

YDI Early/Head Start Parent Child Connectors

Program: Early Head Start **Month:** MAY 2020 **Child Name:** _____
Curriculum: Frog Street **Theme:** BUGS **Parent Name:** _____
Center: _____ **Classroom:** _____ **Parent Signature:** _____

Date	Activity	Names of Books Read (write in Titles)	Time Spent (circle hours and minutes)	
			Hrs.	Mins.
5/1/2020	Example: 3. Mirror Play (write the number and bold writing)	Green Eggs and Ham	1 2	15 30 45
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Total, Side 1 Hours: _____ Minutes: _____

Date	Activity	Names of Books Read (write in Titles)	Time Spent (circle hours and minutes)	
			Hrs.	Mins.
			1 2	15 30 45
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Total, Side 2 Hours: _____ Minutes: _____

For Staff Use Only:			
Total, Side 1	Hours: _____	Minutes: _____	
Total, Side 2	Hours: _____	Minutes: _____	
Combined Total	Hours: _____	Minutes: _____	
Converted to Decimal: _____		hours	
(15 minutes = .25, 30 minutes = .5, 45 minutes = .75)			

Infant and toddler activates

1. **Touch, Feel and Grasp** Soft toys such as stuffed animals or rattles provide infants with the opportunity to hold and feel items and use their grasp reflex.
2. **Sing a song** Guide the infant's hands to clap, during a song or chant.
3. **Imitate Actions** Do some actions that your baby can copy
4. **Moving Objects** Hang a mobile over the crib or close to child allowing infant to hit or kick the hanging objects.
5. **Stacking Objects** Provide a variety of soft blocks and allow child to stack them up.
6. **Box Exploration** Have a variety of boxes of different sizes and allow child to explore, move, hold and stack them.
7. **Fabric Play** Have scarves and pieces of cloth of different colors and textures in a box. Encourage child to pull them out
8. **Puzzle Pan** Have a muffin pan accompanied by a variety of small objects. It can be an excellent first puzzle for infants and toddlers.
9. **Music and Movement** Sing songs to make your child's body move such as clapping hands, stomping feet, and shouting "Hooray".
10. **Cause and Effect** Play cause-and-effect games, such as filling a container with objects, water, or sand, and then dumping it out or building a tower with blocks and knocking it down. .
11. **Give Her Choices** Give your child the chance to select between two choices as often as you can: "Would you like apple or orange juice?" "Do you want to wear your red shirt or your yellow one?" "ShallHippopotamus?'
12. **Bath Time** While in the bath tub, have your child play with floating toys and sinking objects
13. **Stimulate Her Senses** Put your baby on a quilt made of different fabrics or with different patterns. She will be able to see and touch the difference.
14. **Nature Walk** Take a walk around the neighborhood and point out the trees and their different color leaves. Make a Toy Box Fill a box with objects made of different materials, such as metal, plastic, and wood. Let your baby dump out the box and explore the contents.
15. **Kitchen Science** Place kitchen utensils in a container and allow child to manipulate them, You can add water to make it more interesting
16. **Baby Chatter** What are you doing right now? Tell your baby about it. For example, "We're going to have lunch soon. Let's set the table. Are you hungry?"
17. **Around the house** Name objects around you. "Look, here is your favorite bear. Watch me give him a hug. Would you like to hug him, too?" "Let's count your socks. One, two, three, four, five, six! socks!" "ShallHippopotamus?'
18. **Sensational Scarves** Gather your scarves, toss them in the air one by one in front of your child and let her watch the scarf swirl and float to the ground. Pick up the scarf, bring it to your child, and let her touch the fabric
19. **A bit beyond reach** Lay your child on his stomach and place the object just beyond his reach. As your child stretches out his hands, rolls on his side, or crawls on his tummy toward the object, encourage him by smiling and clapping your hands.
20. **Make your own music** Fill a plastic container or jar onethird to halfway with rice, buttons, or other small objects. Close the lid tightly and wrap with tape to avoid any spills. Encourage child to shake it.
21. **Obstacle Course** Place a large blanket on the ground and scatter the items on it. Make sure each item is far enough apart so you and your child can step or crawl around it. If your child is crawling, show her how to crawl around the objects..
22. **Hiding and Finding** Invite your baby to look for an object that she watches you hide
23. **Dropping Objects** Invite your baby to practice dropping things, especially things that make a noise when they land.
24. **What comes next** Show your baby a familiar object and tell him what you are going to do with it
25. **Imitate Actions** Do some actions that your baby can copy
26. **Puzzle Play** You can invent a first puzzle for your baby by letting him put items in a muffin pan.
27. **Two Ways** Use a box with two homes to let your baby discover how to retrieve a toy that has gone out of reach
28. **Taste Game** Describe your baby's experience as she touches and tastes things.
29. **Ball Game** Have foam balls available and encourage child to throw them, describe actions adding words such as fast, slow, high, low.
30. **Cold and Hot** Simply fill one bottle with ice and the other with warm tap water. Encourage child to explore them.
31. **Fabric Exploration** Provide pieces of fabric of different textures and allow child to explore them. Describe textures.
32. **Sticky Situation** Tape a piece of contact paper on the wall and give your child cotton pieces and Q-tips to stick on it.
33. **Tell a story** Talk to your baby, tell about your day, maintaining eye contact
34. **Pull it out!** Place pieces of fabric in a box full of holes and encourage child to pull them out.
35. **Pouring Station** Using just water and cups. Create a simple pouring station that will hold your toddler's attention for a long while
36. **Find a Picture** Name a picture and then turn it away from your baby so he can try to find it
37. **Read to your baby** Show her picture books with bright colors and highcontrast patterns. She'll love looking at the pictures and listening to your voice

- 38.**Sound recognition** Provide toys that make different sounds, including musical toys that make noise when touched. Your baby will learn that hitting the toy will make a pleasant noise
- 39.**Holding and dropping** Offer toys that your baby can close her hand around. Encourage her to use her hands to grasp and release objects.
- 40.**Something Interesting** Hold your baby or place him where he can hold his head up and look at interest thing. Describe what you see.
- 41.**Following Directions** Give your toddler simple directions, like to pick, bring or find something.
- 42.**Hide and Seek** Play hide and seek (partially hide an object under a blanket and ask your baby to find it)
- 43.**Build up and topple** down Place one block on the floor or a low table and stack more on top one at a time. Count the blocks as you add them to the tower. Build the tower as high as you can and then let your child knock it down with his hands or feet
- 44.**Read to your baby** Show her picture books with bright colors and highcontrast patterns. She'll love looking at the pictures and listening to your voice
- 45.**Sound recognition** Provide toys that make different sounds, including musical toys that make noise when touched. Your baby will learn that hitting the toy will make a pleasant noise
- 46.**Sing to your baby** Play music. Sing! Your child will love whatever music you play for her, so choose something you like to listen to as well.
- 47.**Tell a story** Talk to your baby, tell about your day, maintaining eye contact
- 48.**Name Things** Name things and people that surround your baby
- 49.**Hide and Seek** Play hide and seek (partially hide an object under a blanket and ask your baby to find it)
- 50.**Mirror Play** In front of the mirror touch your child's facial features and name them.
- 51.**Treasure Hunt** Partially hide an object under a blanket and ask your baby where it is. At this age, children are able to mentally recreate the whole object even If they can see only part of it.
- 52.**Stacking Toys** Give your child plastic bowls of different sizes for stacking, banging, rolling and wearing like a hat.
- 53.**Talking to Baby** Say out loud the things you are doing such as, "I'm putting milk in your bottle."
- 54.**Changing Time** As you change your child, name the clothes as you put them on him or her.
- 55.**New Words** Find opportunities to teach your child new words. If your child says "Ba" you say words that start with the same sound such as bottle and ball.
- 56.**Squeeze and Squish** Squish and squeeze objects with your child such as an orange, lemon, or a toy to see and hear the cause and effect.
- 57.**Peek-a-Boo** With your baby facing you, talk to her from behind a cloth, and then peek out. Use facial expressions.
- 58.**Voice Hunt** Call your baby's name from a distance so he can practice locating your voice.
- 59.**Out of Sight** Move a toy out of sight. Make a noise with it, and then return it.
- 60.**Sink and Float** Put a rubber ducky or ball in the bathtub. Tell your little one, "It stayed on top of the water. It floats!" Then put a toy car in the bathtub. Tell your little one, "It sunk to the bottom of the water. It sinks!"

6-3 months

- 61.**Make funny faces:** stick your tongue out, blow up your cheeks, turn your nose "up", make fish lips...and watch your baby try!
- 62.Help your baby pick up a safe object, or hold the object so baby has to reach or grasp to get it- child will explore with all senses
- 63.**Cause & Effect:** Sit on floor with baby and play with various toys such as rattles, music boxes, balls and squeeze toys. Show what happens when you move the toy and how it causes a noise. Coo back when the baby coos. Smile back when the baby smiles.
- 64.**Help me stay calm:** 1 Play music softly only during floor time. Sing simple songs when holding baby. Sway side to side, and make a swooshing sound when baby is upset.
- 65.**Hold my finger:** place your finger in baby's hand. She will grasp at it. She may not hold on for long.
- 66.**Humpty Dumpty:** Recite this nursery rhyme: Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the kings horses, and all the kings men, could put Humpty together again.
- 67.**Help your baby** learn about her feet by playing games.
- 68.**Strengthen baby's** neck by placing a toy in front of him during tummy time
- 69.**Here I Come:** When baby cries, go to her as soon as possible. If you are with another child, call the name of the child who is crying and let her know you are coming. Always pick baby up gently. Signal to them before you pick them up by saying, am here. I am going to pick you up now."
- 70.**What' that Noise?:** pick 2 rattles that sound different. After a minute of play, pick up the other rattle and shake it for baby. Talk about the sounds as you shake the rattles. Try the activity at another time using tow musical toys that make different sounds.
- 71.**Sing to your baby.** Babies refine their ability to hear specific language sounds during their first year of life by listening carefully as we speak, read, and sing to them.
- 72.**Massage little fingers** and toes and say, "What beautiful fingers and toes you have!"

- 73. Sing a song** as you move baby's arms and legs up and down.
- 74. My time:** Make special and dedicated time for your child. Talk to her, play a game, and rock and sing to your child. Make eye contact and tell her how special she is. This special connection will help children build trust.
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- 76. My Name:** Use this chant to help baby recognize her name: Where is Emily? Where is Emily? Here she is. Here she is. How are you today? How are you today? You look just fine! You look just fine
- 77. Play:** "This Little Piggy." And touch baby's fingers as you chant the song. Repeat using baby's toes.
- 78. Tracking:** Hold rattle in front of baby. Once he has sight of it, move it slowly from side to side
- 79. Hug Me:** Rocking, hugging, and cuddling are basic needs for infants. Find time throughout the day to give baby the gift of gently and loving touches.
- 80. Bubbles:** Blow bubbles in the line of sight of your baby. Talk about the bubbles, the wind that carries the bubbles.
- 81. Music Time:** Play a variety of music for baby during tummy time. Give older baby a rattle to shake along to the beat
- 82. Hold my finger:** place your finger in baby's hand. She will grasp at it. She may not hold on for long.
- 83. Cause & Effect:** Sit on floor with baby and play with various toys such as rattles, music boxes, balls and squeeze toys. Show what happens when you move the toy and how it causes a noise. Coo back when the baby coos. Smile back when the baby smiles.

4-8 months

- 84. Pick up** a (new) object and say wow, look at that!! Encourage baby to come and explore, while you describe the object (-look at that soft fur)
- 85. Provide** your child with two safe items that make noise when you bang them together.
- 86. I see Yellow:** Baby can see yellow around 5-6m. Provide your baby with a yellow toy. Point out the color when you see it in your environment
- 87. Mirror, Mirror:** Sit with baby in your lap facing a mirror. Tell baby how handsome he is. Talk about his pretty eyes and cute nose.
- 88. Where is it?** Shake a rattle behind baby. Notice if he turns to see where the noise came from. Try several times. Repeat game often until baby turns to the source of the sound.
- 89. Play with spoons** or rattles.
- 90. Talk through** tummy time with you and your child on the floor.
- 91. Row Your Boat:** sit on the floor with baby in your lap facing away from you with her back to your stomach. Sing this song in a cheery voice while gently rocking from side to side. "Row, row row your boat gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily life is but a dream.
- 92. Problem Solving:** When baby is holding two toys, offer her a third toy. Observe what she does to solve the problem.
- 93. Hand-to-Knee** Stretch Lay baby on the floor on his back. Move baby's leg to his hand. Encourage him to grab onto his foot.
- 94. Ride a Little** Horsie: sit on the floor with your legs extended and baby sitting on your legs facing you. Bounce your legs up and down to simulate the movement one feels when riding a horse. Say the rhyme: "Ride a little horsie to town. Watch out! Don't fall down
- 95. Offer baby** a variety of safe materials to play with and touch; soft, hard, crinkly, squeaky, silky, squashy...
- 96. This is a recording:** Record your baby babbling. Play it back to her. She will enjoy listening to herself as much as older babies enjoy looking at themselves.
- 97. Here comes the airplane:** when feeding baby, play "here comes the airplane."
- 98. Reach for it:** Place toys just out of reach of baby. Encourage her to move to get the toy. Praise her for getting the toy once she does
- 99. Baby Massage:** Use lotion to massage an infant's hands and feet. Talk about the feel of the lotion on the skin. Talk about the baby's tiny fingers and toes. Talk about the smell of the lotion.
- 100. My Name:** Make it a habit to call baby by name. Eventually she will respond to her name even when it is said in another room.
- 101. Name that Sound:** when baby is eating, describe the noises that he makes. Does the milk slurp? Do the crackers crunch? Describe the food to baby.
- 102. I see Yellow:** Baby can see yellow around 5-6m. Provide your baby with a yellow toy. Point out the color when you see it in your environment

9-12 months

- 103.**Body Parts:** children are very interested in songs that relate to them. Where is Belly Button? Where is Belly button?(point to belly button) Here I am(point to belly button) How are you today? (point to belly button) I am fine today, friend. (point to belly button) Poke, poke, poke.(poke belly button) Repeat with other body parts
- 104.**Make a ball out of a sock and play catch with your baby.**
- 105.**Mimic Me:** Mimic your baby's actions. Clap when she claps. Coo when she coos.
- 106.**Your Hands, My Hands:** Compare your hands to baby's hands. Ask: Whose hands are larger? Who has the smallest hands? How many fingers are on your hand? How many fingers are on my hand? Talk about what you do with your hands.
- 107.**Create a safe** obstacle course for baby to walk, crawl, and jump through; over, under, through, between...
- 108.**Can you repeat it?** Lay a few squeaky toys/rattles around baby. Describe the sound the toy makes. Baby will like your imitation of the sound. If baby coos, you mimic his sound
- 109.**Place lids** from jars into containers. Your child likes to fill and dump.
- 110.**Let her stretch** out to reach toys on a table.
- 111.**Monkey See, Monkey Do:** Say the rhyme while performing the actions: I can touch my nose. I can touch my eye. I can touch my toes. I can wave bye-bye. Encourage your child to do what you do.
- 112.**Do the Crawl:** Place a blanket over a table to create a crawl through tunnel. Place a toy at one end of the tunnel to motivate baby. Add pillows for obstacles.
- 113.**Talk with your child** on a play phone. Use a box for a phone
- 114.**Talk about stones,** stick and leaves outside and bring them inside to enjoy.
- 115.**While bathing baby,** encourage her to squeeze a sponge. It will help her strengthen her muscles
- 116.**Where are baby's Eyes?:** Ask baby where her eyes are? If she does not know, gently point to them. Also point to your own eyes. After a few times, baby will start to learn where her eyes are.
- 117.**Matching:** While doing laundry, see if baby can match socks.
- 118.**From my View:** Crawl with your little one. Name the things you see on the floor. Create a path of objects to talk about.
- 119.**Spider Fingers:** Show baby how to wiggle their fingers to make spider fingers. Demonstrate placing your spider fingers between a light source and the wall to make shadow spiders.
- 120.**Place pillows** in a path and invite your baby to crawl over them. You do it first to encourage baby to do it too.
- 121.**Peek-a-Boo:** Play peek-a-boo with baby. Use your hands, or better, a small blanket. Play several rounds with baby and then hand the blanket to baby.
- 122.**Bubbles Away:** Blow bubbles and then show baby how to gently blow on them again to keep them from floating to the ground.
- 123.**It begins with:** Make up alliterative names for your baby, such as beautiful Becky, or persistent Paul. Use food also, such as baby bananas.
- 124.**Create a safe** obstacle course for baby to walk, crawl, and jump through; over, under, through, between...
- 125.**Mimic Me:** Mimic your baby's actions. Clap when she claps. Coo when she coos.

toddler activities

- 126.**Bug Buzzers:** Invite child to make mosquito and fly buzzers from toilet paper tubes and wax paper. Help secure a piece of wax paper to one end of the tube with a rubber band. Show child how to blow through the open end of the tube to make a buzzing sound.
- 127.**Mosquito, Mosquito, Fly:** Play this game as you would play Duck, Duck, Goose. Invite child to fly around pretending to be flies and mosquitos
- 128.**Camp Site:** Make a camp tent by draping a sheet over a table. Invite child to pretend to be campers using camping supplies: flashlight, pillow, and blanket. Encourage your child to read books in their tent
- 129.**Flea Fly.** Read the poem. Explain that a flea is another insect like the mosquito. It bites. Talk to child about insect bites and how to care for them. Remind child that they should never touch a bug unless an adult says it's ok. Flea, Fly: Flea, Fly. Fiddle-de-de-fiddle-de-di fleas hop. Flies fly. Fiddle-de-defiddle-de-dite. Flies fly. Fleas bite
- 130.**Fingerprint Bugs:** Help your child dip a finger in paint and then make three fingerprints in a row so the prints connect to look like the three body parts of an insect. Have your child use markers to turn their fingerprints into ants or bees. By drawing antennae and legs. Don't expect perfection. Focus on having fun

131. **Crawling Ants:** Discuss places ants find and are attracted to food (food on wrappers, food in the trash, food dropped on the ground). Explain that we often see ants crawling along in a straight line toward the food they find. Place items on the floor to represent food, in an open area of a room. Invite your little one to pretend the items on the floor are ant food. Have them crawl to the food.
132. **Toast and Honey:** Invite your child to eat toast and honey with a friend. Provide toast and help your child spread a little honey on top. Point out that bees make honey. Ask your child what she likes about honey
133. **Follow the Crumbs:** Make a “crumb” path outdoors using small balls of yellow paper. Invite child to pretend to be ants and follow the crumbs.
134. **Cocoon:** invite your little one to use toilet paper to wrap you in a cocoon. **Adaptation:** Invite a younger child to wrap just your arm
135. **Flying:** Invite your child to hold one paper plate in each hand and flap their “wing” like butterflies around the house, outside, at the park.
136. **Butterfly Kisses:** teach your child how to give butterfly kisses(flutter eyelashes) I’ll give you a butterfly kiss on your nose. I’ll give you one on your ear. I’ll give you one on your knee. Can you give a butterfly kiss to me?
137. **Blotto Butterflies:** Invite child to choose paint colors for their butterfly. Place their paint choices on one half of a sheet of paper. Fold the other side of the paper over. Invite child to press and rub the paint. Open paper to reveal butterfly wings.
138. **Spot Toss:** Place a large ladybug (blanket, or red paper) on the floor. Use masking tape to create a throw line and invite your child to toss black spots (paper) onto the ladybug. (Adaptation: Invite younger children to simply place the spots on the ladybug.)
139. **Fly Away Home:** Invite child to hold a red paper plate in each hand and “fly” around the playground like ladybugs.
140. **Did you Know?** Emotions boost memory. The endorphins that are released with emotional responses act as a memory fixative. This is why we have clear memories of the highs and lows of our lives. Show your emotions when appropriate. Encourage your child to think about how they feel about the activities they are doing.
141. **Shadow Spiders:** Invite your child to wiggle their fingers (like spiders) between a light source, and a wall to create shadow spiders.
142. **Fly Away Home:** Invite child to hold a red paper plate in each hand and “fly” around the playground like ladybugs.
143. **Make a Wish:** Discuss the fact that many people believe ladybugs are good luck. Some people even believe that if a ladybug lands on you, you can make a wish and it will come true. Ask your child what wish they would make if a ladybug landed on them. Record their wishes on paper and post it. Adaptation: Make wish suggestions for younger children. For example, say: You might wish for a special snack or you might wish for a puppy.