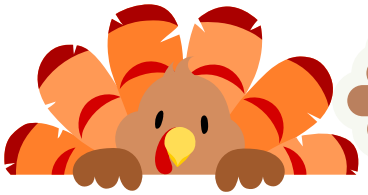
Growing Ready

Simple ways to play, learn & grow together.

smart start
Partnership for Children



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Find fallen leaves. Sort them two ways. Ask, "How are they alike?"	2 Write your child's name and two other names. Help them find theirs. Ask, "How did you know?"	3 Do these rhyme? **"Leaf, beef."** **"Leaf, cup."** Try **"cat, hat"** and **"sun, sock."**	4 **Build a tower with blocks or cups.** If it falls, ask, "What could we try?" Build it again!	5 At snack time, count each piece, touching it once. Ask, **"How many?"** Spread them out and count again.	6 **Practice calm breaths.** Pretend to hold warm soup. Breathe in to smell it, then blow out slowly to cool it.	7 **Visit your local library** and check out November's books!
8 Read a book together. Ask, **"Why do you think they did that?"** Give your child time to answer.	9 Clap the parts in names. "Emma" gets two claps! **"Em-ma"** Try "pumpkin" and "leaf."	10 Chant **"Fall Leaves"** Words are on the back!	11 **Draw a picture for someone who helps you.** Let your child tell you what to write. Give it to them!	12 **Use scissors to snip paper**. Glue the pieces into a picture. Tell about it!	13 Say **"mmm,"** like the start of **"moon."** Find things that start with that sound, like a mug.	14 Dance or march to music. **Freeze when it stops!** Take turns leading the moves.
15 **Make two small groups of toys.** Ask, "Which has **more**? Which has **fewer**?" Match them side by side to check.	16 **Finish the rhyme:** "A cat in a …" Try "A bug on a …" Silly words count!	17 Ask, **"What helps you feel calm?"** Try a hug, a quiet spot, or slow breaths together.	18 Measure a book with spoons lined up end to end. Count them. **Try again with another household item!**	19 Chant **"Thankful Hands"** Words are on the back!	20 Write your child's name. **Put each letter on its own paper.** Help them match the letters to their name.	21 Read a story. Act it out with toys. Ask, **"What happened first? Next? Last?"**
22 Sort leaves or household items your own way. Tell someone your sorting rule.	23 Put on socks and shoes. **Give your child time to try before helping.**	24 Say the sounds in **"sun"**: **"sss … uh … nnn."** Ask, "What word?" Say "sun" together!	25 Make a pattern: sock, spoon, sock, spoon. Ask, **"What comes next?"** Make a new pattern!	26 Name someone or something you are **thankful for**. Ask, "What do you love about them?"	27 Pour water into cups. Wipe up spills together. **Build skills to do it on your own!**	28 **Play restaurant.** Draw a food menu. Take turns asking for and serving pretend food.
29 Practice your bathroom routine: clothes, wipe, flush, dress, wash hands.	30 Explore a fall leaf. **Is it smooth, rough, crisp, or soft?** Use words to tell how it looks and feels!	**Give Them Time to Try!** Let your child try putting on a coat, opening a snack, or picking up toys. Give them time before stepping in to help. If they get stuck, ask, "What could you try?" Offer a small hint or help with just one step. It's okay if it takes longer or gets a little messy! Notice their effort by saying, "You kept trying!" These small moments help children feel proud, solve problems, and do more on their own.				

Small Sounds, Big Learning!

Before children read words, they learn to hear the sounds in them. Help your child notice that "moon," "milk," and "mom" all start with "**mmm**." This helps them get ready to match sounds to letters.

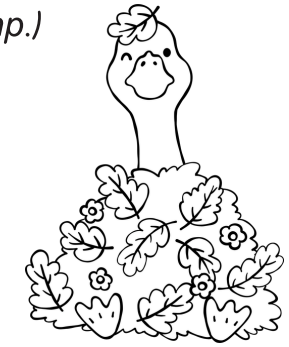
Try a sound hunt:

- Pick a sound, like "sss" in "sun."
- Find things that start with it, like a sock or soap.
- Compare two words: "Do sock and cup start with the same sound?"
- Make a silly phrase: "Sam sees six socks!"

Say the sound instead of the letter name. If your child needs help, give the answer and say it together. A few playful minutes are enough!

FALL LEAVES

Leaves fall softly to the ground.
(Wiggle fingers down.)
Watch them flutter all around.
(Wave hands side to side.)
Reach up high, then bend down low.
(Reach up, then crouch.)
Like a leaf, fall nice and slow.
(Slowly lower yourself to the floor.)
Wind blows gently through the trees.
(Sway with arms up high.)
Leaves go dancing in the breeze.
(Twirl slowly with arms out.)
Rake the leaves into a heap.
(Pretend to rake.)
Jump right in with both your feet!
(Take a small jump.)



THANKFUL HANDS

Two little hands rest on my heart.
(Place hands on your heart.)
One slow breath is where I start.
(Breathe in and out slowly.)
Two little hands can wave hello.
(Wave both hands.)
"Come play with me!" I show.
(Beckon a friend closer.)
Two little hands can help you, too.
(Hold out both hands.)
"Do you need help? What can I do?"
(Turn palms up.)
Two little hands give thanks today.
(Place hands on your heart.)
"I'm glad you're here," is what I say.
(Open arms wide.)



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available, ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0–3

123s of Thankfulness
by Patricia Hegarty

Little You
by Richard Van Camp

FOR READERS AGES 3+

Thankful
by Eileen Spinelli

Birdsong
by Julie Flett

