

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Remember to praise with your smiles, words, claps, fist bumps, high fives, and hugs.

INFANTS

Purpose

Parents will share various colors of objects or pictures in the home or outside while identifying them for visual and auditory stimulation. Under the guidance of the parents, the infant will touch different surfaces and fabrics for tactile stimulation. Infants will be stimulated and motivated to converse with parents and other family members while taking turns to listen and babble/talk with others in the home.

Materials

Index cards
Black marker
Paper (construction, or any color paper)
Bowl of snow
White paper – cut 3 circles, small, medium, large
Blue paper
Scissors
Glue

Reading and Language

Share and sing with your infant the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. Show alphabet cards (write individual letters on index cards lower- and upper-case letters). Only show and say the sounds of five letters at a time per week. Lower and raise your voice while saying the sounds. Sometimes whisper and sing the alphabet sounds to keep their interest and to have fun.

Listen to and sing "[We Know the Sounds of the Alphabet.](#)"

Sing some seasonal songs. Talk about the changes in our lives that come with the changes in the season. Show your infant clothing – socks, hats, mittens, sweaters, shoes, long leg pants, long sleeve shirts/tops, jackets, and snowsuits to keep us warm for winter. Or you can show pictures of winter clothing.
Possible Songs: "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman"

Share one, two, or more [Black History Cards](#) from our Bronze Villagers website or others that you may have. Talk about the importance of recognizing the accomplishments of the people you choose. Celebrate at least one person in Black History each month throughout the year.

Read books related to Black History and Valentine's Day.

Position your baby for seeing, listening to, and touching cold wet snow.

Name what is in the bowl while pointing and say where it came from outside. "I collected snow from the steps outside our front door."

Talk about how it feels cold and wet.

Allow your baby to touch the snow.

Show examples of a snowball and snow person in a book.

Say, 'Snow is cold.' Shiver your body with a "brrrrrr" sound for cold.

Say, "Snow is wet." Shake your hand or dry your hand with a towel.

Read children's books related to the winter season.

Math

Use the red dot card configurations on index cards that are on our website or make up your own designs with red stickers or red marker circles to number 5 and later up to 10. Use cards and mix them up only 4 or 5 at a time. Flip them quickly with your hands at different times of the day. Continue to count fingers and toes when

changing diapers, feeding, dressing, or snuggling with your baby. While walking in your home count your steps when walking from one room to another or when walking up or down stairs.

Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” and “Do the Hokey Pokey” along with other songs for body parts. Share shapes with your infant by naming and showing shapes – circle, square, triangle, oval, heart. Shapes may be easily cut out from paper or show shapes in books.

Try making a snow person on paper by cutting out 3 white circles (small, medium, large) that can be glued to construction paper for the snow person’s body. Features added to snowperson can be shapes:

- Eyes – circles
- Nose – triangles
- Mouth – crescent
- Buttons – circles
- Arms – rectangles

YOUNG TODDLERS

Reading/Language – Continue to review the alphabet sounds, color words, words for body parts, household objects, and words for personal possessions (e.g., mine, yours, his, hers, ours, etc.) and words for actions (e.g., walking, singing, cooking, etc.).

Purpose

1. Learn about feelings and emotions - Valentine's Day
 - Valentine's Day Charades
Generate words and actions related to love and friendship with your child (e.g., kissing, hugging, gifting, writing notes, etc.) and then print pictures of those words. Mix up the pictures and then when in a small group have each person pick a card and then act out the emotion or action for others to guess.
 - Ask your child to come up with a few activities you can do to show someone you love them and then do one activity each week of the month (e.g., coloring pictures, recording messages, or making gifts to give to family and friends).
 - When talking about shapes, focus on the heart shape. Talk about emotions and especially what love feels like. Draw a heart and ask your child to give you names of people he/she loves. Write the names inside the heart and then color the heart. Hang it up in a prominent place in the home and review it throughout the month.
2. Learn About Groundhogs and Seasons (Groundhog Day was February 2, 2026)
 - Talk about seasons, weather, making predictions, clothing (e.g. winter coats and hats), and animals (i.e., groundhogs). Groundhogs are "also known as woodchucks." They belong to a group of large ground squirrels known as marmots and can grow up to 25 inches long and live for up to 10 years in captivity.

Math

Purpose: To identify shapes, recognize quantities, identify numbers, and understand size comparisons

1. Identify 5 geometric shapes in your home and community and create sight word cards for the circle, square, triangle, rectangle, heart, and arrow. Walk around the house and place tags on the shapes found in the home to connect the word with the object's shape. If desired use Bronze Villagers [Shape Picture Cards](#).
2. Red Dots: Advance five numbers from those previously covered with the child. If you haven't started the red dots with the child as an infant, the child will not be able to capture the impact of the process of learning numbers in this manner. Use the red dots to identify the quantity of dots on a page by sight without counting. Using other activities will enhance early math skills.
3. Ask family and friends to collect plastic tops of different sizes and colors. Tops should be large to prevent the child from swallowing. Have the child separate similar tops, place them in a pile, and select the numerical number that represents the number of tops in a pile. Separate tops by the different categories they represent. Which ones are larger or smaller?

Knowledge Enhancement

African American Leaders: Mrs. Shirley Chisholm:

- Take a trip to the library. Select books about Mrs. Shirley Chisholm who was the first black woman elected to the United States Congress, such as, *Loud and Proud: The life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm* by Lesa Cline-Ransome and *Who Was Shirley Chisholm?: A Who Was? Board Book* by Lisbeth Kaiser.
- Discuss how it might feel to be the first person to try something new. Would you feel afraid, curious, happy?

OLDER TODDLERS

Purpose

Learning Intentionally

To build strong verbal skills – Rhyming Words (**NEW**)

To identify letters and sound of the alphabets (**Continuing Effort**)

To identify color and action words (**Continuing Effort**)

To identify sight words (a, to, of, is, are, the, that) (**Continuing Effort**) To identify body parts and body part words (**Continuing Effort**)

To identify a square, circle, rectangle, triangle, rhombus, trapezoid, oval, pentagon, & hexagon (**Continuing Effort**)

To identify sets of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8,10, and 20 as quantities (**Continuing Effort**) **Review past plans regularly. Continue to incorporate various activities daily a little bit at a time.**

Make sessions very short! Do not bore the child. Stop when the child is no longer having fun!

Materials:

Song "[We Know the Sounds of the Alphabet.](#)"

Cardstock, index cards or paper; black felt marker, glue sticks.

Word cards-color (red, blue, green, black, grey) and action words (running, jumping) Uppercase and Lowercase letters

[Shape Picture Cards](#)

Dot Set cards, dominos, dice or hands, toes, ears, legs, feet, knees, arms, and eyes

Plan – Reading:

Daily - Sing, "[We Know the Sounds of the Alphabet](#)," and read to your child. Read African American poetry/nursery rhymes at naptime, playtime, or bedtime.

Week #1- *Take a trip to the library. Select books about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other famous African Americans. Read the stories.

Re-read. Discuss the book with your child.

*Listen to excerpts of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Talk with your child about what kind of world he wanted for his children and all children of the world. **Week #2**- *Focus your child’s attention on the letters **F-J**. Identify the name and the sound of these letters. Customize the set of letters to reflect your child’s level in mastering this skill. Name objects in the environment that start with letters **F-J** (possible objects: fries, fence, gate, gum, hat, head, ice, insect, jelly, juice). Continue with only 5 letters. Write letters on index cards or paper.

Say the letter and its sound. Then ask, “What is this ...’a’ and what is the sound?” Add other letters and build upon what you’ve already done, introducing new letters. Using letters, shuffle the same letters and ask the same question.

*Only say the sound of a letter two and three times a day for 5 minutes. Have fun. If the child forgets, joyously remind the child.

Learning the Letter Sounds Using Your Eyes: Alphabet I Spy game. This game is a great way to review letter sounds. To play, simply choose an object in the room (balls, apple, door, etc.) and then give clues about that object by saying, “I spy with my little eye something that starts with the sound of (letter). Show the letter (magnet or letter written on a card). Make it even more fun by using a flashlight!

Weeks #3 – Introduce rhyming words. Short rhyming poems for children are a great place to begin. We should share rhymes because they stimulate the development of phonological awareness and help to build a

rich and wide vocabulary. Talk about Word Families with your child. A Word Family is a group of words that rhyme – they have the same ending sound but begin with different letters. Tell your child you are going to introduce them to the **at** family. Use paper or index cards and write **at** on a card. Use separate letter cards to make different words by placing a different letter next to the **at** card to make rhyming words like cat, bat, sat, rat, mat. Introduce other word families such as **an** – fan, tan, man or the **in** family – bin, tin, sin, pin.

Week #4 – Review the color words on the flash cards. Identify colors around the house (child’s toys, clothes, etc.) Play I Spy with colors. “I spy with my little eye something that is red (use various colors). Show the color word cards. Use a flashlight! Have fun!

Plan – Math:

- *Two to three minutes daily, show the different shapes or introduce a new shape weekly until the child can recognize each without hesitation. Combine color with the shapes to review colors.
- *Identify shapes around the house and outside. Tell the child the number of sides of each shape. Be joyous!
- *Red Dots: Using a black or red felt tip marker, make four large dots as on some dice. Show and say, “4 dots “. (Do not count the individual dots.) Save the paper for later. Do the same for three, five, six, eight, or advance five numbers from those previously covered with the child.

Knowledge Enhancement Activities:

African American Leaders: Read and discuss biographies of leaders of the Civil Rights Movement such as Rosa Parks as well as other famous African Americans of today, including President Barack Obama.

Share Poems by African American Poets – Resources:

National Museum of African American History and Culture: [Poems that Empower](#) • Poets.org - [Black History Month Poems for Kids](#)

YOUNG PRESCHOOLERS

Reading: Learning Alphabet Sounds and Making Words

Blending Three-Letter Words (Consonant Vowel Consonant)

Oral Blending First: Before reading, play games where you say sounds separately and they say the word.

For example: You say /s/ /a/ /t/ The child says: *sat*

sat	fat
bat	rat
mat	hat
pat	cat

Blend with continuous sounds: These are sounds that can be held for smoother blending (f, l, m, n, r, s, v, z)

Magnetic Letters- Push CVC letters together to create words.

Tap Tap Slide - Have some fun. Use your fingers to tap out the sounds for each letter and bring your hands together when you make a word.

If your child is not yet ready to blend, continue to learn letter sounds. Make it fun!

Read Aloud

Questions to ask --

- Look at the cover, what do you think this book is going to be about?
- How do you think [name character] is feeling right now?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- What is happening in this picture?
- What do you think (point to a word) means?
- What's your favorite part? Why?

Math Around the House

Number Hunt Challenge your child to find a number or group of a certain item in the house. *Ex. Can you find 5 crayons?*

Count and Compare - A game for two or more! Each person grabs a handful of small items. Count them and tell who has more, less, or the same.

Sort by Color - Gather up some toys. Count and sort by colors.

Skip Count by 2s, 5s, and 10s

I Spy- I spy an object with 4 legs. What could it be? I spy an object with two handles. What could it be?

Knowledge Enhancement

The Language of Location - Children can start to use the language of location (in, out, on, off, up, down, under, next to, and around) at a young age. [Examples: Let's put your toy **in** the toy box. Please give me the book that is **on** your chair.] It will develop spatial thinking about places around them. These foundational skills will grow as they get older and learn about geography.

Create a Map - Choose a room together and help your child draw a map of it on large construction paper. Be sure to draw the shapes of objects in the room and label them. Use your fingers to walk the room and say the direction in which you're moving. Give your child a chance to try.

OLDER PRESCHOOLERS

Reading: Combining practice with fun makes learning enjoyable.

Blends

bl -- blue, blog, blip, bled
cl -- clap, clam, clip, clop, club
fl -- flag, flat, fled, flip, flop
gl -- glad, glob, glitter
pl -- plan, plop, plum
sl -- slop, slip, slap

br -- brag, bran, brim
cr -- crab, cram, crib
dr -- drag, drip, drop, drum
fr -- frog, frat, fritters
gr - - grab, gram, grip, grid
pr -- prim, prod, prop
tr -- trap, tram, trim

sc -- scam, scum
sk - - skim, skip
sw - - swim, swam
st - - stem, step, stop, stun
sp - - spun, splat, splash, splint
spr -- sprint, spring
str - - strap, strum
squ - - squid, squint

Sight Words Study - See the Advanced Preschooler list below.

Read Aloud -- Read a chapter book to your child, stopping at the end of each chapter to have a Talk Back. A great time to read is before bedtime each night. Be sure to stop when the story becomes highly intriguing. This will encourage your child to begin reading silently later.

Math

Ask the child to count backwards from twenty or fifty. This encourages concentrated effort and thought. Have fun!

Knowledge Enhancement

Learn the states of the United States. Use a map or globe. Talk about eastern and western states and northern and southern states.

ADVANCED PRESCHOOLERS

Reading

Blending: Practice for mastery of letter sounds for reading. Using the words below, ask, "What sounds do you hear? What letters make the sounds?"

snow, tow, bow, so, go, no; boat, goat, float; toe, doe, Joe; flow, whoa
ir - first, fir, dirt, flirt; her, per; curl, hurt, blurt, purr
e -- flake, shake, make, take, snake
fr - - front, fry, from, frog, fry
all -- fall, ball, tall, wall, gall, call, hall, mall
ar -- car, are, card, yard, lard, star, bar, Mars, tar, hard, jar
ai - - pail, jail, tail, bail, fail, hail, mail, nail, rail, sail, vail, wail
ay -- day, say, bay, gay, hay, cay, jay, lay, may, nay, pay, ray, way
oy - - boy, toy, coy, soy; oi -- boil, toil, soil, oil, coil, foil
ow/ou - - cow, now, bow, out, our

Sight Words to master: 100 words to practice, Make a large word card set of ten words for practice, Shuffle the word cards for daily practice.

1. the of and a to in is you that it
2. he was for on are as with his they I
3. at be this have from or one had by words
4. but not what all were we when your can said
5. there use an each which she do how their if
6. will up other about out many then then these so
7. some her would make like him into time has look
8. two more write go see number no way could people
9. my than first water been call who am its now
10. find long down day did get come made may part

Math

Practice learning addition: 2 + 1 to make 3; 2+2 to make 4; 2+3 to make 5, etc.

Use counters or toys to show the addition, If the child full understands, continue using 3s, etc.

Knowledge Enhancement

Choose five [Black History Cards](#).

Show a photo and tell the child about the person.

If your child remembers leaders from week to week, add new cards each week of February. Repeat previous cards as needed.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

In addition to the board and picture books recommended in this month's Brain Builders (*125. Teach Black History All Year* and *126. Read Biographies of Famous and Not-So-Famous African Americans*), coaches are recommending the following books:

VALENTINE'S DAY BOOKS

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram

I Love My Daddy Because by Laurel Porter Gaylord, illustrated by Ashley Wolff
I Love My Mommy Because by Laurel Porter-Gaylord, illustrated by Ashley Wolff
I Love My New Toy written and illustrated by Mo Willems
I Love You Stinky Face by Lisa McCourt, illustrated by Cyd Moore
Me and My Mama: Celebrate Black Joy and Love by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin
My Baby Loves Valentine's Day by Jabari Asim, illustrated by Tara Nicole Whitaker
My First Valentine Day by Happy Baby Butterflies
OOO, Baby, Baby! A Book of Love written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton
The Thank You Book written and illustrated by Mo Willems
Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You written and illustrated by Nancy Tilman

BOOKS RELATED TO GROUNDHOG'S DAY

Great Groundhogs! written and illustrated by Karen Gray Ruelle
Groundhog Day written and illustrated by Gail Gibbons
Groundhog Secrets: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Woodchucks written and photo illustrated by Lieve Snellings
Groundhog Gets a Say by Pamela Curtis Swallow, illustrated by Denise Brunkus
Groundhog's Day Off written and illustrated by Robb Pearlman
Groundhog's Dilemma by Kristen Remenar, illustrated by Matt Faulkner
Groundhog's Runaway Shadow written and illustrated by David Biedrzycki
Grumpy Groundhog by Maureen Wright, illustrated by Amanda Haley
The Night Before Groundhog Day by Natasha Wing, illustrated by Amy Wummer

BOOKS RELATED TO WINTER AND WEATHER

Baby Beluga by Raffi, illustrated by Ashley Wolff
Bright Baby Touch and Feel Winter written and illustrated by Roger Priddy
Hello World: Snow written and illustrated by Jill McDonald
The Itsy Bitsy Snowman by Jeffrey Burton, illustrated by Sanja Rescek
The Snowy Day written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats
Ten Sparkly Snowflakes: Twinkly Countdown Fun! by Tiger Tales, illustrated by Russell Julian
Ty's Travels, Winter Wonderlands by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Nina Mata
The Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Winter written and illustrated by Eric Carle