

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... March



St. Patrick's Day is in March. We talk about rainbows, the colour *green*, chasing leprechauns, and pots of gold. This month's activities highlight colours, shapes, counting, and nursery rhymes.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Activities

Playdough

Make your own playdough and include your child in some of the steps. This is a great time to talk about colours, shapes, and counting.

- With younger children, use cookie cutters and make playdough cookies together.
- Talk about how you squish, roll, and press the playdough before you cut the cookies.
- Talk about the shapes of the cookies you make. Make hearts, circles, animals, or even letters.
- Older children can create their own creatures. Make snakes, balls, snowmen, dogs, monsters, or dishes.
- Play with what you've created. Talk about what your creature is doing, what it's eating, and where it's going.

Colour games

- Play *I spy*. See if your child can find something around the room that is green, blue, red, purple, orange, and so on.
- Help your child start learning colours. Show your child a coloured piece of construction paper. Ask him to find something in the room that matches that colour.
- Colour in colouring books with your child. Ask your child to hand you the colour you want to use next. Help him find the colour.
- Sort socks by colour. Sort T-shirts, pants, mitts, and more...

Nursery rhymes

Nursery rhymes are silly stories that are fun to read or sing. The stories don't really make a lot of sense. The words in the rhyme are said over and over. This helps your child learn new words.

- Say the rhymes you know.
- Go to the library to find books with new rhymes.
- Do actions while you say the nursery rhymes.
- Talk about why the rhyme is silly.

Counting

- Count with your child when she is playing with toys, colouring, and reading. The more you count, the more likely she will count with you.
- Introduce counting by saying "1, 2, 3 go!" before she goes down the slide at the playground or before you kick a ball.
- Count the stairs as you go up and down.
- Count the spoons when you set the table.





Songs and rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child music class in your area.

Rainbow song

Author unknown
(sung to the tune of *Hush little baby*)

Rainbow purple, rainbow blue,
Rainbow green and yellow too.
Rainbow orange, rainbow red,
Rainbow smiling overhead.

The grand old Duke of York

(sing this song, or say this rhyme sitting with your baby on your lap)

The grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men. (*bounce child on your knees facing forward*)
He marched them up to the top of the hill, (*march your legs upward with child still on knees*)
And he marched them down again. (*march your legs downward with child still on knees*)
And when you're up, you're up. (*raise both legs*)
And when you're down, you're down. (*drop your legs*)
And when you're only halfway up, (*raise both legs halfway up and pause*)
You're neither up nor down. (*move legs up and down quickly*)
He rolled them over left. (*lean to the left*)
He rolled them over right. (*lean to the right*)
He rolled them over upside down. (*lie backward with child lying on top of you*)
Oh, what a funny sight! (*return to original position*)



Books

Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

Where is the green sheep? *by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek*
Hickory dickory dock *by Heather Collins*
One two buckle my shoe *by Heather Collins*
Blue hat, green hat *by Sandra Boynton*
Brown bear brown bear *by Erik Carle*
Whose socks are those? *by Jez Alborough*
Olivia counts *by Ian Falconer*
A rainbow all around me *by Sanda L. Pinkney*



Crafts

For more craft ideas go to www.wondertime.go.com

Playdough recipe

Materials needed

1 cup water
2 tablespoons cooking oil
Flour as needed
½ cup salt
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
Food colouring

Instructions

Mix all ingredients in a saucepan and heat, stirring all the time until the mixture is thick. Cool. Knead until the dough is not too sticky. Add more flour as needed. Keep dough in a plastic covered container or a re-sealable bag.

Children learn through everyday moments.

Check out next month's activity page for more ideas.

Remember to . . .

- Follow your child's lead
- Add new words and ideas
- Repeat new words over and over