



Links to Learning

FEBRUARY BEGINNERS

Links to Home: Shared Activities for Parents & Children

This month, your child will learn to connect the events in stories to her own life experiences, match animals with their sounds, and continue identifying shapes and colors.

Here are some suggested activities to practice these skills with your child:

- Read a book to your child that features an activity that you recently did together, such as walking in the park or visiting a zoo. Afterwards, ask your child questions that connect the event in the story to an event in her life. "Did the zoo in the book look the same as the zoo that we recently visited?"
- Ask your child to make the sounds of different animals, such as dogs, cats and cows. Reverse the activity by asking, "Which animal says meow?"
- Look at the pictures in your child's favorite book. Help your child find shapes in the pictures, and ask her to name the shapes and their colors.



Here's what your child experienced this month.

Each month's Links to Learning activities build on the month before, connecting previously learned skills with new learning. These activities include the essentials of language and math, along with a variety of other skills.






Links to Learning

FEBRUARY – BEGINNER	
🗨️ Language and Literacy	🧑🏫 Science and Social Studies
COMMUNICATION	SCIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaks using a variety of vocabulary Understands and uses plurals Asks “why” and “what” questions Verbally states first and last name Follows two-step directions Understands and uses spatial vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores speed of various objects (fast,slow) Matches parent to baby animals (big to little) Identifies daily weather (sun, rain, snow)
LITERACY	SOCIAL STUDIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes first name in print Retells a familiar story in own words Acquires new vocabulary through shared reading experiences Connects events in story to own life Asks for specific books to be read Uses pictures to predict text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about pets in the home
WRITING	DIVERSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to hold a crayon or other writing utensil correctly Makes horizontal and vertical lines on paper “Reads” own writing aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies characteristics of self (hair color, gender, eye color)
🔢 Mathematics	🎨 Creative Expression
NUMBERS AND NUMBER SENSE	MUSIC AND MUSICIANS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeats numbers 1-20 Begins to hold up fingers to indicate a number Understands the number concept of five Counts items in groups of 1-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claps hands fast or slow with music Makes simple musical instruments Dances with scarves or other musical props Sings familiar songs
GEOMETRY AND RELATIONSHIPS	ART AND ARTISTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names shapes and colors (primary and some secondary) Does simple matching of color, shapes, and objects Sorts a few objects based on color, shape, or size Matches simple 3D shapes to simple 2D shapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates 3D art using various materials Paints or draws on a vertical surface (fence, classroom wall, easel) Creates art using basic shapes Finger paints with some control
PROBLEM SOLVING AND REASONING	DRAMATIC PLAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completes 3- to 10-piece puzzles Labels items as “fast” or “slow” through trial and error Explains everyday occurrences using simple reasoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in pretend play related to animals Engages in pretend play connected to the weekly story

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FEBRUARY – BEGINNER (continued from front)

 Wellness	 Social-Emotional
FINE MOTOR SKILLS	SELF-HELP SKILLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squeezes and manipulates Play-Doh • Begins to fold paper • Uses safety scissors • Uses snaps, buttons, and zippers • Picks up small objects with control • Adheres stickers to paper • Begins to put small objects in openings (buttons in sorting cups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes shoes • Attempts to put shoes back on • Separates easily from parents • Verbalizes need for a diaper change or bathrooming • Expresses needs and wants
GROSS MOTOR AND BALANCE	SOCIAL INTERACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps with two feet • Begins to attempt pedaling on tricycles • Climbs over, under, in, and out • Copies simple body movements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to show empathy towards the feelings of others • Shows varied feelings • Labels some emotions in self (happy, sad, angry) • Initiates play interactions with peers • Begins to share toys when asked • Begins to understand personal space
HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION	 Citizens of the World
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies which foods in meals or snack are fruits • Accepts water as a drink option • Follows some playground safety rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced to new Spanish vocabulary • Reviews previously acquired Spanish vocabulary • Explores ways to say “goodbye” in different languages • Explores multicultural music