

April 2019

Fun activities, aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards, to help prepare children for school success!

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## Let's Tell Our Story!

### Babies

Hold your baby and look into the mirror. Point out the different parts of her body (toes, head, fingers) and then point them out on yourself. Use words to describe the different parts of each of you. Tell her what each part does. [Read more.](#)

### Toddlers

Ask a relative or family friend to make a recording of them reading their favorite children's story, or telling a favorite story of when they were a child. Listen or watch this recording with your toddler and talk about who recorded the story. Follow along in a book which uses pictures, Braille, or sign to tell the story. If none are available, create your book together using personal photos, words, and illustrations. [Read more.](#)

### Preschoolers

Provide your preschooler with a magnifying glass to look at her hair, nails and skin. What does she see? Have her also look at your hair, nails and skin as well. What is the same? What is different? Is each part the same color, texture, or size? What makes each part different? Using the magnification tool on your tablet or computer, demonstrate how the size changes. You can also feel the texture of hair, nails and skin. Use words like soft, smooth, or bumpy to describe what is felt. [Read more.](#)

### Kindergartners

Have your kindergartner think of some things he can't do now, but he might do when he grows older. Ask him to think of what needs to happen so he can do these activities, like getting taller to drive a car. What are some things he can do now that he couldn't do when he was younger? Ask him what changed. For example, he drinks out of a cup now, instead of a bottle, because he can hold a cup better than when he was a baby. [Read more.](#)

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## 10 Books About Growing Up

*Community Helpers From A to Z* by Bobbie Kalman & Niki Walker

*Pretend You're a Community Helper* by Karen Bryant-Mole

*Hello Benny!: What It's Like to Be a Baby* by Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley

*When I Grow Up* by P. K. Hallinan  
*Jobs People Do* by DK

*The Berenstain Bears: When I Grow Up* by Jan and Stan Berenstain

*When I Grow Up* by Al Yankovic

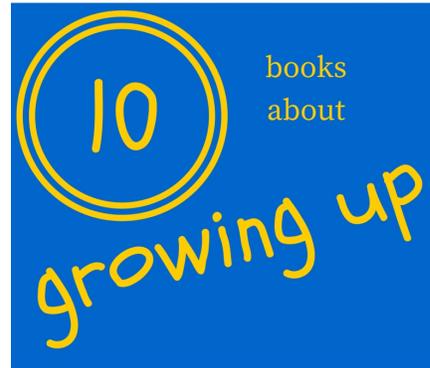
*When I Grow Up (Little Critter)* by Mercer Mayer

*Grow Up!* by Nina Laden

*Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do* by Kathryn Heling, Deborah Hembrook, Andy Robert Davies



[Print this list!](#)



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## Celebrate Month of the Young Child

During April, let's celebrate Month of the Young Child! Month of the Young Child focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognizes the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

[Visit PA's Promise for Children](#) for ways you can celebrate Month of the Young Child.



## April 10 NATIONAL SIBLINGS DAY



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## The Role a Sibling Plays in Developing Empathy

There are benefits to having a sibling! Having a brother or sister can impact how confident a child is, how well they do in school, how they interact with friends, can boost a younger sibling's language development and their understanding of others' point of view. It can even play a role in the development of empathy.

Empathy is the key to understanding another's perspective and valuing people. Children who are kind, supportive and understanding, influence their siblings to act and behave in similar ways. These empathetic traits develop into life-long behaviors towards friends, spouses and parents.

Although siblings can be a good support for helping raise an empathetic child, it's not required! This [article from the Making, Caring, Common Project at Harvard](#) shares tips on cultivating empathy.

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## The Importance of Storytelling

Children learn in many different ways, and storytelling can be a great way to not only help children learn language and literacy, but learn about--and express--the world around them.

This [resource from ZERO TO THREE](#) provides info on how children who are born with no language can learn the rudiments of story telling within 24-30 months. Find out how play and narrative can be the building blocks for a story, how reminiscing with others can create links between the child and the parent, and how facial expressions and body language can impact the story itself.

In [this short video](#), storyteller Anne E. Stewart talks about telling stories with children. She shares how storytelling promotes literacy and language and helps children get ready to start reading. Stories about family and culture also give children a sense of their place in the world. The video has tips you can use to start a story, then get children involved in the story.



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## Don't Wait. Vaccinate

When you're planning shopping trips to get new swimsuits and sunscreen, remember to make an appointment for vaccinations. Scheduling your children now for the vaccines they will need to start the next school year will help you cross one important item off your hectic "back-to-school" list this fall.

Immunizations should be part of your children's regular school physical before they enter kindergarten. See the [schedule of needed immunizations for students](#) attending Pennsylvania schools. For more information regarding vaccines required for your children, please contact your children's health care provider or visit [www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov](http://www.dontwaitvaccinate.pa.gov).

## Helping Parents Be Parents

Parenting can be challenging. There's no such thing as a perfect parent, and there are a lot of different ways to be a good one.

The [Early Learning GPS](#) has tips, tools, and resources to help when families encounter challenging

behavior with their child. Visit the [Early Learning GPS website](#).

The [Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance](#) (PFSA) believes that parents love their children and want to be the best parent they can be. Almost every parent can benefit from gaining a better understanding of themselves, their family dynamics, and how they handle their emotions when it comes to parenting and disciplining children. Visit the [PFSA website](#) for resources and support.

## Our Favorite Pinterest Pins



[12 wet, muddy happy books about Spring](#)  
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Are you following the [Spring into Fun](#) board on Pinterest?

## Do you have a Preschooler?

Did your child start preschool? [Sign up for the FREE monthly Kindergarten, Here I Come eNews!](#) Each month get activities, tips and resources you can use to help your child prepare for and transition into their Kindergarten year.



The PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) provides families access to high quality services to prepare children for school and life success.

Find more information about Quality Early Learning in Pennsylvania  
[Pennsylvania Department of Education](#) | [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#)  
[Pennsylvania Keys to Quality](#) | [Pennsylvania's Promise for Children](#)  
[Early Intervention Technical Assistance](#)

We are where you are.

