

May 2019

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

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## We're Learning in the Grocery Store!

### Babies

As you shop, describe to your baby what he is seeing. Use different words to describe the colors, shapes, smells and noises he may experience. Tell him what you plan to do with the items you purchase and how many you will buy. Use facial expressions to enhance your experiences. [Read more.](#)

### Toddlers

When in the grocery store, have your toddler help you decide which item is largest, smallest, heaviest, etc. For example, compare the size of a lemon and a grapefruit, and help her decide which item is larger or smaller. [Read more.](#)

### Preschoolers

As you put away your groceries, talk about the items that were purchased. Help your preschooler describe each item--hard, soft, rough, smooth, red, green, etc. How many different words can he use to describe the item? Create a shopping page on a tablet with pictures and descriptive words. [Read more.](#)

### Kindergartners

During the next grocery trip, help your kindergartner match the coupon with the item. Point out the name of the items and the picture on the coupons. Translate the amount on the coupon into money. "50 cents is two quarters" or "\$1.00 is the same as four quarters or one dollar bill". Make your own play money and coupons and practice shopping. Allow your child to shop in your kitchen with their coupons and money to prepare for shopping in a store. [Read more.](#)

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## 11 Books About the Grocery Store

*Grandpa's Corner Store* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

*Out and About at the Supermarket* by Kitty Shea

*Put It On the List* by Kristen Darbyshire

*A Visit to the Supermarket* by Blake A. Hoena

*Our Corner Grocery Store* by Joanne Schwartz and Laura Beingsner

*A Busy Day at Mr. Kang's Grocery Store* by Alice K. Flanagan

*To Market, To Market* by Anne Miranda

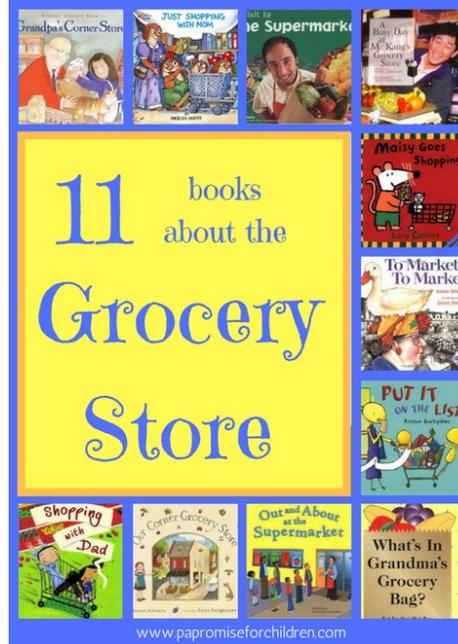
*Shopping with Dad* by Matt Harvey and Miriam Latimer

*What's in Grandma's Grocery Bag?* by Hui-Mei Pan

*Just Shopping with Mom* by Mercer Mayer

*Maisy Goes Shopping* by Lucy Cousins

Print this list!



## What can you do with the monthly book lists?

Each month *Learning is Everywhere* provides a list of books that compliment the activities. What can you do with this list?

- **Print the list** and take it to your local library. Your librarian can help you find the books on the list. Then read the books with your child. Help your child circle or cross out the books on the list as you read them.
- Make a short video of your child reading or giving a book review of one of the books on the list. What was their favorite part of the book? Share the video with family and friends. Tag PA's Promise for Children on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)!
- Share the list with your friends who have children. You can forward this email to them or they can [sign up](#) to get the email.
- If you are a teacher, **print this list** and give it to the families of your students, or post this list where families can see it. They'll know which books are being read in your classroom.
- If you are an early learning community partner, host a special reading event for families using the monthly book lists. Each month has a different focus--find them at [PA's Promise for Children](#). Include an activity from the monthly list to engage families.



How do you use this book list? [Share on PA's Promise for Children](#), the [Facebook page](#), or send it to Mary at [marhal@pakeys.org](mailto:marhal@pakeys.org).

## Love Your Teacher? Share your story!

Help us celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10!

Teachers play an important role in shaping the lives of Pennsylvania's youngest learners. They work with families, children and partners to ensure that each child has opportunities to learn and grow.

Are you a parent or family member whose child loves their teacher? Share:

- Your child's favorite teacher's name and early learning program or school



- Why he or she is your child's favorite teacher-why is this teacher special?
- A picture of your child and their favorite teacher!

Email your story to Mary at [marhal@pakeys.org](mailto:marhal@pakeys.org). Send your story by May 5 to be highlighted on [PA's Promise for Children website](#) and [Facebook page](#) during Teacher Appreciation Week! Although Teacher's Appreciation Week runs May 6-10, we will continue to publish stories as they're received.

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## Enter to Win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card

Raise Your STAR is hosting a \$50 Amazon Gift Card drawing!

If you're a family with young children or an early learning provider, then Pennsylvania's Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs) can help you **Raise Your STAR**. ELRCs provide a single point-of-contact for families, early learning service providers, and communities to gain information and access services that support high-quality child care and early learning programs.



**Visit the Raise Your STAR website to enter the drawing.** One entry per person. Duplicate entries will be deleted. All entries must be received no later than 12:00 midnight, May 31, 2019.

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## How Talking, Reading & Singing Benefit Your Child's Brain

Research has found that providing children from birth to five with consistent, language-rich experiences—such as talking, reading, and singing—can have important benefits on their brain development and future school success. The resource, *It's Never Too Early to Help Your Child Learn--Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day!* from the U.S. Department of Education has information about young children's developmental milestones and how you can help your child's language. The resource is available in **English** and **Spanish**. There are also research-based tips for talking, reading, and singing with young children every day beginning from birth, available in **English** and **Spanish**.

Using fingerplays and songs in early childhood is a great way to help young children learn language, gain large and small motor skills, and work on memory and social skills. Fingerplays are very brief stories—often with rhymes—that use finger movements to help tell the story. Fingerplays introduce rhyming to young children. They provide fun opportunities to listen and speak. They also encourage children to match words with physical actions. You may remember finger plays like *The Itsy-Bitsy Spider* or *Wheels on the Bus*. **This video** shares some common fingerplays you can do with your child.



Want more fingerplay ideas? Check out these ideas from The Center for Early Learning Literacy!

- **[Fingerplays for babies](#)**

- [Fingerplays for toddlers](#)

View this article on the [PA's Promise for Children website](#).

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## National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

Often when we think of children's health, we think of things related to physical health, such as colds and flu, asthma, or broken bones. But children are much more than their physical bodies, and children's health encompasses more than physical health.

The well-being of the whole child includes a healthy mental and emotional state as well. Just as children suffer from physical illnesses and injuries, they can also suffer from emotional and mental disorders. Your child's health can also affect how well she learns!

**National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day** on May 6, 2019 is a day for everyone to learn about and promote positive youth development, resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth their families.

[Click here](#) to learn why positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. There's also information on [how a parent's mental health can affect their baby](#).

Pennsylvania CHIP offers care for children by providing benefits to cover behavioral health care. Visit [www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com) for more information on the mental health services covered by PA CHIP and how to apply.



## Hands & Voices of PA Parent Group

The **Hands & Voices of PA Parent Group on Facebook** engages families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the growth, development, and education of their child and to provides families opportunities to connect with other families who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Join more than 800 families connecting and engaging through this **Facebook Group**. If you're a family member of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, please consider joining the Facebook group!



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## Our Favorite Pinterest Pins

- [15 Colorful Sensory Activities](#)
- [15+ Spring Butterfly Crafts for Kids](#)



10 easy healthy dinner recipes for kids  
Little rhymes to help little children learn about money  
From Seed to Table: Teaching Kids about Gardening

Are you following the [Sunshine Fun-Time](#) 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.

