

2021 Summer LEARNING CHALLENGE

BIRTH
to 3YOs

Why this is **IMPORTANT**:

Taking moments each day to talk and read with your child strengthens their language and literacy skills. It is especially important to engage your child with meaningful interactions during daily routines as well as planned play activities. When you talk and engage with your child during play, mealtimes, bath, and bedtime routines, it strengthens the loving, trusting relationship between you and your child. Children gain language skills, literacy skills, and social and emotional skills when we read, talk, sing and interact with them throughout the day.



SUMMER READING

There are several different ways to engage children this summer. The Mississippi public libraries are hosting activities based on the 2021 Summer Reading theme – Tails and Tales – which celebrates all the animals that roam the lands and soar through the skies. Children and parents/guardians can visit the Strong Readers, Strong Leaders website (<https://strongreadersms.com>) to find additional activities to help **RISE** to the summer learning challenge.



PRINT RESOURCES

- ★ *Baby Animals* by Harry McNaught
- ★ *Heads and Tails* by Madeleine Deny
- ★ *Jungly Tails* by Beiens
- ★ *Poke-the-Dot Old McDonald's Farm* – Melissa and Doug
- ★ *Tails* by Matthew Van Fleet



ONLINE RESOURCES

- ★ Ability Path:
www.abilitypath.org
- ★ First Words Project:
www.firstwordsproject.com
- ★ Healthy Children:
www.healthychildren.org
- ★ Make the First Five Count:
www.makethefirstfivecount.org

NOTE: Use these resources at home, on the go, or at the public library!



Language and Literacy Development

- ★ Read books with your infant or toddler daily, repeated exposure to words and labeling people and objects will help to foster their language development.

Activity 1: Count your child's toes while reciting "This Little Piggy" nursery rhyme.

Activity 2: Recite the rhyme, "Three Little Kittens" using gestures and voice inflection to excite and interest your child as he begins to learn the patterns of rhyming.

- ★ **For more information or other fun activities visit the sites below:**

<https://strongreadersms.com/pre-k/infants-and-toddlers>

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources>

<http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/parent>



Mathematical Development

- ★ Math opportunities can be found all around. Talk and count items with your child during daily routines. For example, diapering, meal and bath times, and neighborhood walks.

Activity 1: Count rubber ducks or other small toys during bath time or play routines.

Activity 2: Take a teddy bear and name and count each part of the teddy bear. For example, "Look, the teddy bear has two ears, two eyes, one mouth, one tail etc...."

- ★ **For more information or other fun activities visit the sites below:**

<https://earlymathcounts.org>

<https://www.naeyc.org/math-at-home>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>



Social Emotional Development

- ★ The loving relationship you develop with your baby helps them to build trust, get their needs met, and learn to identify and regulate their emotions.

Activity 1: Take a small teddy bear or stuffed animal, a small cloth or blanket, and play peek-a-boo or "Where's the bear?" Cover the animal's face and say, "Where's the bear?" and let your child try to move the cloth to uncover the animal's face.

Activity 2: Sit together while looking at family photos and/or pet photos with your child and identify the family member. Discuss the feelings and reactions of your child or the people in the photos while looking at the pictures (smiling, laughing, surprised, etc.).

- ★ **For more information or other fun activities visit the sites below:**

<https://www.zerotothree.org>

<http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/parents>



Scientific Development

- ★ Submit to your child’s curiosity and natural exploration by allowing your child to explore and use their senses. Provide many opportunities for exploration and play indoors and outdoors throughout the day.

Activity 1: Save different sized containers and allow your child to play with them in the tub. Talk about which container has more and which container has less.

Activity 2: While reading a book about animals ask your child, “What sound does this animal make?” Verbally make the animal sounds and encourage your child to repeat the sounds.

- ★ **For more information or other fun activities visit the sites below:**

<https://www.naeyc.org/RockingandRolling>

<https://handsonaswegrow.com>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>



Family Enrichment Activities

- ★ The links listed below are hands-on family enrichment activities that can be done at home and will give your child fun learning experiences away from the computer screen.
- ★ Explore the family enrichment activities that are thematic based to have fun and learn with your child: <https://mdek12.org/EC/Back-to-School-Resources>.
- ★ Shining the Light on Mississippi Department of Education At - Home Resources for Parents of Three – Year Old Children. These resources were created by the Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning at the University of Mississippi: <https://tinyurl.com/2kjuf8x2>.



Other Resources

- ★ Check out literacy and other educational tips and resources from EPIC Mississippi. For parents and guardians to receive FREE text messages, visit www.facebook.com/epicms or Instagram: @EPICMississippi.
- ★ The MPB Classroom channel is rich with educational content from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. Search for specific lessons targeted to your child’s need, visit: education.mpbonline.org/mpb-classroom-tv.

For more summer learning activities and resources, visit mdek12.org/LearningAtHome

SUMMER LEARNING PARTNERS:

