read a book about a doctor 	Find red things 	Read a poem 
Ask: Where do you like to read? 	Make a fort and read in it together 	Count all the doors and windows in your home 	At the grocery store, talk about which things are cold 	Look out the window and talk about the weather 	Let your child help prepare a meal or snack 	Talk about patterns. Which animals have stripes? 



Text "BABY" to 511411 and get 3 free messages per week on your cell phone to help you through your pregnancy and your baby's first year.

# WRITING HELPS UNDERSTANDING



Children need opportunities to develop eye-hand coordination and to understand that ideas can be written and read by others.

Writing is one way that children develop language and early literacy skills. Children grow into strong writers when they are encouraged to:

- Use a variety of forms of early writing—scribbling, drawing, letter-strings, etc.
- Begin to write familiar words, such as their name
- Attempt to read or pretend to read what they have “written”
- Understand book concepts—title, author, front, back, etc.
- Understand that ideas can be written down and read by others
- Develop greater control over the physical skills needed to write

## BOOKS TO READ:

***The Alphabet Tree***  
by Leo Lionni

***My Very First Mother Goose*** by Iona Opie

***Is Your Momma a Llama*** by Steven Kellogg

***Brown Bear, Brown Bear*** by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle

## RHYME:

**Baa, Baa Black Sheep**

Baa baa black sheep,  
have you any wool?

Yes sir, yes sir, three  
bags full!




































One for the master,  
one for the dame,

And one for the little  
boy who lives down  
the lane.

# May

Website to explore: [families.naeyc.org](http://families.naeyc.org)

Parents and families are young children's first teachers. This site has a special section dedicated to resources especially for parents. Whether you are looking for a quality child care program, preschool, or school for your child, or you're interested in activities you can do at home to encourage your child's development, NAEYC can help!

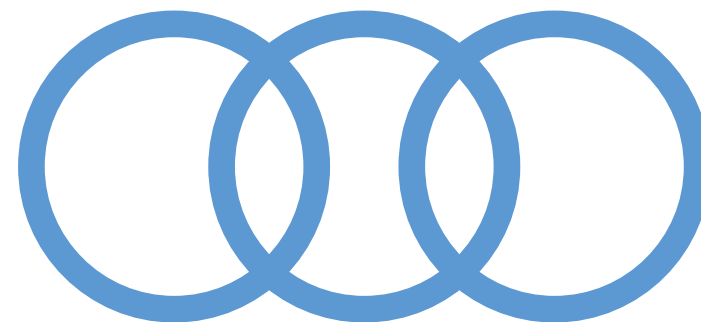
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Draw a picture of your family 	Read an ABC book 	Play restaurant and write out orders 	Make a grocery list 	Write your name with markers 	Label objects in the house 	Find things that start with "F" 
Go to the library and look for words 	Draw a bird 	Write a thank you note 	Make an invitation for a friend to come play 	Trace letters in a magazine 	Form letters with rocks and sticks 	Go for a drive and look for words 
Draw a car 	Write your first name 	Write a story together about a trip 	Write your name in sand or salt 	Write outside with sidewalk chalk 	Find things that start with "B" 	Go to the grocery store and look for words 
Draw a cat 	Make a birthday card 	Make a map to a buried treasure 	Draw a dog 	Make a sign for a door 	Type your name on a keyboard 	Spell with refrigerator magnets 
Find things that start with "T" 	Take a walk and look for words 	Make puppets out of brown paper bags and tell a story 	Trace your child's foot and cut it out together 	Show your child the correct way to wash their hands 	Talk about how we're all unique 	Draw self-portraits 



Play is a child's work. Children learn about the world around them through their play. You can make almost anything a game. Teach them math at the grocery store. Teach them words through rhymes. Teach them rhythm by singing.



# SPEAKING WELL, LISTENING WELL



Speaking and listening are ways that children develop language and early literacy skills.

Children are better able to express themselves clearly and communicate with others when they are encouraged to:

- Participate in conversations
- Develop a larger vocabulary
- Follow simple spoken directions
- Listen attentively and avoid interrupting
- Understand that people communicate in a variety of ways
- Play with sounds—rhyming, finger plays, etc.

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Today is Monday***  
by Eric Carle

***Five Little Monkeys  
Jumping on the Bed***  
by Eileen Christelow

***Do Your Ears Hang  
Low?*** by Caroline  
Jayne Church

***Diddle, Diddle,  
Dumpling*** by Tracey  
Campbell Pearson

## RHYME:

### **Five Little Monkeys**

Five little monkeys  
jumping on the bed

One fell off and  
bumped his head

Mama called the  
doctor,

And the doctor said




































No more monkeys  
jumping on the bed

(Repeat with four  
monkeys, then three,  
and so on)

# June

**Website to explore: [zerotothree.org](http://zerotothree.org)**

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that provides parents, professionals, and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Repeat nursery rhymes 	Listen to bird sounds 	Ask: What rhymes with "cup?" 	Ask: What begins with the same sound as "ball?" 	Ask a relative questions about when they were young 	Listen to a storyteller 	Ask your child what you need to set the table 
Make up silly words that have the same first sound 	Talk about summer 	Ask: What rhymes with "hot?" 	Ask: What begins with the same sound as "lunch?" 	Practice answering questions from a friend 	Listen to an audio book 	Name items at the store 
Say your name with different first letters 	Have your child give directions for making a snack 	Ask: What rhymes with "sun?" 	Ask: What begins with the same sound as "sand?" 	Practice taking turns talking with a friend 	Ask: What rhymes with "smile?" 	Identify places as you drive 
Make up a silly song 	Identify sounds outside 	Pretend to have a phone conversation 	Make up silly words that rhyme 	Play "Simon Says" 	Talk about foods you like to eat 	Ask: What begins with the same sound as "beach?" 
Play "I Spy something that rhymes with..." 	Visit the library and name pictures in the books 	Say "Hello!" when someone greets you 	Play a game together like Peek-a-Boo or Hokey Pokey 	Show your child how to use measuring cups 	Go on a rectangle hunt in your house 	Make shadow puppets with your hands and a flashlight 



Ready4K is an evidence-based text messaging program for parents of 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds provided at no cost. Each week, you will receive three texts with fun facts and easy tips to boost your child's learning. Sign up for free at: [ready4k.parentpowered.com](http://ready4k.parentpowered.com).

# GROWING FIT & STRONG

Physical development contributes to a child's overall health and well being.

A child's large motor development and fine motor development can be enhanced by encouraging:

- Recognition of body parts
- Participation in active play
- Opportunities to coordinate movements—throwing, catching, etc.
- Cutting with scissors
- Using pencils and crayons
- Putting together puzzles
- Stringing beads

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Get Moving with Grover*** by Random House

***Eyes, Nose, Fingers and Toes*** by Judy Hindley

***From Head to Toe*** by Eric Carle

***Harold and the Purple Crayon*** by Crockett Johnson

## FINGERPLAY:

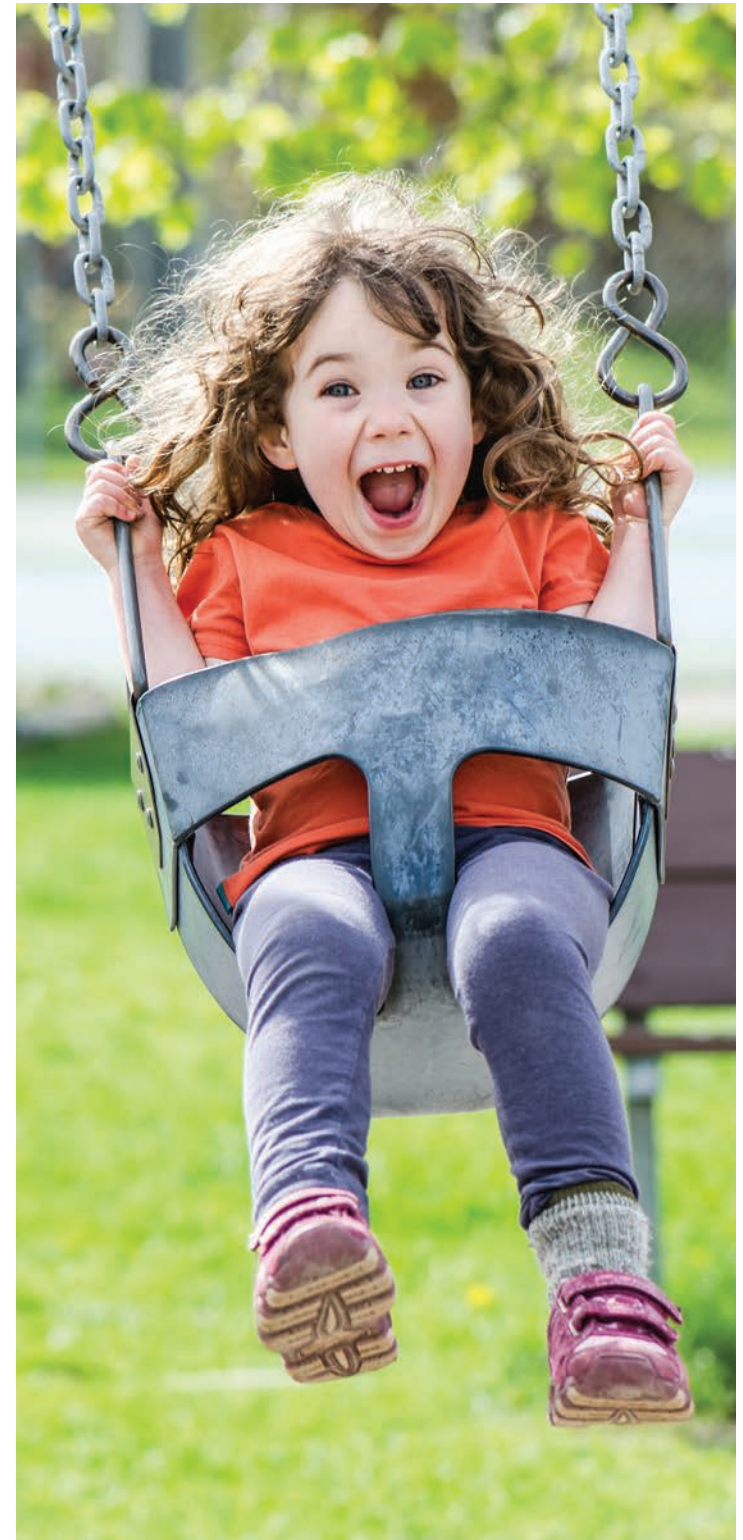
### Five Plump Peas

Five plump peas in a pea pod pressed.  
(Hold one fist up)

One grew, two grew, and so did all the rest.  
(Open fist one finger at a time)

They grew and they grew and they never stopped.  
(Starting with hands together, move them apart on each "grew")

They grew so big that the pea pod popped!  
(Clap hands on "Popped")








































# July

## Website to explore: [beactivekids.org](http://beactivekids.org)

Be Active Kids is an innovative, interactive physical activity, nutrition, and food safety curriculum for preschoolers ages four and five. The goal of the program is to give young children the tools they need to develop positive physical activity and nutrition habits for a lifetime of good health.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Kick a ball 	Throw folded socks into a basket 	Practice cutting with scissors 	Bend to one side, and then the other 	Walk on a line of tape or yarn 	Play Simon Says 	Play with Play Doh 
March to music 	Make a necklace with "O" shaped cereal 	Measure how tall you are 	Stand on your tippy toes 	Hop on one foot 	Play Hide-and-Seek 	Run a relay race 
Bounce a ball 	Practice coloring with crayons 	March in a pretend band 	Stretch your arms and legs 	Jump on two feet 	Play Follow the Leader 	Do a puzzle 
Ride a bike 	Pull a wagon 	Swing on a swing 	Touch your toes 10 times 	Try skipping or hopping 	Play tag 	Throw a ball 
Catch a ball 	Slide down a slide 	Go for a walk outside and identify the sounds you hear 	Help your child type their name on a keyboard 	Invite a friend to play in the water 	Make up silly words that rhyme 	Think of something you can do to help someone today 



Smoking can make it more difficult to get pregnant, cause complications during pregnancy and pose serious health risks for the baby after it is born. Get information on how to quit smoking at the Michigan Tobacco Quitline, 1-800-QuitNow or 1-800-784-8669.

# GROWING UP HEALTHY & SAFE

A child's physical health, safety and nutrition contribute to their learning.

Children should be encouraged to:

- Keep themselves clean
- Wash hands
- Brush teeth
- Practice personal hygiene
- Prevent spreading germs
- Recognize symptoms of a sore throat
- Recognize medical instruments like a thermometer
- Recognize medical professionals
- Learn/keep appropriate safety procedures
- Identify who to turn to in an emergency
- Begin to know important facts about themselves
- Understand importance of eating nutritious meals

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition*** by Lizzy Rockwell

***Little Yoga: A Toddler's First Book of Yoga*** by Rebecca Whitford

***In the Tall, Tall Grass*** by Denise Fleming

***Everybody Poops*** by Taro Gami

## RHYME:

### **Peter Piper**

Peter Piper picked a peck  
of pickled peppers.

A peck of pickled peppers  
Peter Piper picked.

If Peter Piper picked a peck  
of pickled peppers,




































Where's the peck of pickled  
peppers that Peter Piper  
picked?



# August

Website to explore: [kidshealth.org](http://kidshealth.org)

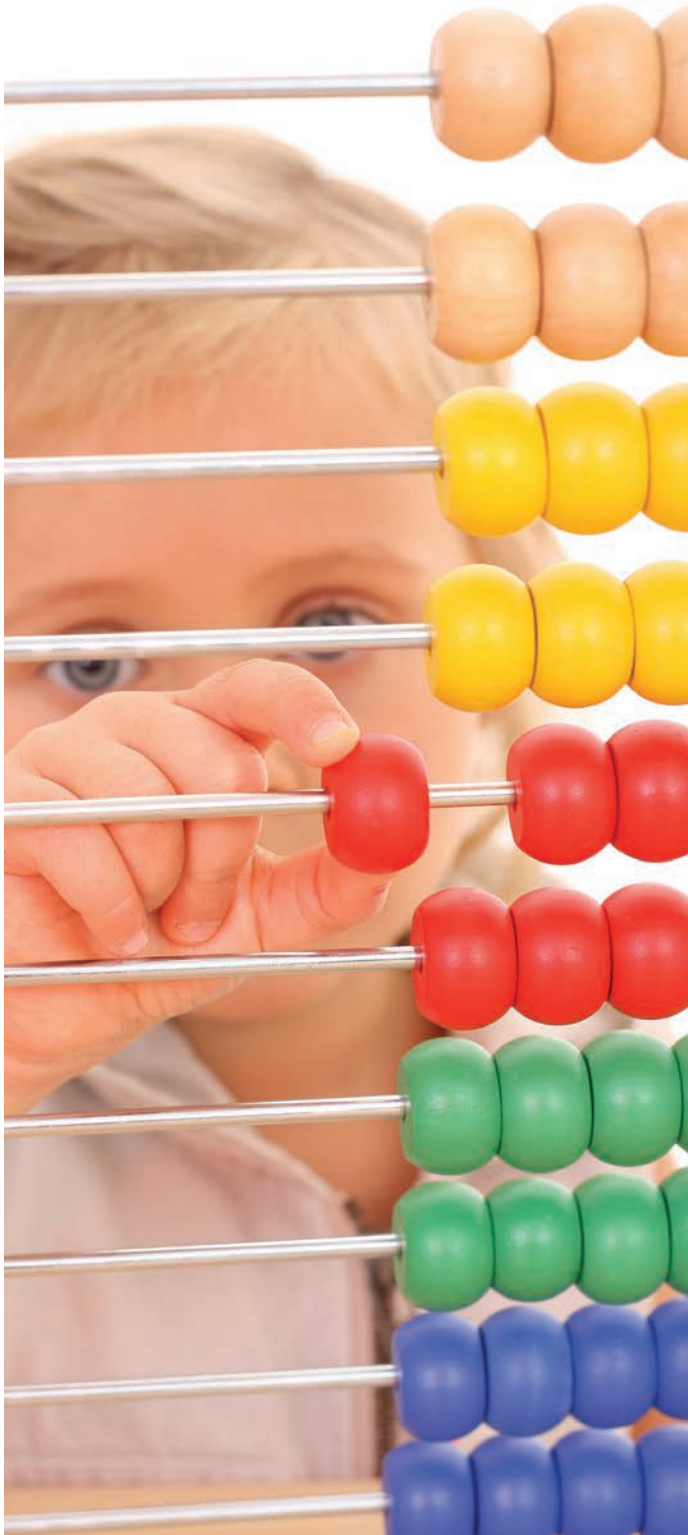
This website for parents, children, and teens contains information on topics such as health, nutrition and fitness; emotions and behavior; growth and development; pregnancy and newborns; positive parenting; and more. Information available in English and Spanish.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date 	Use a fork, spoon, and napkin 	Practice combing your hair 	Practice crossing the street with an adult 	Ask: What is your favorite food? 	Talk about what police officers do 	Read a book about a police officer 
Discuss emergency situations 	Don't forget to wear sunglasses 	Practice dressing yourself 	Practice reciting your phone number 	Ask: What foods start with the same letter as your name? 	Talk about what fire fighters do 	Read a book about a fire fighter 
Discuss fire safety 	Remember to apply sunscreen 	Ask: How old are you? 	Read the signs at the grocery store 	Prepare a healthy snack 	Talk about what a dentist does 	Read a book about a dentist 
Make an appointment to visit the dentist 	Put on your own shoes 	Practice reciting your address 	Eat fresh veggies 	Brush your teeth 	Ask: What is your birth date? 	Read ingredients on food packages 
Draw on the sidewalk with chalk 	Do a puzzle together 	Play a game together 	Play with a dish pan of water and plastic cups, spoons, and bowls 	Have your child help you with a household chore 	Blow bubbles together 	Think of five things that are green 



GSRP is Michigan's state-funded high-quality preschool program for four-year-old children. The program is designed to ensure every child is prepared to thrive when they enter kindergarten. Call (810) 364-8990 or (810) 982-8541 to see if your child qualifies.



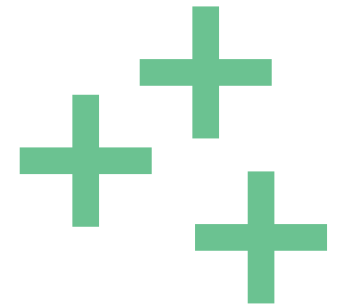


# EVERYDAY MATH

Young children's understanding of math extends beyond numbers and counting.

Early learning in math can be encouraged by helping children learn to:

- Solve daily life problems—if everyone needs a napkin, how many should I set?
- Compare, sort and classify objects, relationships and events in their environment
- Recognize patterns—yellow, blue, yellow, blue
- Make predictions
- Discover simple ways to measure—weight, time, temperature, length, etc.
- Count up to 10 and beyond
- Describe more/less/same
- Use number words
- Understand one-to-one correspondence—one sock for each shoe, one foot for each sock
- Recognize geometric shapes—circles and squares
- Understand direction, order, positions—up, down, over, under, top, bottom, etc.



## BOOKS TO READ:

***Time to Get Dressed***  
by Elivia Savadier

***Gossie***  
by Oliver Dunrea

***Caps for Sale***  
by Esphyr Slobodkina

***The Doorbell Rang***  
by Pat Hutchins

## SONG TO SING:

### **Five Green and Speckled Frogs**




































Five green and speckled frogs sat on a hollow log  
Eating some most delicious bugs. Yum yum!

One jumped into the pool where it was nice and cool  
Then there were four speckled frogs.

(Repeat with four frogs, then three, and so on.)

# September

**Website to explore: [sesameworkshop.org](http://sesameworkshop.org)**  
 The Sesame Workshop tells the many stories behind their work with children over the past 40 years and how the Workshop impacts children in the United States and far beyond. Join them in exploring the longest street in the world.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Count the chairs at the table 	Count the letters in your child's name 	Find leaves and compare colors 	Play with LEGOs 	Ask: How many napkins do you need to set the table? 	Find triangles 	Play a board game 
Sort cereal 	Count the numbers on a clock 	Ask: Which is longer—an apple or banana? 	Write 1-2-3 	Do a number puzzle 	Sort and match sock pairs 	Find ovals 
Follow and prepare a simple recipe 	Find patterns outside 	Ask: Which is taller—a spoon or knife? 	Name the numbers on a phone 	Look for numbers around the house 	Count the wheels on a car 	Find circles 
Measure things using a block 	Make a pattern with coins 	Ask: Which is hotter—summer or winter? 	Find squares 	Ask: Which do you eat first—breakfast or lunch? 	Develop a daily schedule 	Play with dominoes 
Sort coins and discuss how they similar/different 	Ask: Which is heavier—a cotton ball or a toy? 	Practice cutting squares, circles, triangles, etc. 	Count berries or other snacks as you eat them 	See how many 5's you can find 	Draw a pie on a paper plate and cut it into halves, then quarters 	Fold a paper airplane and fly it 



The Maternal Infant Health Program is a home visiting program for pregnant women and infants. MIHP provides support service to women and families so they have healthy pregnancies, good birth outcomes, and healthy infants. Call (810) 987-4903 for information.

# SCIENCE IS ALL AROUND US



Young children's understanding of science helps them to understand the world around them and how it works.

Early learning in science can be encouraged by helping children learn to:

- Become interested and curious about their environment
- Question why things happen
- Build an awareness of plant and animal life
- Understand the use of simple tools
- Describe environmental characteristics—seasons, weather, rocks, earth, etc.

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Diary of a Worm***

by Doreen Cronin

***Owl Moon***

by Jane Yolen

***Leaf Man***

by Lois Ehlert

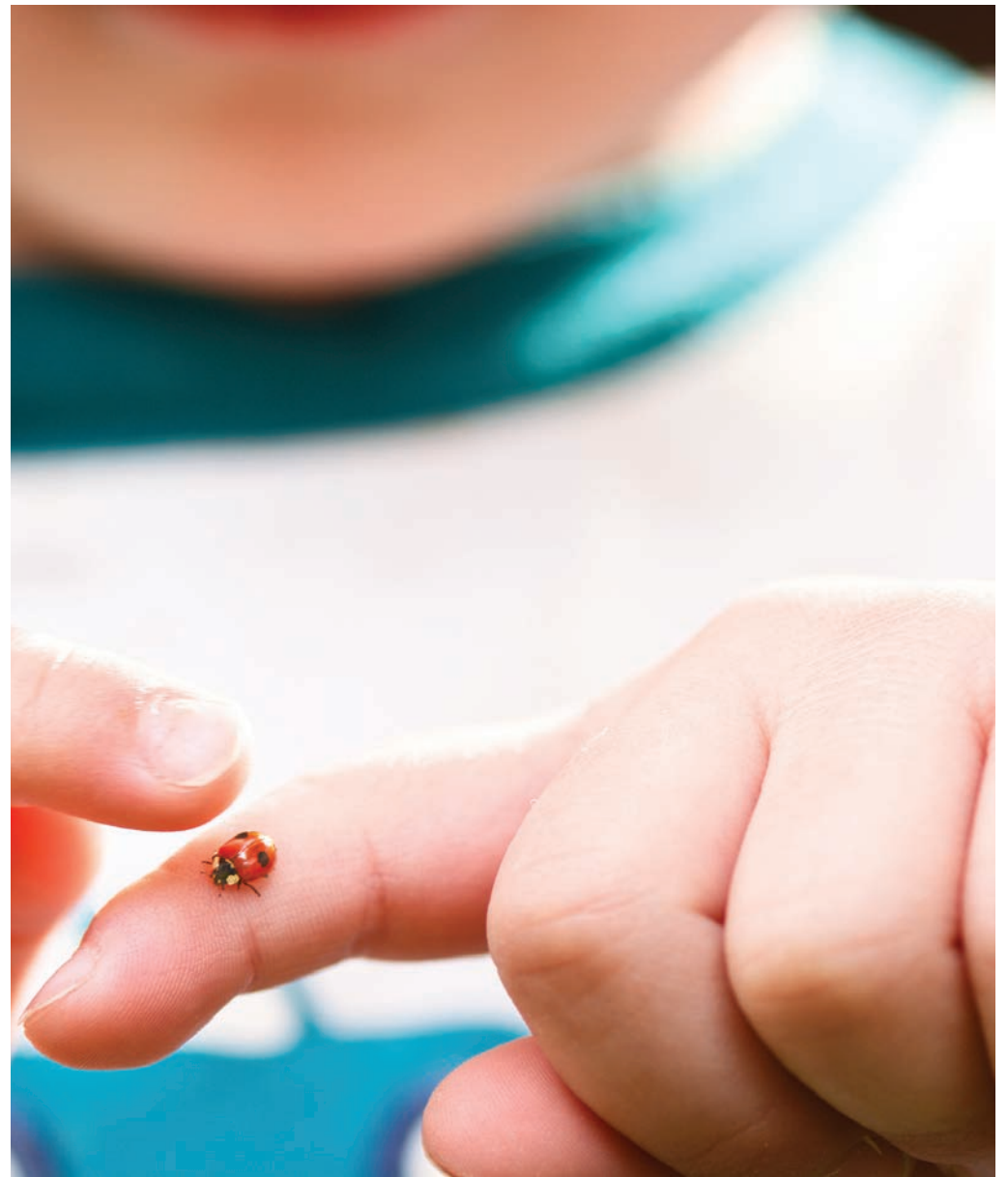
***If Frogs Made the Weather***

by Marion Dane Bauer

## SONG TO SING:

**Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star**

Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what you are.








































# October

Website to explore: [pbs.org/parents](https://pbs.org/parents)

PBS Parents is a trusted resource that's filled with information on child development and early learning. It also serves as a parent's window to the world of PBS KIDS, offering access to educational games and activities inspired by PBS KIDS programs.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Draw a picture of the moon 	Ask: Who jumped over the moon? 	Read a book about your child's favorite animal 	Read a book about recycling 	Blow bubbles. How long before one pops? 	Shine a flashlight on objects. What do their shadows look like? 	Predict what will float in the tub water and what will sink 
Make a ramp and race two cars. Which is faster? 	Will a magnet pick up a paperclip? A pencil? A penny? 	Recycle 	Take a walk and look for trash on the ground to throw away 	How does the ground feel? How does the couch feel? 	Close your eyes. What sounds do you hear? 	Close your eyes. What do you smell? 
What tastes sour? Salty? Sweet? 	Read a book about seeds 	Ask: How do you take care of a dog? 	Ask: Where do fish live? Birds? 	Count the number of seeds in an apple 	Ask: Why does a squirrel collect acorns? 	Place paper over a leaf and rub with a crayon 
Read a book about the weather 	Go cloud gazing 	Put dirt in a cup. What happens when you add water? 	Ask: What is the weather like today? 	Gather 10 rocks. How are they similar/different? 	How many stars can you count? 	What shape is the moon? 
Make something out of recycled materials 	See how many green things you can find 	Go on a nature scavenger hunt 	Move like different animals—hop like a rabbit, slither like a snake 	Play "I Spy" outside 	Let your child help you rake leaves 	Make a spider web on the floor with yarn or string 



Children's Special Health Care Services provides help to families of children who have chronic health conditions or disabilities. Call (810) 987-6102 for information.

# LIVING IN A COMMUNITY

Early learning in social studies will give young children the skills they need to be citizens in the community in which they live.

Children learn as they observe the world around them and should be encouraged to observe and learn more about:

- Themselves
- Their families
- Special occasions/events
- Recent and past events
- Rules and consequences
- Occupations
- How people use money
- Taking care of their environment



## BOOKS TO READ:

*I Lost My Tooth in Africa* by Penda Diakite

*My Name is Yoon* by Helen Recorvitz

*Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold

*Abuela* by Arthur Dorros

## SONG TO SING:

### **The Wheels on the Bus**




































The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
Round and round, round and round  
The wheels on the bus go round and round,  
All through the town.

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...  
The driver on the bus says, "move on back"...  
The people on the bus go up and down...  
The babies on the bus go "wah, wah, wah"...  
The parents on the bus say, "I love you"...



# November

**Website to explore: [www.sccresa.org/great-start](http://www.sccresa.org/great-start)**  
The St. Clair County Great Start collaborative is a partnership of parents, child care providers, service providers, businesses and other community leaders who are committed to giving every child in St. Clair County a great start in life.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Set up a play store 	Read a book about people who work in your community 	Ask: What do you want to be when you grow up? 	Ask: What does a teacher do? 	Ask: What does a hairdresser or barber do? 	Visit a beauty or barber shop 	Ask: What is your favorite store to visit? 
Set up a play library. Check out books 	Draw a picture of your family 	Make a family photo collage 	Ask: What color are your eyes? What about other people? 	Look at a map 	Ask: What color is your skin? What about other people? 	Read a book about a different culture 
Pretend you are a photographer. Take "pictures" of things 	Read a book about holidays or celebrations 	Ask: How do you celebrate your birthday? 	Ask: What places have you visited with your family? 	Ask: Have you ever ridden on a plane, a train, or a boat? 	Get the mail from the mailbox 	Ask: Do you know someone who lives in a different city? 
Play dress up 	Ask: Where do eggs come from? 	Ask: Where do you get your food? 	Visit the grocery store 	Ask: What does the grocer do? 	Read a book about a farm 	Donate food to someone in need 
Visit a local senior center 	Look at a family album 	Talk about ways to be a good friend 	Invite a friend over to play 	Read a book about friends 	Draw a picture of a friend 	Make a meal or snack together 



The Imagination Library provides registered children a new book each month from the month of birth until their fifth birthday. Every 0-5 year old child living in St. Clair County is eligible to register for Imagination Library. Go to [GreatStartStClair.org](http://GreatStartStClair.org) to sign up.





# TECHNOLOGY AND HOW WE LIVE

Technology is a broad term which includes a variety of tools such as cameras, computers, telephones, electronic games, and television.

Technology is an everyday part of our society, and it will be an increasing feature in the future lives of young children. Because of this, we must encourage children to:

- Use various types of technology tools
- Follow simple directions with technology tools
- Understand various components of the computer system
- Work cooperatively with others while using technology tools
- Learn to follow the rules of using technology tools
- Learn to handle equipment gently

## BOOKS TO READ:

***Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*** by Mo Williams

***Click, Clack, Moo—Cows That Type*** by Doreen Cronin

***A Good Day*** by Kevin Henkes

***Flotsam*** by David Wiesner

## SONG TO SING:

**Hickory, Dickory, Dock**  
Hickory, Dickory Dock  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one.  
The mouse ran down.  
Hickory, Dickory Dock.

# December

**Website to explore: [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)**

Media is fun and our kids love it. We also know that kids now spend so much time absorbing its messages and images that it has become “the other parent” in their lives. The purpose of the website is to help families find trustworthy information to help manage their kids’ media lives.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Read a book about musical instruments <input type="checkbox"/>	Check out a book or CD at the library <input type="checkbox"/>	Read an outdoor thermometer <input type="checkbox"/>	Use simple household tools such as scissors, stapler, pliers, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>	Practice turning a computer on and off <input type="checkbox"/>	Visit the Internet together <input type="checkbox"/>	Explore a computer <input type="checkbox"/>
Record yourself <input type="checkbox"/>	Play a music CD <input type="checkbox"/>	Use the computer at the library <input type="checkbox"/>	Listen to an audio book <input type="checkbox"/>	Find red things around your house <input type="checkbox"/>	Identify numbers on a microwave <input type="checkbox"/>	Look at how a bicycle is made <input type="checkbox"/>
Listen to music with headphones <input type="checkbox"/>	Talk on the telephone <input type="checkbox"/>	Cut paper snowflakes <input type="checkbox"/>	Wind a watch <input type="checkbox"/>	Look closely at a musical instrument <input type="checkbox"/>	Read a book about buildings <input type="checkbox"/>	Find something green <input type="checkbox"/>
Sing a song in a robot voice <input type="checkbox"/>	Make a sand timer <input type="checkbox"/>	Listen to a clock tick <input type="checkbox"/>	Make a sock puppet <input type="checkbox"/>	Make “music” with kitchen instruments <input type="checkbox"/>	Identify numbers on a cell phone <input type="checkbox"/>	Identify letters and numbers on a computer keyboard <input type="checkbox"/>
Take a picture with a camera <input type="checkbox"/>	Put stickers on the left mouse button <input type="checkbox"/>	Practice using a computer mouse <input type="checkbox"/>	Make a homemade gift for a loved one <input type="checkbox"/>	Talk about what it means to be a good friend <input type="checkbox"/>	Draw a snowman together <input type="checkbox"/>	Go outside and talk about what winter looks like <input type="checkbox"/>



Lead hazards can be found in many places inside and outside your home including paint, lead dust, soil, and drinking water. To learn more about protecting your family from lead and other poisons, contact the St. Clair County Health Department at (810) 987-5300.



**REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY**

499 Range Road, PO Box 1500 • Marysville, MI 48040

(810) 364-8990 • [www.sccresa.org](http://www.sccresa.org)

St. Clair County RESA is one of 57 intermediate school districts in Michigan. It provides cost-effective support to the county's seven public school districts comprising 22,500 students working in 48 different buildings.

RESA's vision is "Educational Excellence for All."

Funding for Trusted Advisors is made available through a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education and US Department of Education.