

welcome to the born learning[®] trail!

Did you know that learning is happening all the time?

For ways to learn together, just look for the *Born Learning Trail* signs. By playing and exploring you help young children get ready for success in school and in life.

Together, you can turn everyday moments into learning moments.

Happy trails!



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watch learn stop play

Let your child lead the way.

Try this:

- * Watch what your child likes to do. Are they playing with other children, looking at signs or some other interests?
- * Do the things your child likes to do.
- * Is your child staring or pointing at something? Ask, “What do you see?”

Trail tip: When you follow a child’s lead, curiosity and confidence grow.



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look

learn

laugh

Take time to pay attention to your child.

Try this:

- * Stand in a circle, looking at each other. Make each other smile or laugh.
- * Hold hands, give your child a hug, a smile or a pat on the back.
- * Watch, listen and learn. See what your child looks at, talks about and does.

Trail tip: Paying attention to children helps them to feel special and secure.



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talk listen sing

Talk it up while you play.

Try this:

- * Listen to the sounds around you. Ask, “What made that sound? Where did it come from?”
- * Talk with your child. Ask, “What should we do next?”
- * Make up silly stories or songs. Sing, “Swing, swing, bo, bing ...”

Trail tip: Talking and singing with children teaches them words and gets them ready to read.



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say see point read

Start your child on the road to reading.

Try this:

- * Point to the letters on the wall. Say the sound each letter makes.
- * Think of words or names that start with A, B or C.
- * Point and say, “I see something tall. What rhymes with tall?”

Trail tip: Playing with letters and sounds helps children get ready to read.



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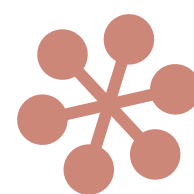
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imagine create pretend

Turn any time into story time.

Try this:

- * Tell stories about yourself and your family. Begin with “When I was little....”
- * Look around for story ideas. See a door? Say, “Once there was a magic door....”
- * Have your child help tell the story. Ask, “What do you think is on the other side of the door?”



Trail tip: Storytelling can grow a child’s ability to imagine and listen.



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jump clap skip move

Get your child up and active.

Try this:

- * Pretend to move like an animal. Walk like a duck or jump like a frog.
- * Walk backwards or skip. Can your child do the same?
- * Ask your child to do what you do. Clap or wave your hands. Point. Smile.



Trail tip: Physical activity exercises a child's body and mind.



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toss hop shake wiggle

Get up and moving with your child.

Try this:

- * Find a ball. Toss it back and forth with your child.
- * Practice skating from one end of the sock skating rink to the other. Can your child do the same?
- * Wiggle and shake to make up a silly dance move with your child

Trail tip: Games like these will get children's brains and bodies moving.



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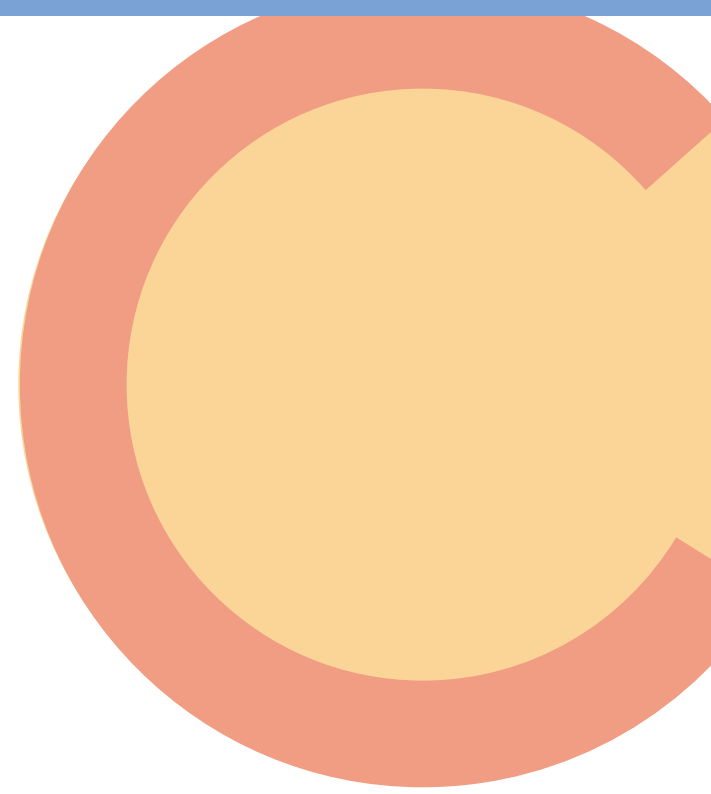
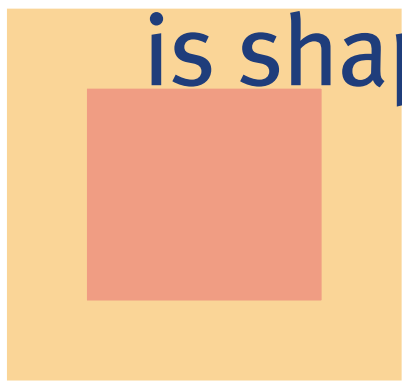
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describe compare learn

Turn simple ideas into learning games.

Try this:

- * Look at the shapes all around you. How are they the same? Different?
- * Can you find anything else that is shaped like a circle or a rectangle?



Trail tip: Looking at the world in a new way helps children get ready for reading and math.



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look listen touch think

Learn about the world around you.

Try this:



- * Find a smooth surface. Touch it. Talk about it. Is it curvy or straight? Soft or hard?
- * Compare things like shoes or clothing colors. Which are brighter? Darker?
- * Which are your favorites? How many can you count?



Trail tip: Exploring the things around you helps children learn how to solve problems.



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