



HELLO PARENTS,

Every child is unique and develops at their own individual pace. Childhood is a time of tremendous growth and learning. It is so exciting for children to experience the world as a baby, a two-year-old; or a four year old who gets on a school bus for the first time. Children are like sponges, and are ready to absorb their new emerging environments. Some children speed along, practically running before they walk while others take their time, and crawl. Watching your child grow and develop is one of the most exciting parts of being a parent. Knowing what to expect from your child will help you in many ways. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will help your child learn and grow, as they develop and flourish.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

WRAP IT UP

MATERIALS:

- Waxed paper or newspaper
- A scarf

DIRECTIONS:

- Wrap a ball of waxed paper or newspaper in a scarf and tie it up.
- Hold it out for your infant and see if they want to reach for it, grasp it, squeeze it, or crinkle it.
- Watch their face to see if they are interested or surprised by the sounds the package makes.
- You can put into words what you see on their face, for example: "Wow! It crinkles and crackles. What is inside?"
- Games like this encourage sensory awareness, reaching, grasping, and language development.

[Click here](#) to see "How I Learn"

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

MYSTERIOUS TREASURE

MATERIALS:

- Items from around the house of all shapes and sizes. For example: socks, bowl, picture of family, toys, etc.
- A bin or a bag that is not transparent.

DIRECTIONS:

- Put household items in the bin or bag.
- Without looking, have your child reach in with their hands, feel an item and then name the item they are touching.
- Make it into a game with a goal of identifying as many items correctly, in the shortest amount of time possible.
- Use items that are harder to guess. Add various items to the bag or bin and set a short time limit.
- This activity will develop your child's thinking and communication skills.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

[Click here](#) for more development milestones.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

CHALLENGING BASKET LACING GAME

MATERIALS:

- Laundry basket
- Yarn
- Tape
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Put a laundry basket right-side-up on a table and tie one end of the yarn to a section of the laundry basket.
- Create a "long needle" by cutting 2cm of tape and placing it around the other end of the yarn.
- Show your child how to lace the yarn through the different holes of the laundry basket, working from side-to-side and up-and-down.
- Encourage your child to use both hands to push and pull the yarn through the basket.
- Once the yarn is completely laced through the basket, have your child figure out how to unlace the yarn without tangling it.
- Turn the laundry basket upside-down; so lacing on the inside is more difficult.
- This activity will develop your child's fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination

[Click here](#) to read "Amazing Me It's Busy Being 3!" by Julia Cook.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

RETELL THE STORY

[Click here](#) to read "Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party" by Kimberly and James Dean.

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Let your child know that you are going to read the story two times.
- After you finish the first time, ask your child to tell you about the story.
- Then, you will read the story again.
- When you finish the second time, ask your child to retell the story.
- Gather some props which could be used to retell the story. For example: printed or drawn pictures, puppets, or other related materials.
- Lay the props in front of your child and ask them to retell the story using the materials.
- This activity will develop your child's literacy and language skills.

[Click here](#) to learn parts of a story.

[Click here](#) for more information on developmental milestones.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

ME ON THE MAP

MATERIALS:

- Large paper
- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Sticky notes

DIRECTIONS:

- You can start by creating a map of your bedroom.
- Use a blank sheet of paper and draw the perimeter of your bedroom.
- Draw the items on the construction paper and cut them out.
- Then place each of the items where they belong – you might include the bed, dresser, toy-box, closet, door, windows, and more.
- As you decide what to include on the map, use the words "next to," "near," "far," and "between" to describe the locations of items.
- The map is like a picture of the bedroom taken from above, where everything is smaller.

[Click here](#) to see how to make a map – geography for children.

[Click here](#) to learn "A History of Canada in 10 Maps".



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and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
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A TIP FOR TODAY

- A developmental milestone is an ability that most children achieve by a certain age.
- Children develop skills in five main areas:
 - **Gross motor:** These are movements using the body's large muscles and include sitting, standing, walking, running, keeping balance, and changing positions.
 - **Fine motor:** These skills use the small muscles in the hands and fingers. Fine motor skills include using hands to eat, draw, dress, play, and write. They develop over time and also involve eye-hand coordination.
 - **Language:** Speaking, using body language and gestures, and understanding what others say.
 - **Social:** Connecting and having relationships with others, cooperating, and responding to others' feelings.
 - **Cognitive:** These are thinking skills—learning, understanding, problem-solving, reasoning, and remembering.

[Click here](#) for more helpful tips.