

STRIVE FOR 5!



Use these cards to help you talk, read, and sing more with children every day in fun and playful ways. Follow the children's lead and interests. Use each card once a week or use them several times. Make observations and adjust for learning differences. The icons tell you in which areas children are learning!

**SO SMALL
TO FAIL**



**TALK
READ
SING**

TALKING IS TEACHING.ORG

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

GOOD
MORNING

LET'S MAKE
NOISE!



Get out rattles and squeaky toys. Help the babies choose the toys and play. Join in and describe what the baby is doing ("you have the ball" or "you made it squeak").

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Physical & Healthy
Development



21st Century
Skills

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

MORNING
PLAYTIME

ROLL THAT
BALL!



Start with one ball, add more. Say “Roll the blue ball,” and repeat the word “ball.” Say “Ba, ba, ba...ball” while looking into the babies’ eyes and pointing to the ball. Older babies can roll it back and forth!

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Physical & Healthy
Development



Social-Emotional
Development

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

LUNCH
TIME



LET'S BLOW
BUBBLES!



Talk together as you blow bubbles. Babies will watch and track the bubbles (older infants will try to blow them, too). Use words to describe the position of the bubbles – *up, down, over, under, all around, and in between.*

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Physical & Healthy
Development



Mathematics

INFANTS AND TODDLERS



WHERE IS IT?



Use a big hat, basket, or small box. Place an object on the floor. Say, “Here is the shiny red truck.” Drop the hat over the truck. Ask, “Where is it?” Repeat with other objects.

LEARNING AREAS:



Language & Literacy



Science & Scientific Thinking



Physical & Healthy Development

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

TIME
FOR BED

WHERE IS
YOUR NOSE?



Look at the baby. Ask, “Where is your nose?” Older babies will recognize the word and point to it. Wiggle or touch the child’s nose. Name more parts of the body – eyes, toes, leg, and hand.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



21st Century
Skills



Social-Emotional
Development

2-YEAR-OLDS

GOOD
MORNING

LET'S GET
DRESSED!



Get out dolls and clothes. Talk about each piece of clothing as they dress the dolls. Ask, “What is that? What color is it? How does it feel? What are they getting dressed for?”

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



Physical & Healthy
Development

2-YEAR-OLDS

MORNING
PLAYTIME



Get a bucket of toys and have the children dump them out, then fill up the bucket again. Say, "Let's put them back in one by one." Ask the children to name and describe the toys as they put them in the bucket.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Physical & Healthy
Development



21st Century
Skills

2-YEAR-OLDS

LUNCH
TIME



WHAT IS
IN THERE?



Place a toy, sponge, apple, or other object in a bag. Ask the children to close their eyes and place their hand in the bag to guess what it is. Ask, “What does it feel like? What do you think it is?”

LEARNING
AREAS:

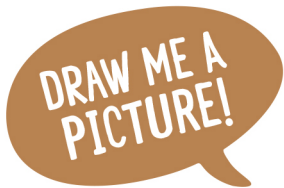


Language
& Literacy



Science & Scientific
Thinking

2-YEAR-OLDS



Scribbling is an important first step in learning how to write. Get out the crayons or washable markers. Let the children draw and scribble away. Say, “Tell me about your picture. What colors did you use?”

LEARNING AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



Physical & Healthy
Development

2-YEAR-OLDS

TIME
FOR BED



Select a favorite book. Read the book but leave out key words. Have the children fill in the words while you point to the matching picture. For example, “The _____ (dog) ran out of the _____ (house).”

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



21st Century
Skills

3-YEAR-OLDS

GOOD
MORNING



Say a word that contains only one syllable, like cat, clapping once as you say it. Now say a word with two syllables, like kitten, clapping twice. Try a few more, clapping for each syllable.

LEARNING AREAS:



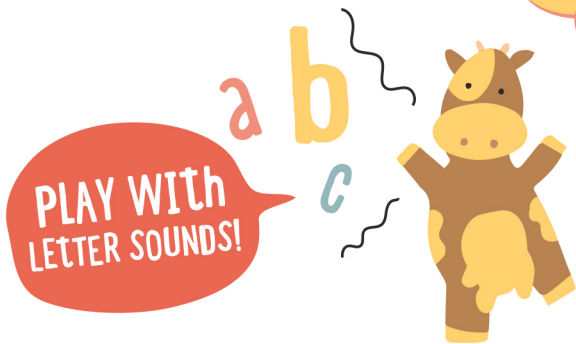
Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



21st Century
Skills



PLAY WITH
LETTER SOUNDS!

Encourage children to point to something they see around them and name it. Practice saying the word together aloud while stretching and emphasizing each letter sound. Move your hands out like you're stretching a rubber band. Now snap the word back together, saying it quickly.

LEARNING AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



21st Century
Skills

3-YEAR-OLDS

LUNCH
TIME

LET'S MAKE A
FOOD RHYME!



Who can rhyme the most food words? What rhymes with cheese, pea, or banana? Take turns until you run out of words or see how many you can rhyme at one time. They can be silly words, too!

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



Physical & Healthy
Development

3-YEAR-OLDS



LET'S MAKE
A BOOK!



Help the children make a book about different topics like food or buildings! Fold and staple paper. Cut photos from a magazine or junk mail, then glue them in the book and name each picture. Help children write the word under the picture.

LEARNING AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



Physical & Healthy
Development

3-YEAR-OLDS

TIME
FOR BED

LET'S DRAW
BEFORE WE
SLEEP!



Play soft and soothing music and ask the children to close their eyes, take deep breaths, and imagine one of their favorite things. Then, encourage them to open their eyes and draw a picture of it. Ask them to “write” the name of the object under the picture. Scribbles are okay, too!

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



Physical & Healthy
Development



Executive
Function

4-YEAR-OLDS

GOOD
MORNING



Take out the dress up clothes or a clean pile of shirts and pants. Sort by color, type, or size. For example, “tiny here, humongous there.” As you sort, use new and interesting words like “tiny” to describe something very small or “humongous” to describe something that is really big. Children CAN learn big, new words as long as you show them what these words mean and repeat them often.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



Mathematics

4-YEAR-OLDS

MORNING
PLAYTIME

STRETCH LIKE
ANIMALS!



Play a game of “Animal Simon Says” to help children stretch and wake up their muscles to start the day! For example, “Simon says, reach up high for a banana like a monkey!” Or, “Simon says, flap your wings up and down like a bird!” Keep going with other animals and their movements.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Science &
Scientific Thinking



Executive
Function



Social-Emotional
Development

4-YEAR-OLDS

LUNCH
TIME

LET'S TALK
ABOUT FOOD!



There are so many words you can use to describe food. During meal time, share conversations about the colors, tastes, or textures of the foods you're eating. Is it *soft*, *crunchy*, *creamy*, *sweet*, *sour*, *cold*, *warm*, or *juicy*?

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Science &
Scientific Thinking



Executive
Function



Social-Emotional
Development

4-YEAR-OLDS



Open a magazine or book. Point to a picture that starts with the "M" sound. Ask the children to find pictures that begin with the same sound. How many can they find? Repeat.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



Mathematics

HOW DO YOU FEEL?



Play “Name that Face” to learn how to name different emotions. Take turns making faces and guessing the feeling. Talk about what happened that day that made you feel happy or sad.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



Social-Emotional
Development

5-YEAR-OLDS

GOOD
MORNING

WHO ARE
WE TODAY?



Try a new twist on charades. Set jobs as the category and take turns thinking up and acting out different responsibilities. Are you a veterinarian, astronaut, teacher, or gardener?

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



21st Century
Skills



FIND ME
A WORD!



Ever looked closely at a word and discovered more words within it? Take the word “CELEBRATE” and write it on a board or paper. How many words can the children find? What about “caterpillar”? Two, three, maybe even five?

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Mathematics



21st Century
Skills



TELL A
SILENT STORY!



Act out a silent story with the children and encourage them to guess what you're doing and describe the story out loud. Hold up fingers, make facial expressions, and use body motions. How will the children tell the tale?

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Creative
Expression



21st Century
Skills

5-YEAR-OLDS



Early readers are interested in individual letters and words. Take a walk outside or around the room. Ask children to name the letters they see. Try finding the letters in your names.

LEARNING AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



21st Century
Skills

5-YEAR-OLDS

TIME
FOR BED

CAN YOU
REMEMBER?



Read a book together and see what connections children can make to other books or real-life experiences. Model the behavior by saying, "This reminds me of a time when..." Encourage them to do the same.

LEARNING
AREAS:



Language
& Literacy



Executive
Function



21st Century
Skills