

# FEBRUARY

## Encourage your child to listen to and use language to express ideas.

### **Take time each day to listen to and talk with your child.**

- ♥ While traveling together
  - Turn off the radio, CD or DVD player in your car as you and your child are going places together.
  - Encourage your child to talk with you about where you are going and what might happen when you get there.
  - Invite your child to tell you something he or she enjoyed doing that day.
- ♥ At home together
  - Turn off the TV or computer and spend a few minutes talking with your child about things which interest him or her.
  - Talk with your child about some things each of you did that day.

### **Involve your child in activities which require listening and following directions.**

- ♥ Give your child directions that involve two steps. Here are some examples:
  - Take off your shoes and put them in the closet.
  - Pick up your plate and put it in the sink.
  - Hop to the door and open it.
- ♥ Give your child an object such as a small ball or a bean bag.
- ♥ Ask your child to do certain things with the object. Here are some examples:
  - Put the ball under your chin.
  - Put the ball up in the air and then down on the floor.
  - Let your child tell you some things to do with the ball. Encourage him or her to use words such as under, over, behind, in front of, beside, on top of, etc.

### **Use pictures to encourage your child to express ideas.**

- ♥ Collect magazine pictures which show action: pictures of children playing together, a family in a car or a team playing a sport, for example. Let your child look at the pictures one at a time. Ask your child to tell you what he or she thinks is happening in each picture.

### **Read or tell stories which have characters of different sizes.**

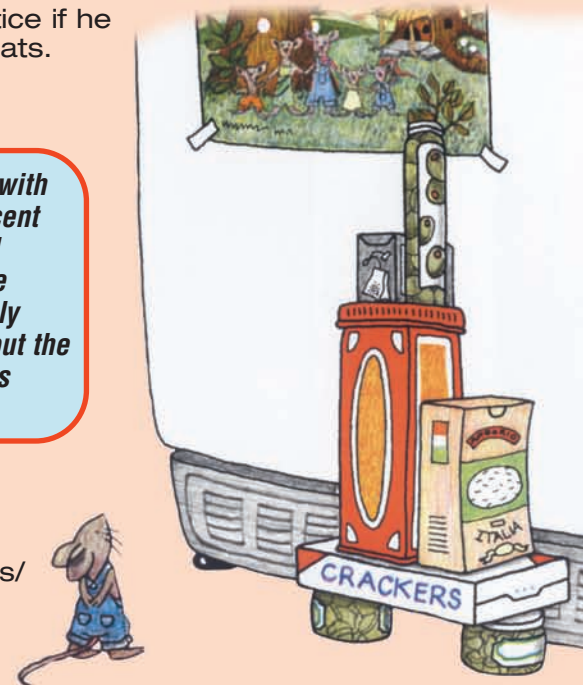
- ♥ Read or tell the story *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.
- ♥ Have your child show you the pictures of the little Billy Goat, the middle Billy Goat and the big Billy Goat.
- ♥ Suggest that your child draw pictures of the three Billy Goats Gruff. Notice if he or she draws three sizes of goats.

### **ADDITIONAL IDEAS**

**Go through your family photo album with your child. Find photos that show recent family events that you and your child attended together; events such as the county fair, a church picnic or a family trip. Encourage your child to talk about the people who were there and the things that happened at the event.**

### **Websites**

<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content3/AmericaReads/preschol.html>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Do finger plays together like "Where is Thumbkin" and "Itsy Bitsy Spider."	<b>Groundhog Day.</b> <b>2</b> Help your child zip up his/her jacket, put on boots and take a walk together.	<b>3</b> With your child make a paper bag puppet of a character from a book.	<b>4</b> Read a book to your child. Have your child retell the story.
<b>5</b> Together find things around the house that begin with the letter "M."	<b>6</b> Make valentines together for a group of friends or family.	<b>7</b> With your child make and send homemade Valentine's Day cards.	<b>8</b> <b>Early Learning Counts! ONLINE PARENTING SEMINAR</b> <i>See inside back cover for details.</i>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>9</b> Together count groups of ten pennies. How many groups?	<b>10</b> When you are driving somewhere today, talk with your child about all the turns you make (say "now I am turning left," right, going straight, etc.).	<b>11</b> Role-play a pretend argument with your child and discuss ways to solve it.
<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b> <b>12</b> Read a story and ask your child what his/her favorite part was and why.	<b>13</b> Trace and cut heart shapes together.	<b>Valentine's Day</b> <b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Arrange a play date with one of your child's friends. Let them play together and be available to help work out problems or conflicts if needed.	<b>16</b> Have your child count all the doors and windows in your house.	<b>17</b> Play a board game or card game with your child.	<b>18</b> Together sing the "ABC" song.
<b>19</b> Talk about how we get from one place to another. Look at a map together and make a map of the inside of your house.	<b>President's Day</b> <b>20</b> Have your child count the number of steps from his/her bedroom to the kitchen.	<b>21</b> Help your child locate pictures of objects in two sizes.	<b>Washington's Birthday</b> <b>22</b>	<b>Library Day</b> <b>23</b> With your child string beads together to make a necklace.	<b>24</b> Remember to add titles to your book list!	<b>25</b> Read a story to your child and then let your child "read" it to you.
<b>26</b> Together go outside and look for shadows.	<b>27</b> Together read a book about animals.	<b>28</b> Red week, look for things that are red this week.	<b>29</b>		<b>Black History Month</b>	<b>Dental Health Month</b>

## **Early Learning Counts!**

### **FREE Online Parenting Webinars**

#### **Positive Parenting of Children, Ages 0-5**

**To register go to**  
**[www.workingfam.org](http://www.workingfam.org)**

Does your busy schedule make it challenging for you to attend Early Childhood Family Education classes? Are you interested in obtaining some practical, no-nonsense parenting tools and techniques to help you with your parenting journey? See "LIVE" webinar schedule below. All webinars are offered from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CST. If you are unable to participate in the "LIVE" session access our recorded parenting webinars designed specifically for parents of young children, ages 0-5 years-old, when it is convenient for you.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
September 14, 2011	Purposeful Parenting
October 12, 2011	The Science of Early Brain Development and Child Development
October 26, 2011	Parent to Parent Online Chat
November 9, 2011	Understanding and Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Your Young Child
November 23, 2011	Parent to Parent Online Chat
December 14, 2011	Welcome to Fatherhood: A Webinar for Expecting Dads
January 11, 2012	Getting Ready For Kindergarten
January 25, 2012	Parent to Parent Online Chat
February 8, 2012	Literacy Begins at Home
March 14, 2012	Early Childhood Screening
April 11, 2012	Communicating with Young Children
April 25, 2012	Parent to Parent Online Chat
May 9, 2012	The Value of Play

## **Books for Four- and Five-Year-Olds**

*Toot and Puddle: Puddle's ABC* by Holly Hobbie  
*This Old Man* by Pam Adams  
*Fish Eyes – A Book You Can Count On* by Lois Ehlert  
*Count* by Denise Fleming  
*Little Bear Goes to Kindergarten* by Jutta Langreuter  
*Mouse Count* by Ellen Stohl Walsh  
*Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* by Nancy Carlson  
*The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Paul Galdone  
*Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*When You go to Kindergarten* by James Howe  
*Big Dog, Little Dog* by P.D. Eastman  
*Hello School: A Classroom of Poems* by Dee Lillgard  
*The Wheels on the Bus* by Maryanne Kovalski  
*Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming  
*My Very First Mother Goose* by Iona Opie  
*Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood  
*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood  
*Jamberry* by Bruce Degen  
*The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins  
*Roll Over! A Counting Song* by Merle Peek  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle  
*Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* by Eileen Cristelow  
*Mr. Grumpy's Outing* by John Burningham  
*A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni  
*Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stohl Walsh  
*Circles, Triangles and Squares* by Tana Hoban  
*Yo! Yes?* by Chris Raschka  
*My Very First Book of Shapes* by Eric Carle  
*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.  
*The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Kraus  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff  
*If You Give a Moose a Muffin* by Laura Numeroff

*If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Numeroff  
*Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman  
*Happy Birthday Moon* by Frank Asch  
*Ask Mr. Bear* by Marjorie Flack  
*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant  
*Families are Different* by Nina Pellegrini  
*Bigmama's* by Donald Crews  
*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn  
*Timothy Goes to School* by Rosemary Wells  
*Franklin Goes to School* by Paulette Bourgeois  
*Will I Have a Friend?* by Miriam Cohen  
*Off to School, Baby Duck* by Amy Hest  
*The Eentsy, Weentsy Spider* by Joanna Cole  
*Corduroy* by Don Freeman  
*Clifford's First School Day* by Norman Birdwell  
*Abiyoyo* by Pete Seeger  
*If You Take A Mouse to School* by Laura Numeroff  
*Nora's Room* by Jessica Harper  
*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*A Letter to Amy* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*Animalia* by Graeme Base  
*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin  
*My Name is Alice* by Jane Bayer  
*My Hands* by Alike  
*Sound Box Series* by Jane Belk Moncure  
*From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle  
*Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman  
*Quick as a Cricket* by Audrey Wood  
*Hi, Clouds* by Carole Greene  
*Shake My Sillies Out* by Raffi  
*Down Comes the Rain* by Franklyn Branley  
*A My Name is Alice* by Jane Bayer  
*I Read Signs* by Tana Hoban  
*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr.  
*Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book* by Mauriel Feelings  
*Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert