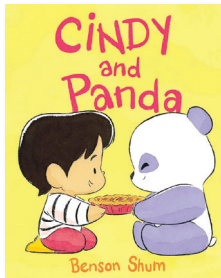


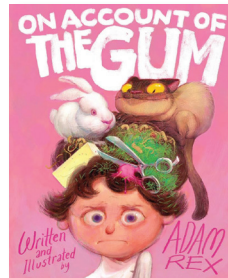


Children can practice collaborative skills through intergenerational and family play in games and through real-world activities; by following the rules and procedures of group games; and by recognizing the contributions of all participants, including those from a range of social and cultural backgrounds and intellectual and physical abilities.

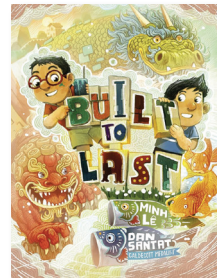
Books



Cindy and Panda
by Benson Shum



On Account of the Gum
by Adam Rex



Built to Last
by Minh Lê

Materials

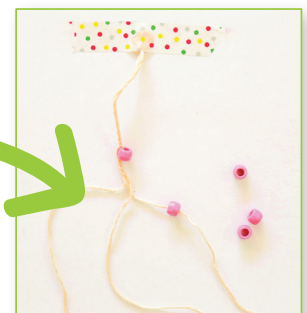
- Scissors
- Elastic string
- Tape
- Assorted beads

Activity

Matching “Thinking of You” Bracelets, from PBS KIDS for Parents Make matching bracelets with your little one to help them feel reassured when you are apart—like going to a new school, on a playdate, or to another new place. Whenever you both look at the bracelets, you’ll be reminded of each other, and the bracelets can help your child find a little extra bravery when things feel challenging. Practice making patterns when putting together your bracelets. For Head Start participants, have children make two bracelets: one for them and one for a grown-up.

Instructions

1. Trim the elastic string into three pieces, each measuring 7 to 8 inches in length.
2. Tie the strings together at one end.
3. Tape the strings down on a flat surface to keep the beads from sliding off.
4. This is a great time to talk to your child about patterns. Choose at least three different colored beads and discuss how a pattern repeats.
5. Add beads in a pattern until you are at your desired length.
6. Remove the tape. Measure the bracelet around the wearer’s wrist and trim to size. Tie the loose end into a knot.
7. An adult’s bracelet will need to be bigger than a child’s. If at a Head Start, educators may need to help students measure for an adult’s wrist.



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Theme: Collaboration



pbs.org/parents



Games: [Elmo's School Friends](#)

Sit with children as they help Elmo navigate his way through playing, sharing, and working together with his furry friends in preschool. As children play the game, you might ask:

What would you do in Elmo's situation?

Can you think of another way to solve the problem here?

Have you ever had this problem? How did you try to solve it?

Do you like to ____? (play dress-up, build with blocks, and so on, according to what's on screen)



Crafts & Projects: [Can You Draw What I Describe?](#)

This drawing activity is a great way to practice sharing, listening, and understanding information. Support your child as he or she explains, answers questions, and asks questions of his or her own.



Articles: [Help Your Child Be a Kind Friend](#)

We all want to raise kids who are kind and inclusive. That takes practice. Try these strategies to teach your child to be a good friend.



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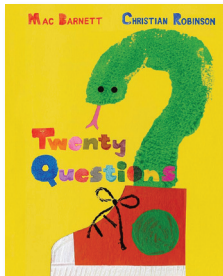
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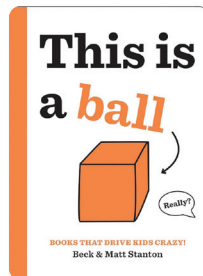


Critical thinking is the ability to ask questions and organize, reflect, evaluate, and analyze information to make decisions and solve problems. Development of these skills, with age-appropriate scaffolding and support, can be encouraged by providing opportunities for children to think sequentially, make connections, and develop a flexible mindset through play.

Books



Twenty Questions
by Mac Barnett



This is a Ball
by Beck Stanton



All the Ways to be Smart
by Davina Bell

Activity

Sink or Float?

Explore the differences between saltwater, freshwater, and water that has baking soda added to it. Then, observe what happens when an object is added to each glass. Ask children to make observations throughout the experiment, focusing on what each glass of water looks like and the similarities and differences they notice.

Materials

- 3 clear glasses or plastic cups
- Tablespoon
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons baking
- Sticky notes or paper
- Pencil or crayon
- Spoon
- 3 small plastic toys
- Warm tap water (enough to fill each cup about three-quarters full)

Instructions

1. Line up three glasses. Add two tablespoons of salt to the first glass, add two tablespoons of baking soda to the second glass, and leave the third glass alone. Using your sticky notes or paper, label each glass: saltwater, freshwater, baking-soda water.
2. Add enough warm water to fill each one of the glasses more than halfway and stir the saltwater and baking-soda water until the substances are dissolved. Observe each glass together. Ask children questions such as, "How has the water in the first two glasses changed? What do you notice about them that's different than the glass with only water?"
3. Next, tell children that you're going to add plastic toys to each glass. Help them predict what will happen to the toys. Ask, "Will they all sink? Will they all float?" Once the salt and baking soda are dissolved, place one toy into each of the glasses. Watch what happens to each toy as it enters the water. Ask children if their predictions were correct.



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Theme: Critical Thinking



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Games: [The Cat in the Hat's Bridge-a-rama](#)

This Cat in the Hat game will help your child learn spatial visualizations and transformations by building a bridge. Fill in gaps using objects that are both long enough and strong enough to make a bridge.



Crafts & Projects: [Test the Strength of Spider Webs](#)

Explore spider webs and their tensile strength (the ability to resist breaking under pressure) with your child in this experiment. Test different materials and find out which material is stronger.



Articles: [Helping Kids Become Tenacious Problem Solvers](#)

When kids practice problem-solving skills at an early age—and develop the tenacity to keep trying when their first solution falls flat—they will be better equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Here are four ways to nurture your child's problem-solving skills.



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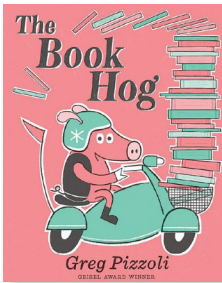
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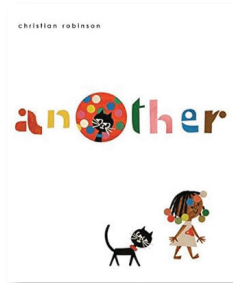


Functional literacy is the ability to use reading, writing, and math skills in everyday situations that allow us to meet personal and social needs at home, in the community, and beyond. Exposure to a variety of texts—especially informational and functional texts in authentic contexts—and the strategies and executive function skills for comprehending those texts are critical aspects of functional literacy.

Books



The Book Hog
by Greg Pizzoli



Snap!
by Anna Walker



You Can Read
by Helaine Becker

Materials

- Large white watercolor paper
- White or light-gray crayons
- Watercolor paints and paintbrushes
- Small bowl with water to clean the paintbrushes

Activity

Secret Crayon Message

Use the crayon-resist painting technique to write secret messages! When you write with a white crayon on white paper, the writing appears invisible; but when you brush over it with watercolor paint, the message appears!

Have grown-ups write a secret message to their littles with the white crayons on the watercolor paper. Then, have the littles paint however they please, revealing the secret message. Have grown-ups and littles try to sound out their message together. For Head Start educators, have grown-ups write messages ahead of time as a surprise for their littles during the school day.

Instructions

1. Lay watercolor paper on a flat surface and set out your supplies.
2. Have grown-ups write a special message in white or light-gray crayon; then use that same crayon to add some designs or decorations! If at a library, whoever accompanied that child can write a message. If at a Head Start, either have grown-ups write messages to their littles before the activity to have on hand, or have educators write messages to littles.
3. Have littles use the watercolor to paint over the writing. The watercolor “resists” sticking to the waxy crayon, and the message or drawing magically appears!



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Theme: Functional Literacy

Games: [Story Emporium](#)

Create four different stories and learn about cause and effect with characters from *Work It Out Wombats*. See how many different endings you can make.



Crafts & Projects: [Identify Letters Written with a Fingertip](#)

This quiet, soothing activity is an easy way to calm your child at the end of a school day or after a busy weekend of activities while also helping your child better identify letters and numbers.



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It's important to carve out quality time to spend with your kids each day. But there are some days when that's easier said than done! Here are four ideas to inspire your family to spend more time together through the acts of reading and of reading aloud.



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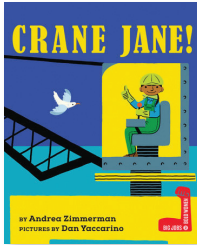
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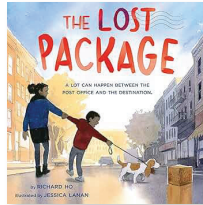


Through exciting story worlds and games, PBS KIDS can expose children to a number of career and job options in the world of work—both those recognizable in their own communities and those less familiar—while also showcasing diverse and engaging characters who serve as necessary role models to help kids perceive themselves as belonging in a wide range of careers and jobs both now and in the future.

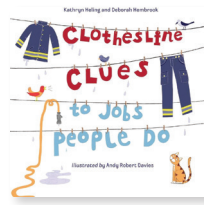
Books



Crane Jane
by Andrea Zimmerman



The Lost Package
by Richard Ho



Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do by Kathryn Heling

Materials

- Plastic bag
- Paper towels
- Water
- Sunflower seeds
- Plant journal

Activity

[Plant Journal](#), from PBS KIDS for Parents

No matter the path your little takes in life, observation is a key skill that can be strengthened at a young age. Pretend to be a plant scientist while you observe the growth of your sunflower seed, using this printable plant journal from *Elinor Wonders Why*. Plant your sunflower outside once weather permits and enjoy watching it grow all summer long.



Instructions

Make Your Plant Journal

1. If more plant journals are needed visit site at QR code.
2. Cut it in half horizontally along the dashed lines.
3. Tape the two pieces together along the short ends so you have one long strip of paper.
4. Fold the strip in an accordion fashion along the fold lines so you have 8 pages, with the cover and back on the outside when folded (see illustration).



Grow Your Plant

1. Place a wet paper towel into a clear plastic bag. (Make sure the paper towel is dripping wet.)
2. Place a seed between the wet towel and the side of the bag. This way you will be able to see the seed as it germinates (or sprouts) and grows.
3. On the cover of the plant journal, write your name and the date you planted the seed.
4. Start the journal by drawing a picture of the planted seed on the first page. Or take a picture and paste it on the page. Write "Day 1" under it.
5. Look at the plant each day. Ask, "What does the seed look like today?"
6. When the seed germinates, draw (or paste a picture) on the next page. Under it write the day since it was planted. If it is the third day since it was planted, write, "Day 3."
7. Continue drawing or taking pictures of significant changes until all the journal pages are filled. Be sure to note at the bottom each observation the number of the day since planting.
8. Unfold the journal so you can see the plant's growth over time.

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pbs.org/parents



Theme: World of Work

Games: [A Job for Me](#)

Explore different jobs around our communities with Elmo and Abby with this interactive game.



Crafts & Projects: [Creating Memorization Skills Through Play](#)

Take turns playing different roles in the restaurant! One person says the food order for each stuffed animal, and the other person is the waiter. It's the waiter's job to remember each customer's order, prepare it in the kitchen, and serve it to the customers. Try using a strategy, or plan, to help remember the orders.



Articles: [Jamming on the Job Podcast](#)

"Jamming on the Job" is a multi-generational, music-inspired podcast for kids ages 4-8 and their parents and caregivers. Join Christina and Andrés and Magic Beatmaster Boombox, voiced by musician, Pierce Freelon, as they tour the country and perform songs about the world of work.



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