

November Activity Ideas

Left to Right

Here is a little song to help reinforce text progression in reading and writing. Or in simple terms, reading and writing from left side of the page to the right side.

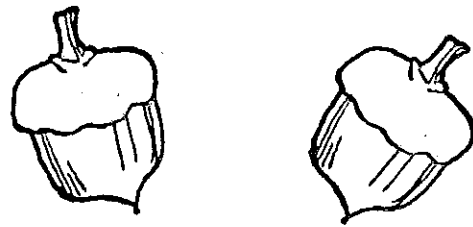
(sung to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell")

I go from left to right.
I go from left to right.
I know which way to go
When I read and write!

Busy Little Squirrel

Need to chase away those chilly fall days? Here is an activity to get your little one up and moving. Make tree branches by putting parallel lines of masking tape on the floor. Have your little squirrel scamper to the top branch and stand there. Say the rhyme below as you drop some acorns (real or brown pom-poms) just below the bottom branch. Encourage your little squirrel to jump from branch to branch until they get to the acorns. They can either climb back to the top with their nuts or pretend to bury them.

Little squirrel scampering in a tree,
Acorns falling down - one, two, three!



Sensory Bottles

The preschoolers love sensory bottles and they are so easy to make. Here are 4 ways to make some fun bottles that should help your child calm their body!!

1. **Quiet Bottle** - Depending on the size of your plastic bottle, pour 1/3 to 1 cup of corn syrup in the bottle. Add a few drops of food coloring and a teaspoon of glitter. Glue on the lid. Hold the bottle and slowly move it around to coat the inside. You could also add beads, sequins, plastic bugs/spiders/worms, or other small objects.
2. **Stress Bottle** - Make crayon shavings using a grater or crayon sharpener. Put several tablespoons of crayon shavings in the bottle and then fill with water. Glue on the lid. Shake and observe what happens. You can use this bottle to see if your child can complete a task before all the shavings settle to the bottom of the bottle.
3. **Magic Bottle** - Fill a plastic bottle with water. Add a few drops of food coloring and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of pearlescent powder. Pearlescent powder can be found at most craft stores, such as Hobby Lobby and Michael's, by the soap making supplies. This powder is what gives lotions and soaps that nice "swirly" effect. Glue on the lid. Move the bottle slowly to activate the "magic."
4. **Smelly Bottle** - Poke holes around the sides of the bottle with a large nail. Put potpourri, food (chocolate chips, pretzels, coconut), or cotton balls with a few drops of extract/oil (lemon, strawberry, orange). For a smelly surprise, put vinegar or alcohol on the cotton balls.

Parent Reading Tips

You can make reading with your children part of their daily routine. Reading together in the evening can become an important part of the bedtime ritual. Here are some additional suggestions for making reading together a pleasurable experience.



Make Reading Part of Every Day

Read at bedtime or any consistent part of the day.

Have Fun

*Children who love books learn to read.
Books can be part of special time with your child.*

A Few Minutes Is OK

Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will sit longer.

Talk About the Pictures

You do not have to read the book to tell a story.

Let Your Child Turn the Pages

Babies need board books and help to turn pages, but your three-year-old can do it alone.

Show Your Child the Cover Page

Explain what the story is about.

Show Your Child the Words

Run your finger along the words as you read them.

Make the Story Come Alive

Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Ask Questions About the Story

What do think will happen next? What is this?

Let Your Child Ask Questions About the Story

Use the story as an opportunity to engage in conversation and to talk about familiar activities and objects.

Let Your Child Tell the Story

Children as young as three years old can memorize a story, and many children love an opportunity to express their creativity.