

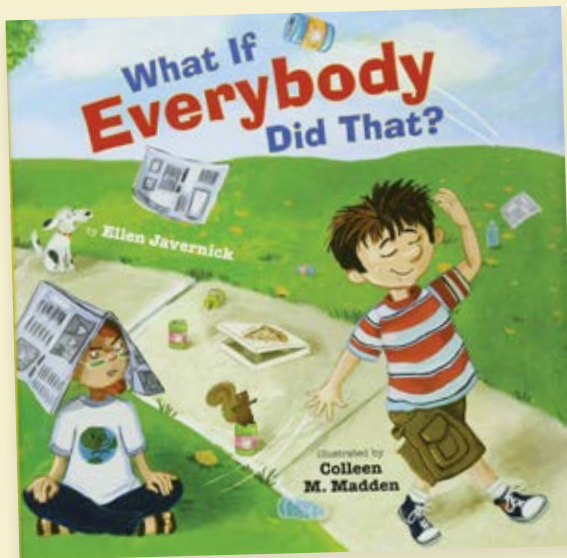
FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

First Things First



This week, let's read books about being responsible. Find this one at your library or on YouTube. It presents silly situations and pictures to discuss with your child:



What If Everybody Did That?
by Ellen Javernick

TOGETHER TIME

Responsible Chores

What?

In the story of the week at school (*First Things First*), Otter and Beaver clean up before going to their next fun activity. Invite your child to help you with the chores this week.

How?

Pick simple chores your child can do with you every day so that you build a routine. For example, provide a special cloth your child uses every night to wipe down the table with you.

Why?

Learning to be responsible requires a lot of repetition and routine. Responsibility develops naturally when children have daily chores.





First Things First Calendar



experience
toddler

language & literacy

math & reasoning

music & movement

art & drama

LESSON 1

BOOK DISCOVERY Otter Block Reading

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Explore the books. Practice turning pages from front to back. Stack a block then turn the page.

NUMBER PLAY Frogs in Cups

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Count frogs in a cup. Explore numbers 1-5.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Star Scarves

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance with scarves inside a star on the floor without touching each other.

DRAMATIC PLAY Otter Doll

CA 4 DRAMA

Make an otter doll with a paper bag and pretend it is real.

LESSON 2

PICTURES & LETTERS Where Is the Otter?

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Identify the pictures in a story. Hold a Story Piece and look for it in the book.

MEASURE WITH ME Water Jug

★ MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore heavy and light by carrying water jugs filled full and partially full across the room.

COORDINATION Responsible Dance

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

While dancing, touch the otter sticker each time you hear the word "responsible."

STICKER ART Otter Stickers

★ PD 4 PERSONAL CARE

Name body parts while applying stickers on hands, feet and other parts.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION Pompom Help

★ LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Use the "help" sign throughout the day. Put a pompom in a cup each time someone makes the sign.

SENSORY PLAY Playdough Fish

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Decorate a mat with dough fish. Pretend they are fish swimming in the river.

GROUP DANCE Dance to Green

CA 2 DANCE

Dance with a partner. Hold hands and move together to the green paper then the black paper.



PAINTING Star Stamping

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Strengthen fine motor skills and stamp stars on a paper star.

LESSON 4

STORY PLAY Fox or Otter?

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Roll a cube with the story characters. Toss a pompom into the bowl with the matching Story Piece.

LIFE SKILLS Toss the Snack

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Increase attention span and explore balancing objects on a spoon then dumping them into bowls.

RHYTHM PATTERNS Catch the Fish

CA 1 MUSIC

Take turns passing a toy fish (or sock). Imagine catching a big fish.

COLLAGING Letter P Collage

★ LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Arrange a variety of circle tissues on the Letter P page.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING Clap for Otter

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Clap hands each time a keyword such as "otter" is spoken during a story read-aloud.

SORTING & SHAPES Tool Clean-Up

MR 3 SHAPES

Place Tool Cards on a shadow mat and match the shapes.

SOUNDS & SIGNS Together Sign

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the word "together." Sign the word to the read-aloud.

COLORING Otter & Fox

★ PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore coloring a picture of Otter and Fox.



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

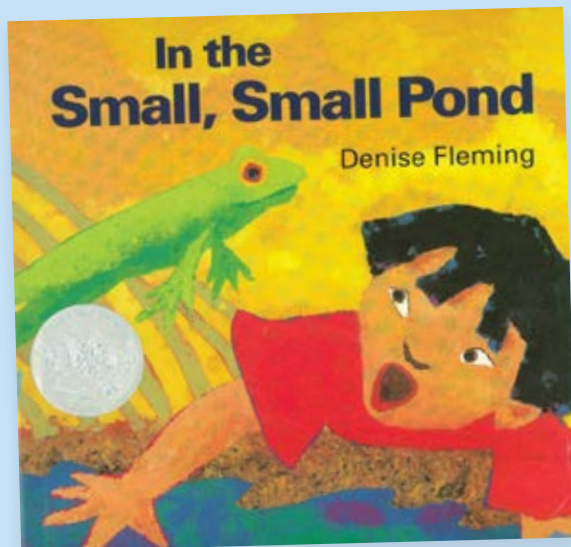
OUR WEEK WITH

Ponds

experience
toddler



This week, let's read books to help our children learn about ponds and pond life. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



In the Small, Small Pond
by Denise Fleming

TOGETHER

TIME

Point at Green

What?

In the story of the week at school (*Follow the Path Pond*), children learned about many different pond animals and their colors. Look for the color green in your home.

How?

Show your child something green then hunt for it all day. Point at it and say, "Look--GREEN!"

Why?

This activity builds color recognition. This month your child will be working on recognizing the colors green and black.





Follow the Path Pond Calendar



experience
toddler

LESSON 1

language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY

Follow the Farm Pond

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Develop book handling skills by following text from left to right.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES

Pond Patterns

MR 5 PATTERNS

Place stars on a Pond Pattern Mat. Sort by color and by size.

music & movement

GROUP DANCE

Dance to Black

★ SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Take turns being the movement leader during the song. Hold the black ribbon and lead others around the chairs.

art & drama

STICKER ART

Pond Shadows

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Use visual scanning to identify a specific sticker and place it on the page.

LESSON 2

LETTERS & PICTURES

Where Is the Frog?

★ LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Hide a frog Story Piece under a bowl and try to find it. Tell a story about why the frog is missing.

MEASURE WITH ME

Star Measure

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of length by lining up foam stars to measure the length of each pond creature.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

Star Dance

MR 3 SHAPES

Follow a star path while singing and dancing to the beat of a song.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Catch a Fish

★ CA 4 DRAMA

Decorate a fish and pretend to go fishing.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION

Duck Walk

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Sign the word "duck" each time it is mentioned in a song. Carry duck cards across the room during each verse.

SENSORY PLAY

Where's the Rock?

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Control the small muscles in the fingers by pulling out rocks or beans folded into dough.

COORDINATION

Five Little Speckled Frogs

★ PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Do Yoga poses to the song and squat like a frog then balance on your hands.

PAINTING

Painting Lily Pads

MR 3 SHAPES

Explore mixing paint to make green. Make a lily pad.

LESSON 4

STORY PLAY

Pond Match

MR 6 CLASSIFICATION

Roll a cube with Story Cards and follow a path to the matching pond animal.

NUMBER PLAY

Counting Frogs

★ MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Look at a paper lily pad and count the frogs. Place one pompom on each frog.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Shake Together

★ CA 1 MUSIC

Play a shaker to the music. Sit on a blanket while playing.

COLLAGING

Duck Collage

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Strengthen fine motor coordination by tearing tissue paper and gluing onto Duck.



LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING

Pond Path Sounds

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Participate in a story read-aloud by imitating the sounds of the path.

LIFE SKILLS

Feed the Frog

SCI 2 NATURAL & EARTH SCIENCE

Explore feeding a frog with different insect cards. Find matching cards.

SOUNDS & SIGNS

Ducks at Play

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the words "duck" and "play." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING

Pond Maze

LLD 7 WRITING

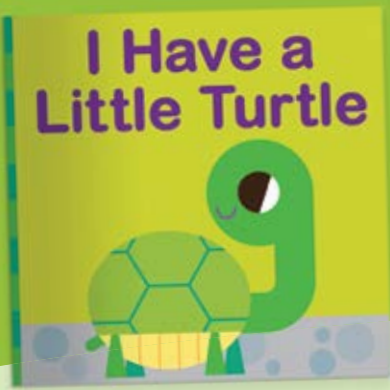
Strengthen fine motor and pencil control by drawing inside a maze path. Retrace the path in different colors.

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

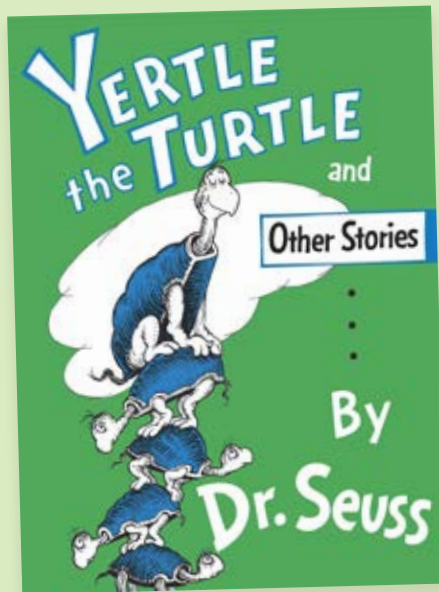
OUR WEEK WITH

I Have a Little Turtle

experience
toddler



This week, let's read books about words that rhyme and have the same ending sounds. Find this one at your library or on YouTube:



Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories
by Dr. Seuss

TOGETHER TIME

Snap at Vocabulary

What?

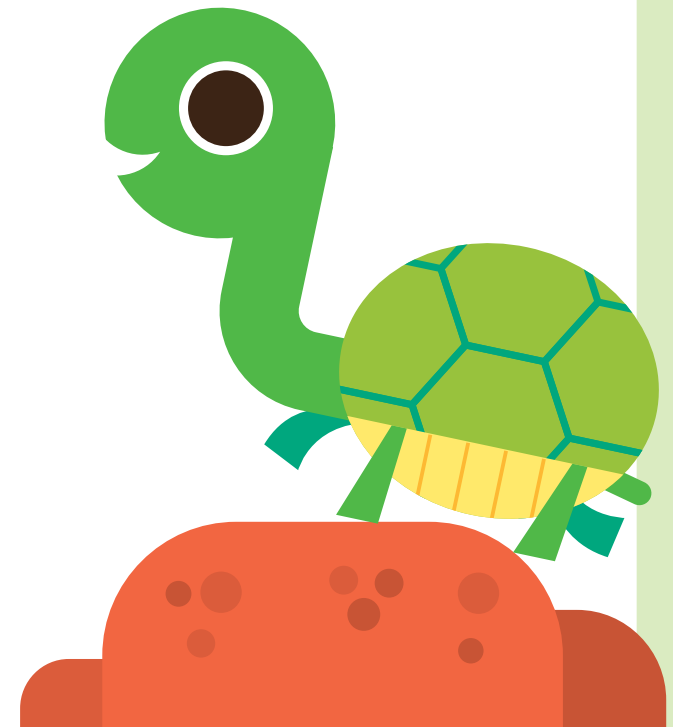
In the story of the week (*I Have a Little Turtle*), a pet turtle snaps at a minnow and a flea. These words may be new to your child so take the time to help build her vocabulary.

How?

Go for a walk and play a snapping game. Say, "Let's snap at the flower" or "Let's snap at the grass." Take turns snapping it with fingers and listen for your child to mimic the words you say as you join in the snapping fun.

Why?

This activity builds vocabulary. By the time a child turns 3, she may know between 200-300 words. The more you talk and read with your child, the more words she will learn.





I Have a Little Turtle Calendar



experience
toddler

LESSON 1

language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY Turtle Hide 'n Seek

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Place sticky notes on each page of the book. Lift the flap and determine if a word or picture is hiding.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES Star Tray

MR 3 SHAPES

Roll a cube and identify the color of the star. Put the same color on a table. Which color star is rolled the most?

music & movement

GROUP DANCE Hold Up Green

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

While the song plays, listen for the word "green" and hold up the green paper.

art & drama

STICKER ART Turtle Sticker Pond

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Build eye-hand coordination by holding the sticker sheet with one hand and peeling off a sticker with the other/dominant hand.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY Little Turtle & Me

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Make conversations between the Story Pieces and photos of each child to help them imagine being in the story.

MEASURE WITH ME Tossing Near & Far

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of distance. Toss colored pompoms into matching ribbon rings.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT Open, Shut & Snap

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore hand coordination while opening and shutting fists to a silly song about a turtle.

PAINTING Turtle Shell Dots

SS 1 CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Use a pompom to make dot art and celebrate aboriginal art and culture.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION Turtle Sign

★ LLD 1 LISTENING

Use a small voice when saying and signing "turtle." Explore how tone of voice communicates meaning.

SENSORY PLAY Turtle Shell Designs

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Play with dough and put rocks or other nature objects in it to design a turtle shell.

COORDINATION Black Line

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Dance and improve balance by walking foot in front of foot on a ribbon. Step over toys on the line.

DRAMATIC PLAY Turtle Pull Toy

CA 4 DRAMA

Make a turtle pull toy by decorating a bowl. Play with the turtle outside.

LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS Pond Blocks

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Pull blocks out of a bag and line them up. Identify the pictures on the blocks.

LIFE SKILLS Squeezing Water

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore dunking a pompom in water then squeezing water into a cup.

RHYTHM PATTERNS Responsible Ball

CA 1 MUSIC

Play with friends by rolling a ball back and forth while a song plays.

COLLAGING Bug Collage

★ SCI 3 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Explore textures while making a bug collage with felt shapes.



LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING Snap Tongs

SED 3 ATTENTION & PERSISTENCE

Increase attention span while listening to stories by playing with tweezers or tongs.

NUMBER PLAY Turtle Roll & Cover

MR 1 NUMBER SENSE

Recognize the difference between the numerals one, two and three. Roll a number and cover the same number on the turtle shell.

SOUNDS & SIGNS Swim Sign

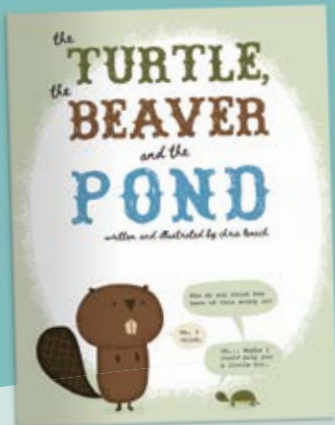
CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Listen for the word "swim." Sign the word to the music.

COLORING Me & My Turtle

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Explore coloring upside-down or in positions other than sitting, e.g., on tummy or back.



FAMILY NEWSLETTER

OUR WEEK WITH

The Turtle, the Beaver and the Pond

experience
toddler

TOGETHER

TIME

Star Hunt

What?

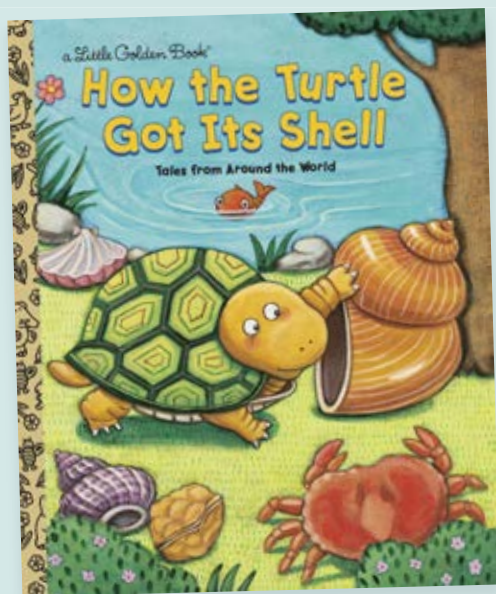
This month, your child has learned about many different shapes, especially the star shape. Reinforce the star shape by hanging stars in your home.

How?

Cut out 5-6 paper stars. Write your child's name on each star and post them around the house. Encourage your child to point at a star when he eats dinner, walks down the hallway or goes to bed. Hug your child and say, "You are my star!"

Why?

This activity helps your child identify shapes in his natural environments. Seeing his name on the stars will strengthen name recognition. When he hears you celebrate him, his self-confidence will soar.



How the Turtle Got Its Shell:
Tales from Around the World
by Justine & Ron Fontes





The Turtle, the Beaver and the Pond Calendar



experience
toddler

LESSON 1

language & literacy

BOOK DISCOVERY

The Turtle & the Beaver

LLD 5 CONCEPTS OF PRINT

Explore the book and how to hold it right-side up. Use the pictures on the pages as clues to what is happening in the story.

math & reasoning

SORTING & SHAPES

Stick Designs

★ MR 3 SHAPES

Explore sorting sticks by color then build a tall pile with them.

music & movement

GROUP DANCE

Big Mouth, Little Mouth

LLD 3 PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Explore singing while looking in a mirror.

art & drama

STICKER ART

Turtle & Beaver Stickers

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Practice the pincer grip by peeling off desired stickers and decorating a sheet of paper.

LESSON 2

STORY PLAY

Pond Storytelling

LLD 6 READING COMPREHENSION

Listen actively and hold up the Story Piece when a character is named during a read-aloud.

MEASURE WITH ME

Big & Small Stars

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore concepts of size. Place big stars in the big star outline and little stars in the little star outline.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

On My Pond Dance

CA 2 DANCE & MOVEMENT

Dance in personal space on a towel. Pause the music and run to another towel. Repeat.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Beaver Headband

CA 4 DRAMA

Look at a photo of a beaver and explore the colors and spots. Then make a headband and pretend to be a beaver.

LESSON 3

COMMUNICATION

Big & Small Signs

LLD 1 LISTENING

Practice signing the words "big" and "small." Look at pictures in a book and determine if they are big or small.

SENSORY PLAY

Beaver Tails

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Press a spatula into the dough and learn about beaver tails.

COORDINATION

Responsible Clean-Up

PD 1 GROSS MOTOR

Build eye-hand coordination by picking up, tossing and catching pompoms while music plays.

PAINTING

Turtle Handprint

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Trace each child's hand and cut it out. Invite them to decorate it to look like a turtle. Paint a pond with watercolors.

LESSON 4

PICTURES & LETTERS

Beaver Sticks

LLD 2 COMMUNICATION

Recall story characters by rolling a cube and building a beaver dam with sticks each time the beaver picture is rolled.

LIFE SKILLS

Pond Heads & Tails

MR 2 SPATIAL AWARENESS

Match heads and tails of pond animals. Talk about what goes together.

RHYTHM PATTERNS

Beaver Tail Pat

CA 1 MUSIC

Transition between starting and stopping. Hold the piece of cardboard and pat it on the edge of the table.

COLLAGING

Nature River Collage

CA 3 VISUAL ARTS

Gather nature items such as flowers, grass and sticks then collage them onto a strip of paper.

LESSON 5

ACTIVE LISTENING

Draw the Pond

LLD 1 LISTENING

Draw or scribble while listening to a story read-aloud. Use the drawings as prompts and retell what you heard.

NUMBER PLAY

Pouring Station

MR 4 MEASUREMENT

Explore pouring water from a cup into a bin or into a bigger cup.

SOUNDS & SIGNS

Big Sing-Along

LLD 1 LISTENING

Listen for the words "big" and "small." Sign the words to the music.

COLORING

Turtle, Beaver & Me

PD 2 FINE MOTOR

Draw a self-portrait on a flat surface.

