

Join Me as I Play

“I’m not just
playing – I’m
learning”

For more information contact:

Department of Human Services
Division of Child Care and
Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S 160
Little Rock, AR 72203
800-445-3316
www.arkansas.gov/childcare

Developed and written by:

Dot Brown and Donna Alliston

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Division of Child Care and
Early Childhood Education

Come Play With Me

- Let's play with things that encourage me to use my imagination
- Let's sing and dance
- Let's read a story
- Let's play games
- Let's cook
- Let's go places



*Come play
with me... Let's
make wonderful
memories together.*

As We Play Together

- I am learning the skills I need for reading, writing and communicating with others
- I am learning mathematical concepts
- I am learning about science and nature
- I am learning about my community and the work people do
- I am learning to think and solve problems
- I am learning to use my imagination and be creative
- I am learning to keep myself safe and healthy
- I am learning to use my large and small muscles
- I am learning that I am a capable and competent person



*As we play
together I am
having fun
while I learn.*

Join Me as I Play

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playing –
I’m learning”

**THE POWER OF PLAY
FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND
EARLY EDUCATORS**



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Let's play and do things together

Let's play with things that encourage me to use my imagination

- Give me pots and pans and wooden spoons for making sounds and pretending.
- Give me hats, purses, boots and old dance costumes for dress-up and pretend.
- Give me empty boxes to crawl in or to build with.
- Give me pieces of blank paper, crayons and markers

When I use my imagination

- I am learning to think, to plan and to solve problems.
- I am creating my own pictures and acting out my own skits.
- I am learning and having fun as I play with things that cost very little money.

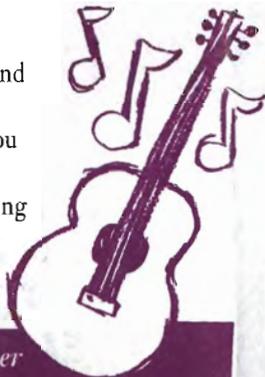
so I can create my own pictures.

- Give me a box of recycled materials such as fabric scraps, clean plastic bottles, pieces of cardboard and paper towel tubes for making my own creations.
- Watch me as I dress up and act out stories and skits.



Let's sing and dance

- Sing soft lullabies as you rock me and put me in my crib.
- Pick me up and hold me close as you twirl around the room.
- Play our favorite CD or tape and sing and dance with me.
- Take me to a concert at school or in our community.



When we sing and dance together

- I feel happy.
- I am learning to move my body in time to the beat.
- I am learning the words to new songs.
- I am learning about different types of music.
- I may decide I want to sing in a choir or play in a band.

Let's read a story

- Hold me in your lap and read to me even though I am a tiny baby.
- Read and say nursery rhymes with me.
- Read to me every day.
- Buy me books for my birthday and for other special days.
- Take me to the library and help me choose and check out books.
- Listen to me as I read to you.
- Listen to the stories I make up and watch me as I act them out.

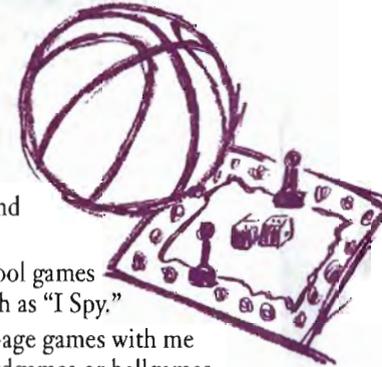


When we read together

- I feel special.
- I am building a life-long love of books and reading.
- I am learning new words.
- I will learn to read books on my own.
- I get ideas for writing my own stories and making my own books.

Let's play games

- Play infant games with me such as peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Play toddler games with me such as "roll the ball to each other" or "Ring Around the Rosie."



- Play preschool games with me such as "I Spy."
- Play school-age games with me such as board games or ball games.

When we play games together

- I am having fun with you.
- I am developing my large and small muscles.
- I am learning to cooperate, to take turns and to share.
- I am learning to play fair.
- I am learning to play games with rules.

Let's cook

- Let me stir and pour.
- Let me help set the table.
- Let me help make the grocery list.
- Help me choose healthy foods to eat such as fruits and vegetables.
- Help me read the recipe or the instructions on the box.
- Help me measure ingredients.



When we cook together

- I am learning to take responsibility and be a helper.
- I am learning about math as I measure ingredients.
- I am learning about science as I watch gelatin change from liquid to solid.
- I am learning to read and write.
- I am learning about good nutrition.
- I am learning to follow directions.

Let's go places

- Take me out in our back yard to watch birds building a nest.
- Take me for a walk in the neighborhood or to visit a neighbor.
- Take me to the park or to visit the library.
- Take me to watch gardeners or farmers in their fields.
- Take me out to eat at our favorite café or restaurant.



When we go places together

- I am learning about my neighborhood and my community.
- I am learning about the work that people do.
- I am learning about birds, insects and animals, the weather and things that grow.
- I am learning about automobile and street safety.
- I am learning how to behave in different places.