

Learning through play at any age

Families and teachers: the early childhood and primary school curricula focus on helping young children to develop holistically at any age.

You can encourage young children to thrive while playing, and while watching educational shows like *Sesame Street* together.



Watch together

While you're watching *Sesame Street* or other educational content together you can engage children at any age by having conversations with them about what they're interested in and excited about.

- All children can communicate with you!
- Children who aren't talking will develop their vocabulary and understanding, and communicate through sounds, gestures and expressions.

Get creative with what you watched

- Encourage children to explore ideas from the shows!
- At home or at school, create simple areas for children to be able to play.
- Add simple items like boxes, clean containers, homemade toys, crayons and paper so that children can get creative.
- Include books they can look at or read.



Play and learn together

All children can learn through play!

- All children (probably even you adults) like to learn through fun, hands-on experiences, movement, and songs.
- Encourage infants and toddlers to explore items that are safe to touch, smell and put in their mouths. They can play with toys in water, and shake tightly sealed bottles filled with objects that make sounds.
- Pre-schoolers can role play and build different items with reusable and found materials like boxes, leaves, and household items.
- Primary school children still need lots of play. Because they can do more focused activities independently and in small groups at home or at school, they can do simple projects and explorations that build on their interests.



Talk together

Infants and toddlers

- While interacting with infants and toddlers, point out and name things, and describe what you notice.
- Talk with them and ask questions so they can respond by looking at you and making sounds, expressions or gestures.

Pre-schoolers

- Ask pre-school children a mix of close-ended questions (that have one word or right answer) and open-ended questions (that allow them to share their thoughts).
- “Where is the ball?” “Point to it.”
- “What do you think will happen next?” “How do you think we can find out?”

Primary school children

- Focus on asking primary school children open-ended or other questions that encourage them to share their thoughts, feelings, opinions and help them become critical thinkers and problem solvers.
- “What did you notice when we did that experiment? Why do you think that happened? How can we check?”



Links to Sesame Street content

- ✓ [PBS Kids](#) has online games like “[Make Your Mark](#)”
- ✓ For many more related activities, printables, video-based suggestions and online games like “[Abby & Elmo’s Potty Plan](#)”, “[Physical Activity](#)” and “[Learning Through Play](#)”, visit [Sesame Workshop](#).



Links to find out more together

Local resources

- ✓ [The Ministry of Education and Youth’s Game-Based & Interactive Learning Activities for Early Years](#)
- ✓ [Curricular resources](#) like the Resource Book and curriculum guides from the Early Childhood Commission
- ✓ Digital library Book Fusion has free books <https://www.bookfusion.com/libraries/MO EYI>
- ✓ Children’s books: [I Can Do My Part](https://bit.ly/icandomypart) (<https://bit.ly/icandomypart>) and [I Have Feelings](https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings) (<https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings>)
- ✓ [Reach Up and Learn Parent Manual: Activities for Children Up to Age 3 Years](#)

Other resources

- ✓ [Learning Toys Production Guide](#) from Plan International
- ✓ Free resources including video-based activities for toddlers through grade 3 <https://www.coxcampus.org/families/>
- ✓ [Global Digital Library](#) has 6,000+ free books in over 83 languages (<https://digitallibrary.io/>)
- ✓ [Room to Read’s](#) free digital library (<https://literacycloud.org/>)
- ✓ Visit [PBS Learning Media](#) to go on virtual field trips