

Color Wonder

Tips, Songs, and Rhymes 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.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Ask simple questions when reading to your child so that she can participate in the storytelling; for example, (while showing the cover of a book) “What do you think this book is about?”; “What is this?”; “What do you see on this page?”; or “What’s happening here?”
- **SHARE WORDS** Teach your child color words in another language. Here are a few in Spanish: yellow = amarillo, blue = azul, red = rojo, and green = verde.
- **SHARE RHYMES** Play the I Spy rhyming game with your child using colors: “I spy something blue that rhymes with pie.” (sky)
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing the Color Hokey Pokey song using objects in your home: “You put your yellow pencil in...”
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up funny stories with your child. You do not have to read a book to tell a good story! Make up a story about a “yellow fellow” or a “green bean” or another colorful character.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Explore different ways you can mix colors at home. Eggs can be dyed any time of the year! Play a game in the car. Name a color, and see who can find and name an object of that color first. Or see how many red things you can spot.
- **SHARE WRITING** Print color words on small index cards. Use crayons or markers that are the color of the word you are representing. Invite your child to write color words in a tray of sand using your cards as models.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

Songs

Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, *(Suit motions to words)*
Put your hands on your knees,
Put your hands behind you now,
If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,
Put your hands on your toes,
Put your hands upon your cheeks,
Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,
Put your hands on your hair,
Clap your hands, one, two, three,
Then fold them on your knees.

Color Song

(sung to the tune of “Someone’s in the Kitchen with Dinah”)

(Hold up the correct color of construction paper before each verse)

Red is the color of an apple to eat.
Red is the color of cherries, too.
Red is the color of strawberries.
I like red, don’t you?

Blue is the color of the big blue sky.
Blue is the color of baby things, too.
Blue is the color of my sister’s eyes.
I like blue, don’t you?

Yellow is the color of the great big sun.
Yellow is the color of lemonade, too.
Yellow is the color of a baby chick.
I like yellow, don’t you?

Green is the color of the leaves on the trees.
Green is the color of green peas, too.
Green is the color of a watermelon.
I like green, don’t you?

Orange is the color of oranges.
Orange is the color of carrots, too.
Orange is the color of a jack-o’-lantern.
I like orange, don’t you?

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Purple is the color of a bunch of grapes.
Purple is the color of grape juice, too.
Purple is the color of a violet.
I like purple, don't you?

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Color Hokey Pokey

(sung to the tune of "Hokey Pokey")

(Provide your child with a blue, red, yellow, green, purple, and orange square of construction paper. Then have him stand up and act out the song by holding the correct color each time.)

You put your blue one in,
You put your blue one out,
You put your blue one in,
And you shake it all about.
You do the hokey pokey and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Additional Verses

Repeat with: red, yellow, green, purple, and orange

Library Storytime Song

(sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad")

I came to my storytime
(Sway side to side throughout and point to self)
At the library today,
I came to my storytime *(Point to self)*
To sing and laugh and play,
I listened to some picture books,
Sang songs, said some rhymes,
I hope I can come back again,
Because I had a very good time!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back to storytime!
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
I want to come back, *(Clap!)*
To my storytime!
(Spoken) See you soon! *(Wave goodbye)*

Rhymes

My Crayon Box

In my crayon box I see
(Child holds up both hands with fingers extended)
Ten pretty crayons, count with me.
One, two, three, four, five, *(Point to each finger while counting)*
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Ten pretty crayons, ten colors I see,
Can you say their names with me?
(Storyteller points to colors of crayons on a felt or magnetic board)
Red, pink, black, purple and blue,
White, orange, brown, gray, and yellow, too.

With a Paintbrush

(Have your child make motions with an imaginary paintbrush as described in the rhyme)
With a paintbrush in my hand,
Everything is at my command.
Thoughts race through my mind,

And my hand is close behind.
I can make lines real straight,
Or I can make a crazy eight.
I can paint lines up and down,
And even make them blue or brown.
I can paint polka-dotted ants,
And elephants in training pants.
Dinosaurs with bandaged knees,
And monkeys hanging in orange trees.
Here's a paintbrush just for you,
Now let's see what you can do!

Wearing Colors

If you are wearing red, red, red, *(Child follows movements as given)*
Touch your head.
If you are wearing brown, brown, brown,
Touch the ground.
If you are wearing green, green, green,
Wave to be seen.
If you are wearing blue, blue, blue,
Touch your shoe.
If you are wearing black, black black,
Touch your back.
If you are wearing yellow, yellow, yellow,
Shake like JELL-O®.
If you are wearing pink, pink, pink,
Make your eyes blink.
If you are wearing white, white, white,
Then you're all right!

Chant

Rainbow Dancers

(Provide red, yellow, orange, green, purple, and blue streamers or ribbons for your child to dance with)
Rainbow dancers, let's get ready,
Hold your ribbons nice and steady.
You'll hear the colors of the rainbow,
Listen for your time to go.

Shake red! ... Shake orange! ... Shake yellow! ... Shake green! ...
Shake blue! ... Shake purple!

Red ribbons turn around, orange ribbons up and down, yellow
ribbons reach up high, green ribbons fly, fly, fly.

Everybody dance

Rainbow dancers, dance around,
Ribbons swirl up and down.
Overhead and on the ground,
Rainbows flying all around.

Shake purple! ... Shake blue! ... Shake green! ... Shake yellow!
... Shake orange! ... Shake red!

Blue ribbons tickle your nose, purple ribbons touch your toes,
everybody dance around, swirl your ribbons up and down.

Rainbow dancers, dance around,
Ribbons swirl up and down.
Rainbow dancers, hug a friend,
Our colorful dance is at an end.