

# Color Mixing

Supplies: Ziploc bag, assorted paint colors

Pour paint into the bag, flatten as much air out as you can and seal tightly. Let your child explore with the bag— write letters, numbers, draw pictures, etc. Ask your child to describe how it feels, cold? Soft? Squishy?

For color mixing, add second color to bag and reseal. Ask your child to guess what the new color will be and then have them play with the bag to mix the colors.

Pair with *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stohl Walsh, *Mix It Up* by Hervé Tullet, or *Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni

*Early Literacy:* Vocabulary  
*Science:* Color mixing, hypothesizing

# Dance Party

Put on music and dance and sing along with your child! Don't be afraid to let loose and be silly, your child will follow your lead!

Try action songs that encourage your child to follow directions in the song or act out a character and dance along! Great CDs for action dancing can be found in the Children's Room. Look for The Laurie Berkner Band, Greg and Steve, Hap Palmer, Sue Schnitzer to start.

*Early Literacy Skill:* Singing: slows down language to hear the different sounds and syllables  
*Early literacy Skill:* vocabulary

# Touch & Feel Guessing Game

Gather a collection of soft items (cotton ball, feather, tissue, piece of fabric, etc) and harder objects (block, key, toy car, etc) and place them into a wipes container with a rubbery opening (or a tissue box.) Have your child reach in and describe the first object they feel, can they identify it? Have them pull it out of the box and talk about what they see. Have your child sort the objects into "hard" and "soft" categories as they remove them.

*Early Literacy Skill:* Talking—vocabulary  
*Science:* Senses—touch and sight  
*Math:* Sorting

# Pretend to be Pirates for the Day

Pretend to be pirates for the day! Dress like a pirate! Talk like a pirate! Go on a treasure hunt! Have a day of pirate adventures!

Pirates not your thing? Pick another character to pretend play! Be a prince or princess, a knight, a super hero, a ballerina... whatever interests your child!

*Early Literacy Skill:* through play children learn about the world, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills  
*Early Literacy Skill:* vocabulary

# Will it Float?

Gather a variety of objects from around your home before your child's bath. Examples: tissue, plastic toys, spoon, paper towel, crayon, anything that would not be ruined by water would work!

While your child is in the tub, play a game of "Will it float?". Hold the item up, talk about what it is and have your child hypothesize whether it will sink or float when thrown in the water. Then let them toss it in and see what happens! See if you can change an object that floats to sink or vice versa. This is also a fun outdoor activity with a bucket.

*Early Literacy Skill:* Talking - vocabulary building  
*Science:* hypothesizing

# Read a Wordless Book

Read a wordless book to your child, then have them read a wordless book to you!

Some wordless books available in the Children's Room:

*Journey* by Aaron Becker

*The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney

*A Ball for Daisy* by Chris Raschka

*Good Night Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann

*Chalk* by Bill Thomson

*Flotsam* by David Wiesner

*Early Literacy Skill:* cultivate language and narrative abilities  
*Early Literacy Skill:* understanding elements of a story structure (beginning, middle, and end)  
*Early Literacy Skill:* develop visual literacy

# Do a Puzzle

Put together a puzzle with your child. Talk with your child about what they are seeing. Talk with them as you are putting pieces together. Ask them why they think two pieces go together. Why might two pieces not fit together?

*Early Literacy Connection:* Just like puzzle pieces, letters and words fit together to create words and sentences. Children need to be able to see differences between both letters and words; looking at pieces of a puzzle to figure out where they go is similar to looking at letters and words to figure out what they mean. Puzzles also provide problem solving skills and hand-eye coordination which are important early literacy skills.

# Stage an A to Z Scavenger Hunt

Have a scavenger hunt with your child where they need to find one thing that starts with every letter.

Other Scavenger Hunt ideas:

Number Scavenger hunt - find a certain number of objects i.e.: 1 pen, 2 leaves, 3 socks, etc.

Nature Hunt- find items like twig, bark, leaf, stone

Fitness Challenge- have your child look for a list of objects; when an item is found they have to complete an activity (like 10 jumping jacks.)

*Early Literacy Skill:* Vocabulary  
*Early Literacy Skill:* Letter Recognition

# Play the Letter Game

Pick a letter and have your child identify objects that start with it.

\*Pick a room in your home and have your child name every object they see that begins with the letter. This is a great activity to entertain kids in the grocery store– what foods can you see that start with your letter?

\*Have a collection of items or pictures of things that begin with your letter. Ask your child to name the object. For an added challenge: throw in words that do not start with your letter, or words that start with your letter but are more commonly recognized as a word beginning with a different letter (example: ship/boat).

*Early Literacy Skill: vocabulary*  
*Early Literacy Skill: letter recognition*

# Letter of the Day

Choose the letter of the day and integrate it into your day.

Examples:

- \*Eat foods that start with that letter
- \*Go to a place that starts with that letter
- \*Wear clothes that have that letter connected to them (color, name of clothes, etc)
- \*Do an activity that starts with that letter
- \*Read books, sing songs that incorporate the letter

*Early Literacy Skill: vocabulary*  
*Early Literacy Skill: letter recognition*

# Play with Play-Doh

Give your child Play-Doh® or make your own and encourage your child to explore.

- \*Create letters: shape the dough into letters.
- \*Writing: Roll out a sheet and have your child write in the dough.
- \*Pretend play: give your child cookie cutters and other things to encourage pretend play. (Play a baker making cookies, a restaurant preparing food, etc.)

## Recipe for Homemade Dough

Mix together: 1 cup salt, 2 cups flour, 1 T. cream of tartar, 4 T. oil, and 1 cup hot water with food coloring added to it  
To store: wrap in plastic wrap or place in container with lid and keep in refrigerator.

*Early Literacy: develop fine motor skills*  
*Early Literacy: Language develop-*

# Use Bookflix

Make use of the Library's e-resource, Bookflix! Watch an animated picture book adaptation and read its paired non-fiction e-book.

To Access Bookflix from Home: You must be a Lexington resident and have a library card

Go to: [www.caryllibrary.org/more-books/got-homework](http://www.caryllibrary.org/more-books/got-homework)

Select Bookflix and enter your library card number

Choose a category of interest to your child, pick the pairing you'd like to view and press Go

Watch the Story to view the adaptation

Read the Book to read the non-fiction title (Read Along available)

# Read a Book About Shapes and Go On a Shape Hunt

Read a book about shapes, then challenge your child to find items of different shapes, or have them identify the shape of items you point out.

Some Shape Books Available at Cary Library:

*Circle, Square, Moose* by Kelly Bingham

*Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert

*The Wing on a Flea* by Ed Emberley

*Shape Capers* by Cathryn Falwell

*Go, Shapes, Go* by Denise Fleming

*Shapes, Shapes, Shapes* by Tana Hoban

*Dino Shapes* by Suse MacDonald

*Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

*Early Literacy Skill:* Talking—vocabulary

*Math:* Shape identification

# Color of the Day

Choose a color of the day and integrate it into your day.

Examples:

\*Eat foods of that color

\*Wear clothes that are that color

\*Do an activity that incorporates that color (paint, chalk, play with a toy of that color, etc)

\*Read books and sing songs that incorporate the color

\*Color scavenger hunt: have your child identify all the items of that color in a room

\*Go for a walk or sit outside and count the number of cars you see in that color

*Early Literacy Skill:* Talking - vocabulary building

# Try a New Fruit or Vegetable

Introduce your child to a new fruit or vegetable and engage your child in conversation.

Ask Questions:

What does it look like? Shape, color, size

How does it feel? Weight, texture

Does the inside look different? How—color, texture, etc.

How does it taste?

Let Your Child Handle It:

If possible, let them help you prepare it and talk about what you are doing or making.

*Early Literacy Skill:* Talking—vocabulary

# Make A Fort

Create a fort—outdoors or indoors — using boxes, chairs, blankets, pillows... whatever materials you have available! Spend the afternoon in your fort, reading, playing, having a snack.

*Early Literacy Skill:* through play children learn about the world, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills

*Early Literacy Skill:* vocabulary

# Role Play Nursery Rhymes

Read your child nursery rhymes, then have your child act them out.

Examples:

Jack Be Nimble: Make a candlestick out of a rolled up piece of paper or paper towel tube, let your child decorate it and then jump over it as you read the rhyme, substituting your child's name.

Little Miss Muffet: You pretend to be Miss Muffet and have your child pretend to be the spider. Let them sneak up on you and scare you away. Change roles and you play the spider. Have your child act out where they think Miss Muffet goes and what happens next.

Little Bo BEEP: Hide pictures of sheep around the room and have your child search for lost sheep.

Nursery Rhymes can be found in the 398.8's

*Early Literacy Skill*: through play children learn about the world, develop critical thinking and problem solving skills

# Read an interactive book

Read a book that encourages your child to engage with the story

Some of the great interactive books at Cary Library:

*From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle

*Don't Push The Button* by Bill Cotter

*Tap the Magic Tree* by Christie Matheson

*The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak

*Shake My Sillies Out* by Raffi

*Can You Make A Scary Face?* By Jan Thomas

*Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* By Jan Thomas

*Press Here* by Hervé Tullet

*Don't Let The Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems

# Explore an Across Lexington Route

Go for a walk on one of the Across Lexington trails.

Play a game of I Spy.

Narrate your walk; talk about what you see.

Stop and let your child explore items along the way—have them describe the shape, color, size, texture of what they find.

Count the number of other people you see along the way.

Count the number of steps between two points (example, between two trees, across the bridge, from here to the next intersection, etc.)

*Early Literacy*: vocabulary

*Math*: counting, measuring distance

# Play Simon Says

Play a game of Simon Says. Take turns playing the role of Simon.

*Early Literacy*: Talking—building vocabulary  
Listening/Receptive language skills