



HELLO PARENTS,

As educators and parents, we always encourage our children to read; from infancy, when we read to them, to school age years when we encourage children to read chapter books. Reading increases linguistic development, critical thinking, and vocabulary. Adding provocation activities after reading a book is a good opportunity to extend your child's reading experience. Provocations are open-ended activities that stimulate children's ideas, initiative, and imagination. In this newsletter, we have provided children's stories followed by provocations that will allow children to develop skills for creativity, inventiveness, and flexibility in thinking, planning, and reflecting.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

OLD MCDONALD HAD A FARM

MATERIALS:

- Basket
- Old McDonald song/book (links found below)
- Stuffed animals or toys found at home

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read "Old McDonald" book.
- [Click here](#) to listen to the "Old McDonald" song.
- Put stuffed animals or toys in a basket.
- After reading the book or singing the song to your baby, bring the basket filled with the toys, and say: "What else is in Old McDonald's farm?"
- One by one, take out a toy animal and make the animal sound; continue making up new verses for the song.
- Hand the toys to your child as you sing.

For more activities [click here](#).

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

MATERIALS:

- Sticks · Ripped paper · Blocks/wood/Legos
- "The Three Little Pigs" book (found in link below)
- Basket · Small toy pigs (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read "The Three Little Pigs" story (Go to page 4).
- Rip up some paper.
- In a basket, put the sticks, ripped paper, and blocks/wood/Legos and toy pigs.
- After you and your child read "The Three Little Pigs" together, bring out the basket, and ask, "Can you make your own house?"
- Give your child the supplies, and watch them explore.

For more provocation baskets [click here](#).

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

PETE THE CAT AND HIS FOUR GROOVY BUTTONS

MATERIALS:

- Pete the Cat book (found in link below)
- Different coloured buttons
- Four different coloured cups or bowls
- A bowl/plate · Paper and pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen and read "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" book.
- Bring different coloured buttons and put them in a bowl or plate.
- Get three or four different coloured cups or bowls (to match the buttons provided).
- Watch your child explore with the different sets and coloured buttons.
- Ask your child to sort the buttons into the provided containers or create designs and patterns.
- As your child is exploring, begin to sing the song from Pete the Cat book ("My buttons, my buttons, my four groovy buttons"). Change the lyrics as you go along to match the number and colours of the buttons your child is selecting.

For more Pete the Cat songs and books [click here](#).

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

THE BEST NEST

MATERIALS:

- "The Best Nest" book (found in a link below)
- Sticks · Grass · Bowl · Leaves
- Any nature materials found outside
- Plastic eggs or round pebbles

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to and read "The Best Nest" book.
- Go outside with your child. Ask them: "What materials do you think we need to build the best nest for the birds?" Give them clues, such as grass, leaves, sticks, etc.
- Have the materials to build a nest ready in a bowl.
- For the bird eggs, use plastic eggs or pebbles.
- After reading the book, ask your child to build the best nest for a bird.
- Give your child the materials and have them explore them by building the best nest.

For more bird activities [click here](#).

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

YERTLE THE TURTLE

MATERIALS:

- "Yertle the Turtle" story (found in a link below)
- Empty egg carton · Green and yellow paints
- Scissors · Black marker · Dice

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read and listen to "Yertle the Turtle" by Dr. Seuss.
- Cut the egg carton into sections that resemble turtles.
- Line the egg carton cut outs up on a tray or newspaper and paint them.
- Let your turtles dry.
- If you like, you can paint heads and legs on them, too.
- Now, you are ready to play your game! Choose one turtle to be Mack (the bottom turtle for the stack). Players take turns rolling a dice and stacking turtles based on the number of dots on the dice. See how high you can make the stack without it falling over!

AFTER READING THE BOOK YOU CAN ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What does fairness mean?
- If you were a turtle, would you have obeyed Yertle's commands?
- Do the turtles deserve to be free?

[Click here](#) for more activities related to turtles.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR
SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

How to create a perfect provocation at home:

- Use both unique materials and everyday items to engage your child's creativity.
- Make sure the materials you picked are open-ended, and will provoke your child's thinking and imagination.
- Set-up the materials and activity in a way that will intrigue your child, and invite them to come and play.