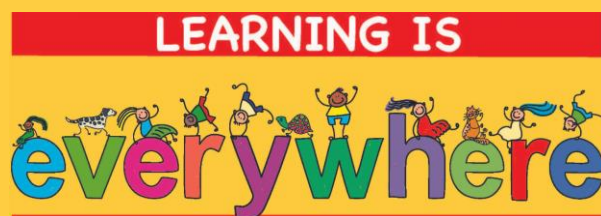


April 2025

Fun activities, aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards,
to help prepare children for school success!



We're sharing our story!

Babies

Hold your baby and look into the mirror. Point out the different parts of their body (toes, head, fingers) and then point them out on yourself. Use words to describe the other parts of each of you. Tell them what each part does. [Read more.](#)

Toddlers

Ask a relative or family friend to record them reading their favorite children's story or telling a favorite story of when they were a child. Listen or watch this recording with your toddler and talk about who recorded the story. Follow along in a book that uses pictures, braille, or signs to tell the story. Create your book using personal photos, words, and illustrations if none are available. [Read more.](#)

Preschoolers

Give your preschooler a magnifying glass to look at their hair, nails, and skin. What do they see? Have them also look at your hair, nails, and skin. What is the same? What is different? Is each part the same color, texture, or size? What makes each part different? Using the magnification tool on your tablet or computer, demonstrate how the size changes. You can also feel the texture of hair, nails, and skin. Use soft, smooth, or bumpy words to describe what is felt. [Read more.](#)

Kindergartners

Have your kindergartner think of some things they can't do now but might do when they grow older. Ask them to think of what needs to happen so they can do these activities, like getting taller to drive a car. What are some things they can do now that they couldn't do when they were younger? Ask them what changed. For example, they drink out of a cup now, instead of a bottle, because they can hold a cup better than when they were a baby. [Read more.](#)

10 Books about Growing Up

Community Helpers From A to Z by Bobbie Kalman & Niki Walker

Pretend You're a Community Helper by Karen Bryant-Mole

Hello Benny!: What It's Like to Be a Baby by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley

When I Grow Up by P. K. Hallinan

Jobs People Do by DK

The Berenstain Bears: When I Grow Up by Jan and Stan Berenstain

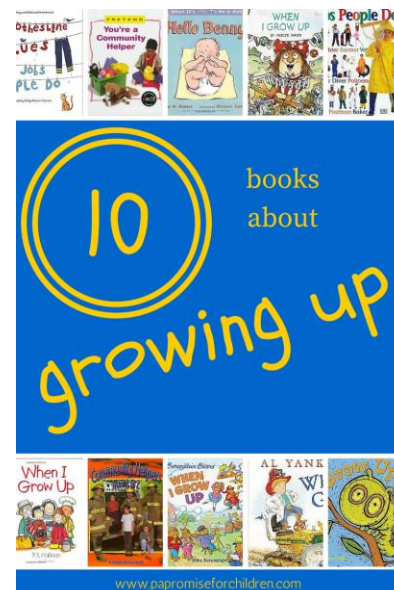
When I Grow Up by Al Yankovic

When I Grow Up (Little Critter) by Mercer Mayer

Grow Up! by Nina Laden

Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do by Kathryn Heling, Deborah Hembrook, Andy Robert Davies

[Print this list!](#)



Resources for Families

Apply Now for Lifting Family Voices: Using your Story to Strengthen Programs and Spark Change

Are you pregnant or a parent/caregiver of a child/children birth to age five in Pennsylvania? If so, Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) invites you to register for the *Lifting Family Voices: Using your Story to Strengthen Programs and Spark Change* workshop on June 12, 2025, 8:30am – 4pm in Harrisburg, PA. In this workshop, you'll gain tools and tips to help you develop and share your family's story and experiences. Learn how to make your voice heard, influence decisions, and create a more supportive community for all.

Reimbursement for child care and travel expenses such as lodging and mileage within guidelines will be provided.

Registration is due by May 16, 2025. Seats are limited and will be provided on a first come first serve basis. [See the flyer for more details.](#) [Apply here.](#) For questions, please contact Sadia Batool at c-sabatool@pa.gov.

Register Now for the 2025 Pennsylvania One Book Live Event

The 2025 PA One Book is *Arlo Draws an Octopus*, written by Lori Mortensen and illustrated by Rob Sayegh Jr. When Arlo decides to draw an octopus, he can't help but think that maybe he's not an octopus drawer. His drawing has a head that looks like a hill and eight squiggly arms that look like roads. It's an octopus disaster-piece! But just as Arlo vows never to draw an octopus again, he makes a discovery that changes his perspective about his drawing . . . and much more.

[Register now](#) to join the April 10, 2025, 10:30 am virtual live event with the author and illustrator. Space at the virtual live event is limited. Can't make the virtual event? No worries! The event will be recorded, and the recording will be available afterward.

Pennsylvania's libraries and early learning programs have received copies to share with young children. Visit your local library to access a copy, and check out the [PA One Book website](#) for early learning activities, crafts, and resources related to the book. Follow the [PA One Book on Facebook](#) for family-friendly fun posts!

Celebrate the Month of the Young Child!

During April, we come together to celebrate young children's joy, wonder, and boundless potential! 🌸💖 The Month of the Young Child is a time to recognize the critical role families, early childhood educators, and communities play in nurturing and shaping the future of our youngest learners.

How can you become involved in MOYC?

- Look for ways to celebrate in your home, early learning program, or community.
- Create a display that shares why quality early learning is so important.



[Learn more!](#)

Fun Nature-Based Learning Activities

Celebrate spring with fun activities to encourage fine motor skills and creative thinking and inspire a love of nature with these nature-based activities by Lindsey Brown, owner of Brown's Family Child Care in Venango County.

The activities are perfect to do in the home or within an early learning program. They are part of a homemade nature-based curriculum approved through the Department of Education and align with the PA Early Learning Standards.

Check out the [Bird Watching Area Activity](#), [Circle Cereal Bird Feeder](#), [Collaborative Bird Feeder](#), and [Homemade Bird Feeder](#) activities.



Sustainable Gardening with Kids Activity Guide

Empower kids to take action and make positive contributions to their communities. This [free 18-page guide](#) by KidsGardening and High-Country Gardens walks through the basics of sustainable gardening and offers tips and activity ideas for four sustainable youth garden themes.



Whole Body Health

Health Trends in Early Childhood Education

The Pennsylvania Key is excited to introduce [Health Trends in Early Childhood](#), a monthly resource dedicated to important health topics affecting young children (from birth to age five), their families, and caregivers.

This month, in recognition of the Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month, we're focusing on Child Well-Being. The goal is to highlight ways we can all help children grow up healthy and strong.

Each month, you'll find valuable insights into a current health topic in early childhood—why it matters, how it impacts children and families, and steps we can take to support the well-being of little ones in our communities. Plus, you'll get trusted resources to help you learn more.



Protecting Your Baby from a Measles Outbreak: FAQs

Measles is wildly contagious. Nearly 1 out of every 3 children under the age of 5 who catch measles end up in the hospital.

Are some young children at greater risk from the measles virus during an outbreak? What, if anything, can parents do to protect their little ones? [Here are some answers from the American Academy of Pediatrics.](#)



Mindful Parenting

Parenting can be stressful. Parenting kids with special needs can be even more stressful, and it can cause anxiety, depression and marital problems. A mindfulness practice can help alleviate stress and prevent these problems. And it can make you a better parent. [Use mindfulness techniques to take stress and anxiety out of raising kids.](#)



Positive Parenting, Thriving Kids

The [Positive Parenting, Thriving Kids Project](#) is a series of free videos and print resources with practical, evidence-based information and skills to address families most common parenting challenges. This project is part of the Child Mind Institute's innovative partnership with the state of California. The series is organized into four categories, each containing multiple videos. Each video has been created in both English and Spanish. [Ver episodios en español](#)



Don't Wait. Vaccinate

When you plan summer activities, please remember to make an appointment for vaccinations. Scheduling your children now for the vaccines they will need to start the next school year will help you cross a critical item off your hectic back-to-school list this fall.

Immunizations should be part of your children's regular school physical before kindergarten. See [information about immunizations](#) for students attending Pennsylvania schools. For more information regarding vaccines required for your children, please contact your children's health care provider.



Helping Parents Be Parents

Parenting can be challenging. There's no such thing as a perfect parent, but there are many ways to be a good one.

[The Early Learning GPS](#) has tips, tools, and resources to help when families encounter challenging behavior with their children.

Parenting is challenging, and the challenge comes with little direction at times. Just as there are no perfect children, there is no such thing as a perfect parent. Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) believes every parent needs and deserves two things: Information and support! Visit the [PFSA website](#) for resources and support.



Calendar of Activities for Early Learning Providers

Throughout April, let's celebrate the Month of the Young Child, a time that shines a spotlight on young children's and their families' needs. It's also a moment to acknowledge the significant impact of early childhood programs and services, including yours, in meeting these needs.



As an early learning professional, your role is crucial in the Month of the Young Child. Check out the April Calendar of Activities designed specifically for you, with activities and information to help prepare children and their families for school success. [Click here to print the April Calendar of Activities for Early Learning Professionals.](#)

Our Favorite Pinterest Pins

[12 wet, muddy happy books about Spring](#)
[25 ways to get kids gardening](#)
[Build a bug](#)
[Train Color Sorting Activity](#)
[Scissor Activities for Kids](#)
[From Seed to Table](#)



Are you following the [Spring into Fun](#) board on Pinterest?



[Share This Email](#)



[Share This Email](#)



[Share This Email](#)