

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Read the books in this kit with your child. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Ask your child questions about what is happening in the story and what they think may happen next.

Encourage your child to participate: filling in rhymes, chanting refrains, making sounds, and acting out parts of the story.

Pause before saying any colors, giving your child time to say what color they see.

Sing

If Your Clothes Have Any Red

Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It

If your clothes have any red, any red
 If your clothes have any red, any red
 If your clothes have any red,
 then nod up and down your head,
 If your clothes have any red, any red

If your clothes have any blue, put your finger on your shoe.
 If your clothes have any green, wave your hand so
 you are seen.

If your clothes have any yellow, smile like a happy fellow.
 If your clothes have any brown, stand up and spin around.
 If your clothes have any black, pat yourself upon the back.

Green Says Go

Green says, "Go!" (*march in place quickly*)
 Go! Go! Go!

Yellow says, "Slow!" (*march slowly*)
 Slow . . . slow . . . slow

And red says, "Stop!" (*stop suddenly*)

Go, go, go! (*move fast*)

Slow . . . slow . . . slow (*move slowly*)

And STOP! (*stop*)

Kids can also pretend they are driving cars, or they can move forward rather than staying in place.

Bean Bag Colors

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Give your child a colored bean bag and use that color in the song.

Put your red bag in the air
 Hold it high and leave it there.
 Put your red bag on your back
 Now please lay it in your lap.
 Hold your red bag in your hand
 Now everyone please stand.
 Wave your red bag at the door
 Now please lay it on the floor.
 Hold your red bag and jump, jump, jump.
 Throw your red bag way, way up!

Write

Help your child trace the fish puzzle pieces on a piece of paper. Have them color in their own versions of the fish.

Make a color book with some pieces of white paper stapled together. Write a different color on the top of each page and have your child draw items for each color.

Make a tissue paper collage. Give your child several colors of tissue paper and let them tear it into small pieces (great to build hand strength for writing!). An older child could use scissors. Mix some glue with a little water and brush it on a piece of heavy paper. Have your child stick their pieces of tissue paper on in whatever pattern they choose. Once finished, apply another coat of glue/water over the design. Let dry.

Talk

Give each puzzle fish a name, a personality, and talk about where it lives, what it eats, who its friends are, and what it likes to do. Try to incorporate the fish's color into its characteristics.

Help your child identify colors on each fish puzzle piece and have them find the same color on the puzzle board. Say a color and have kids find the correct piece and place it in the puzzle board.

Play I Spy with colors. Say, "I spy, with my little eye, something that is . . . [name a color]." Have your child guess what you are seeing. Then they can take a turn spying something to have you guess. Try it with different colors. For another way to play, name a color and have your child find something in the room with that color.

Play

Make targets on the floor using tape and a sign in the middle of each with a different color. Have your child try and throw the matching colored bean bags into each target.

Enjoy playing with the bean bags in a variety of ways, including: tossing them back and forth, balancing them on your head/shoulders/feet/etc., hiding them around the house, or freeze dancing while tossing them. As you play, make sure to talk about the colors and ask what color the child is holding.

Make a "pond" with a hula hoop on the ground, empty kiddie pool, or just tape. Put the fish puzzle pieces in the pond. Have your child throw the bean bags in the pond to try and "catch" the fish. If the bean bag touches any part of a fish, they have caught it. For an added challenge, they can only catch a fish with the matching color bean bag.

Put the bean bags out around the floor. Call out colors and have the kids run to the bean bags. Have them move in different ways: walk sideways or backwards, walk on tiptoes, hop, skip, walk slowly, etc.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.