



## Home activities to do with your baby

Week 4: June 22 – June 26

### Let's Talk, Read, and Sing about STEAM!

Children begin discovering the world around them from the moment they are born. When you talk, read and sing with your child, you're helping them to learn. It can be as simple as counting your baby's toes during bath time, asking your toddler a question about the sky, or encouraging preschool-age children to build with blocks! In fact, very young children can learn some of the basic concepts underlying science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). You can discover STEAM with your child in many ways. Talk, read, sing, play, sign or use other ways to communicate – whatever works best for your family.

For parents of children who are learning Spanish, talk about STEAM in your home language, in English or both. Research shows that bilingual children have an easier time understanding math concepts and developing strong thinking skills. When families use their native language, it helps children foster a rich sense of self. Bilingual students have certain cognitive and social benefits that facilitate success in school and life.



## Let's Observe the World!

Observing is important in science. Everywhere you go, talk about what you see and describe what your baby is looking at or pointing to: "Wow, I see that big, blue truck too! Look at the black spinning wheels! How many wheels does it have all together? 1, 2, 3, 4 wheels. Four wheels all together."

## Count, Rhyme and Sing!



Use numbers as you go about your day together. Sing simple number songs like "One, two, buckle your shoe." Repetitive songs like "Las ruedas del autobús" or "5 monitos" help babies learn patterns too!

PLAY SONG



## Would You Like More?

During mealtime, you can teach about the idea of "more" – the first step toward understanding addition. As you feed your baby, pause and ask if they want more. Wait to see how they respond to your questions and follow their cues.



## Link Words with Actions!



When you move your baby from one position or place to another, put words to your actions. Say "up, up, up" when you lift your baby from the changing table, crib, or floor. When you place them down, say "now down you go to play!" These simple words build the foundation for later math and engineering skills.

## Use All Your Senses!

At the grocery store, discover the smell, feel and taste of different items with your child. Hold an orange and say, "What does an orange look like? Feel like? It's round and smooth." At home, hold a dish towel and say, "A dish towel is a rectangle and feels soft." Encourage your baby to explore these objects with their senses.

## Peeling Tape Fine Motor Baby Activity

Supplies:

- Colored tape
- A flat surface (highchair, table, wall or floor)

Directions:

- › To set up this baby activity cut strips of colored tape up and stick them to your chosen surface. You can use a highchair, table, the floor, a window or a wall.
- › Invite your baby to peel off the tape. They may need you to show them what to do.
- › Experiment with sticking the tape down in different ways. Put it in straight lines, overlap the tape or even make a picture!
- › As your baby peels the tape off just look at the concentration on their face.



## Art activity: Painting with water

Here's what you need:

- Colored construction paper (stock up on the good stuff here)
- A paint brush
- A cup of water



What to do:

Place the paper on your baby highchair. Next, dip the paint brush into the water. You may need to demonstrate to your baby how to "paint" on the paper. Once you've demonstrated let your baby have a turn. Praise them for the little strokes they make on the paper. Encouraged will keep them painting.

## Engineering activity: Playing with balls



In this activity, your baby can feel the sticky texture of the adhesive tape, which together with a hula hoop, formed a fun game. The purpose of this activity will be encouraging your baby to stick and remove the balls, from the circle.

The concentration of your baby will be something beautiful to see!