

FAMILY FUN May Play Along

Five Little Ladybugs

By Elizabeth Scofield

Five little ladybugs on our front door. (Hold up five fingers.)

One flew to Isaac, and that left four. (Hold up four fingers.)

Four little ladybugs, oh so wee,
One flew to Noah, and that left three. (Hold up three fingers.)

Three little ladybugs saying “howdy-do,”
One flew to Brian, and that left two. (Hold up two fingers.)

Two little ladybugs snoozing in the sun.
One flew to Runar, and that left one. (Hold up one finger.)

One little ladybug alone on the door,
It flew to Bella, then there were no more.
(Bend down Last finger.)

Substitute the names of your children for those in the rhyme.

Working Toward Success for Children and Families

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Ladybug Activities at Home

Paper Plate Ladybugs



Color or paint a paper plate red, then add black spots.



Potato Stamp Ladybugs



POTATO
STAMP
ladybugs



Cut a small round potato in half, use this as a stamp by painting red paint on the cut side. Then press wet paint on a piece of paper, (you get a red circle). After the paint has dried, use a finger dipped in black paint to make the spots and your thumb to make the head of the ladybug.

Ladybug Snack:

Spread red jam on a round cracker top with raisin “spots”.



[How to tell if your toddler needs glasses](#)

One of the main signs that toddlers or preschoolers exhibit when they're having trouble with their vision is **sitting too close to the television**. If your child keeps running up to the television to watch his/her favorite show, that may be a vision issue.

Another telltale sign, says Dr. Mel Friedman, optometrist and eye specialist, is if your toddler or preschooler is abnormally close to the paper he's coloring (or scribbling) on.

If your child is squinting, he/she may be farsighted, nearsighted, or have astigmatism (when the cornea is shaped like a football instead of a basketball), thus causing blurred vision. **Squinting** helps rectify that by limiting the rays of light that come in through the top and the bottom of the lens, allowing the light to come closer to the center of the lens, thereby creating a more focused image. If your child is squinting please talk to your child's doctor during their next visit.

Play the game “**I Spy**” to check their vision. Pick out an object and ask if they can see it or what color it is. You can ask older children to identify letters or numbers on license plates.

Talk. Listen. Talk

By Ada Alden, Ed.D. Network Member

Strong families communicate with each other. Children do not learn to talk by watching television. Use your time together to be together and talk with each other.

How we communicate molds our way of thinking about people, actions and the world around us. Being able to have conversations requires practice. Communicating and listening is the number one trait in healthy families.

We know the amount that parents talk with their children matters and directly affect their school success.

How we learn to communicate begins in the home. Some children ages 2 - 5 are better able to play video games and download apps than tie their shoelaces or ride a bike. The American Medical Association published a study showing that electronic toys hinder verbal development.

- Have you turned family together time over to television? Turn off the television and take time to talk.
- Use time when the family is together to have conversations while driving in the car, eating and/or preparing meals.
- All family members are allowed to be mad, glad, and sad. Paying attention to non-verbal messages provides an opportunity for meaningful conversation.
- Everyone is sensitive. Avoid name calling. Everyone wants to feel safe, heard and valued.

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Your are your child's first teacher:

- ◆ They watch what you do and then do what you did.
- ◆ They listen to you talk and talk the way you do.
- ◆ They treat others the way you do.
- ◆ Remember to sit with them: color or read a book
- ◆ Remember to listen to them: have them tell you about their day.
- ◆ Let them try new things.
- ◆ Remember to let them know when they have done something good!
- ◆ Assign a chore: putting coat on hook or help setting the table.



Are you looking for something to do? Check out the following websites for ideal and/or places to visit:

<https://twincitieskidsclub.com/>

<http://mspmag.com/kids-and-family>

<http://www.craftymorning.com/holiday-crafts/>

<http://www.123child.com/lessonplans/seasonal>

<http://pbskids.org/>

<http://kitchenpantryscientist.com/>

<http://www.prekinders.com/>

<http://www.learning4kids.net/list-of-imaginative-play-ideas/#>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

<http://www.sproutonline.com/?redirect=false>

<http://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/index.htm>

Parks and Rec Departments in your city:

<http://www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org/index.aspx?nid=66>

<http://www.brooklynpark.org/recreationandparks/>

<http://www.discoverosseo.com/departments/parks-and-recreation/>

<http://www.ci.new-hope.mn.us/departments/parksrecreation/recreation/index.html>

Resource Assistance:

<http://mn.bridgetobenefits.org/> (screen for public assistance programs)

<http://www.capsh.org/> (screen for energy assistance)

Dial: 211 from any phone for resources available in your area

