

Color My World

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- 1. SHARE BOOKS** Many wonderful board books about colors are a hit with babies. Choose those with the biggest and boldest images, so that even the smallest babies can enjoy them. But avoid drilling your child to learn the colors; she will learn them naturally.
- 2. SHARE SOUNDS** Your baby will make all sorts of funny sounds. Repeat them back, and have a “baby babble” conversation. This will help baby hear sounds and understand that you are taking turns communicating.
- 3. SHARE WORDS** There are lots of colors to talk about at the grocery store. Make a special trip of going shopping and pointing out the rainbow of colors you can find just in the produce section.
- 4. SHARE RHYMES** Share favorite rhymes we used in today’s storytime. Then find something in the room that is the color named in the rhyme and point it out. For example, share “Two Little Blackbirds” (red birds, blue birds, etc.) and then point out socks, a pillow, a cup, and so on.
- 5. SHARE SONGS** Make up songs about colors and sing to your baby. For example, to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” sing “Kayla has a blue shirt on, blue shirt on, blue shirt on. Kayla has a blue shirt on, and it looks just like this” or “Jason has a big brown dog, big brown dog, big brown dog. Jason has a big brown dog, and it looks just like this.”
- 6. SHARE STORIES** Act out the story “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?” using your baby’s toys or stuffed animals.
- 7. SHARE PLAYTIME** Make a color sorting game by mixing baby-safe objects of different colors in one box or bowl. Then make piles of objects based on color, talking about the object and its color as you go.

Songs and Rhymes for Color My World

Here are the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with them every day, you will help your child make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

If You're Happy to Be Here

(sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're happy to be here, then place a smile there, (*Point to mouth*)
If you're happy to be here, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands, (*Clap hands*)
If you're ready to have some fun, then join in everyone,
(*Motion hands to join in*)
If you're ready to have some fun, clap your hands. (*Clap hands*)

Color Song

(sung to the tune of "The More We Get Together")

If you have a (*color*) shirt on,
Please stand up, please stand up,
If you have a (*color*) shirt on,
Please stand up right now.
Stand up high, stand up high,
Stand up high, stand up high,
If you have a (*color*) shirt on,
Please stand up right now.

I Am Looking

(sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?/Frere Jacques")

I am looking, I am looking, (*Put hand to eyebrows in "searching" gesture*)
I see blue, I see blue,
The color of the sky, the color of the sky,
I see blue.

Additional Verses

... I see red ... the color of an apple
... I see yellow ... the color of the sun

A-Tisket, A-Tasket

A-tisket, a-tasket, (*Sway side to side with baby in lap*)
A green and yellow basket.
I wrote a letter to my love,
And on the way I dropped it. (*Lower baby between knees*)
I dropped it, I dropped it, (*Move baby up and back down*)
And on the way I dropped it. (*Move baby up and back down*)
A little baby picked it up and put it in her pocket.
(*Swing baby up and lower to lap*)

The More We Get Together

The more we get together, (*Sway from side to side in time to music*)
Together, together,
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.
For your friends are my friends, (*Point to child, then to self*)
And my friends are your friends, (*Point to self, then to child*)
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Additional Verse

The more we play together...

Rhymes

Bumping Up and Down in My Little Red Wagon

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
(*Bounce child up and down in lap*)
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon,
Won't you be my darling?

Additional Verses

One wheel's off and the axle's draggin'...
(*Bounce, and lean side to side*)
Let's get a hammer and a nail and fix it...
(*Pretend to hammer a nail*)
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon...
(*Bounce child up and down in lap*)

Two Little Blackbirds

Recite the rhyme two or three times, changing the bird colors each time to red birds, blue birds, or yellow birds. If possible, connect the rhyme to photos of birds.

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill, (*Hold up fists*)
One named Jack (*Bounce one fist*)
And the other named Jill. (*Bounce other fist*)
Fly away, Jack, (*Flutter one fist behind back*)
Fly away, Jill, (*Flutter other fist behind back*)
Come back, Jack, (*Flutter first fist back*)
Come back, Jill! (*Flutter second fist back*)

Way High Up in the Apple Tree

This rhyme can be repeated with "yellow" and "green" apples.

Way up high in the apple tree, (*Wave hands up high*)
Two red apples smiled down at me. (*Make hands into fists*)
So I shook that tree as hard as I could. (*Shake fists*)
Down came the apples (*Pull fists down*)
And mmmmm were they good! (*Rub tummy*)