



BCDI

Black Child
Development Institute
ATLANTA

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

JULY 2024



ACTIVITY GUIDE

FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN

bcdiatlanta.org



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Family Literacy Night Activity Guide

This activity guide aims to provide parents, educators, and community members with engaging activities that promote the early literacy development of Black children. We have designed this guide to align with the Mayor's Summer Reading Club books: (click on the title to download the READ Guide, a [Cox Campus](#) resource developed for [GEEARS](#)).

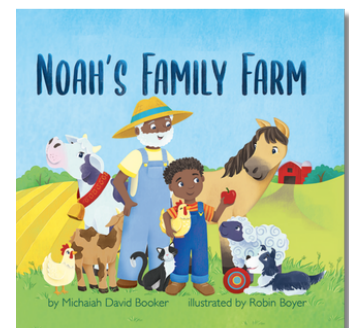
Bina's Harvest (ages 3-5)

- 1) Apples
- 2) Having Patience/Waiting
- 3) Having Determination



Noah's Family Farm (ages birth-2)

- 4) Farm Animals
- 5) It's Special to be with Our Family



1

Apple Picking and Sorting

- **Materials Needed:** A variety of apples (real or toy), baskets, or containers.
- **Activity:** Create a mini apple orchard at home. Scatter the apples around a room or yard and have the children "pick" them and put them into baskets. After picking, sort the apples by color, size, or type. This helps with color recognition, counting, and fine motor skills.

2

Apple Stamping Art

- **Materials Needed:** Apples, knife (for parent use), paint, paper.
- **Activity:** Cut apples in half and dip the flat side into different colored paints. Use the apples as stamps to create apple prints on paper. This is a fun way to explore shapes and colors while creating art.

3

Apple Taste Test

- **Materials Needed:** Different types of apples (e.g., Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Honeycrisp), knife (for parent use), and small plates.
- **Activity:** Slice up different types of apples and have a taste test. Encourage the children to describe each apple's taste, texture, and color. This can help develop descriptive language and sensory skills.

4

Apple Orchard Sensory Bin

- **Materials Needed:** Plastic or foam apples, dry beans or rice, small baskets or containers, toy trees, and farm animals.
- **Activity:** Fill a large bin with dry beans or rice and add the toy apples and other orchard-themed items. Let the children explore and play, scooping and sorting the apples. This is great for sensory exploration and fine motor development.

5

Apple-themed Storytime

- **Materials Needed:** Apple-themed books (e.g., "Ten Apples Up On Top!" by Dr. Seuss, "Apple Farmer Annie" by Monica Wellington).
- **Activity:** Read apple-themed stories together. After reading, discuss the story and ask questions about the characters and events. This promotes literacy and comprehension skills.

6

Apple Pie Playdough

- **Materials Needed:** Homemade or store-bought playdough, apple pie spice, small rolling pins, plastic knives, and cookie cutters.
- **Activity:** Add apple pie spice to playdough for a fun sensory experience. Encourage children to "bake" their own apple pies using the playdough and tools. This activity fosters creativity and fine motor skills.

Bina's Harvest: Having Patience/Waiting

1

Planting Seeds

- **Materials Needed:** Small pots or cups, soil, seeds (e.g., bean seeds), water.
- **Activity:** Plant seeds together and talk about how it takes time for plants to grow. Water the seeds regularly and observe the changes daily. Explain that waiting patiently is important to see the plants grow. This activity teaches patience through a hands-on experience with nature.

2

Baking Together

- **Materials Needed:** Ingredients and tools for a simple baking recipe (e.g., cookies or muffins).
- **Activity:** Bake a simple treat together. Explain each step and emphasize the need to wait for the dough to rise, the oven to preheat, and the baking time. Use a timer and count down together while waiting. This activity shows that patience is rewarded with a delicious treat.

3

Puzzle Time

- **Materials Needed:** Age-appropriate puzzles
- **Activity:** Work on a puzzle together, starting with simpler ones and gradually moving to more complex puzzles as the child's skills improve. Encourage the child to patiently find and place each piece, celebrating the progress and completion of the puzzle. This helps develop patience and problem-solving skills in a fun and engaging way.

Bina's Harvest: Having Determination

1 Obstacle Course

- **Materials Needed:** Household items like pillows, chairs, tunnels, cones, etc.
- **Activity:** Set up a simple obstacle course in your living room or backyard. Encourage your child to navigate the course, crawling under chairs, jumping over pillows, and running around cones. Motivate them to complete the course and cheer them on, emphasizing the importance of not giving up even if it's challenging. This activity helps build physical endurance and determination.

2 Building Towers

- **Materials Needed:** Blocks, LEGO bricks, or other stacking toys.
- **Activity:** Challenge your child to build the tallest tower they can. When the tower inevitably falls, encourage them to try again and build it even higher. Celebrate each success and effort, highlighting the value of persistence and determination in achieving their goal.

3 Learning a New Skill

- **Materials Needed:** Depending on the skill, items like musical instruments (e.g., a small keyboard), art supplies (for drawing or painting), or sports equipment (e.g., a soccer ball).
- **Activity:** Choose a new skill your child shows interest in, such as playing a simple tune on a musical instrument, drawing a specific object, or kicking a soccer ball into a goal. Practice the skill together, breaking it down into small, manageable steps. Encourage your child to keep trying, providing positive reinforcement for their efforts and determination to improve. This helps them understand that persistence is key to mastering new skills.

Noah's Family Farm: It's Special to be with Our Family (1/2)

1 Family Handprint Art

- **Materials Needed:** Non-toxic paint, large paper or canvas, markers.
- **Activity:** Dip each family member's hand in paint and press it onto the paper or canvas to create handprints. Write each person's name next to their handprint. This collaborative art project is a visual representation of the family and helps young children feel connected to their loved ones.

Noah's Family Farm: It's Special to be with Our Family (2/2)

2

Family Sing-Along

- **Materials Needed:** Your voice and musical instruments (optional).
- **Activity:** Gather the family for a sing-along session. Sing familiar nursery rhymes or family songs together. If available, use simple musical instruments like shakers or tambourines. You can also make instruments from recycled materials. This activity promotes bonding, musical enjoyment, and early language development.

3

Family Dance Party

- **Materials Needed:** Music player with family-friendly songs.
- **Activity:** Have a family dance party with upbeat, child-friendly music. Encourage everyone to dance together, holding hands or making a circle. This fun and active way to spend time together promotes physical activity and family bonding.

4

Family Book Reading

- **Materials Needed:** Family-themed board books (e.g., "Ruby's Reunion Day Dinner," by Angela Dalton; illustrated by Jestenia Southerland, "Islandborn" by Junot Díaz, illustrated by Leo Espinosa).
- **Activity:** Sit together and read family-themed board books. Let your child sit on your lap or snuggle close as you read. Point to and name family members in the book, relating them to your family. This reinforces the importance of family and promotes early literacy.

Noah's Family Farm: Farm Animals (1/2)

1

Farm Animal Sounds

- **Materials Needed:** Farm animal toys or pictures, your voice.
- **Activity:** Show your child different farm animal toys or pictures and make the corresponding animal sounds. Encourage them to imitate the sounds. This activity helps with auditory skills and early language development.

2

Sensory Bins with Farm Items

- **Materials Needed:** A shallow bin, dried corn or rice, plastic farm animals, small scoops, and containers.
- **Activity:** Fill a bin with dried corn or rice and place plastic farm animals inside. Let your child explore the sensory bin, feeling the texture of the corn or rice and playing with the animals. This helps with sensory exploration and fine motor skills.

3

Old MacDonald Sing-Along

- **Materials Needed:** Your voice or a musical instrument, farm animal toys.
- **Activity:** Sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and use farm animal toys to act out the song. Encourage your child to join in with the animal sounds. This activity promotes musical awareness and language skills.
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4

Farm Animal Peekaboo

- **Materials Needed:** Play peekaboo with farm animal toys or pictures by hiding them under a blanket or scarf and then revealing them. Say the name of the animal and the sound it makes when you reveal it. This game helps with object permanence and memory skills.
- **Activity:** Fill a large bin with dry beans or rice and add the toy apples and other orchard-themed items. Let the children explore and play, scooping and sorting the apples. This is great for sensory exploration and fine motor development.

5

Farm Animal Matching

- **Materials Needed:** Farm animal toys or pictures, matching pairs.
- **Activity:** Show your child pairs of farm animal toys or pictures and help them match the pairs. Name each animal and make its sound as you match them. This activity supports cognitive development and early categorization skills.

Conclusion

Thank you for joining us in this important endeavor to increase the early literacy skills of Black children. Your dedication and support are invaluable in making a difference in their lives.

**SHARE YOUR
STORY**



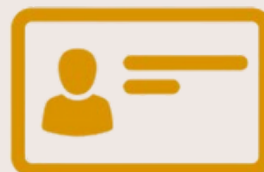
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