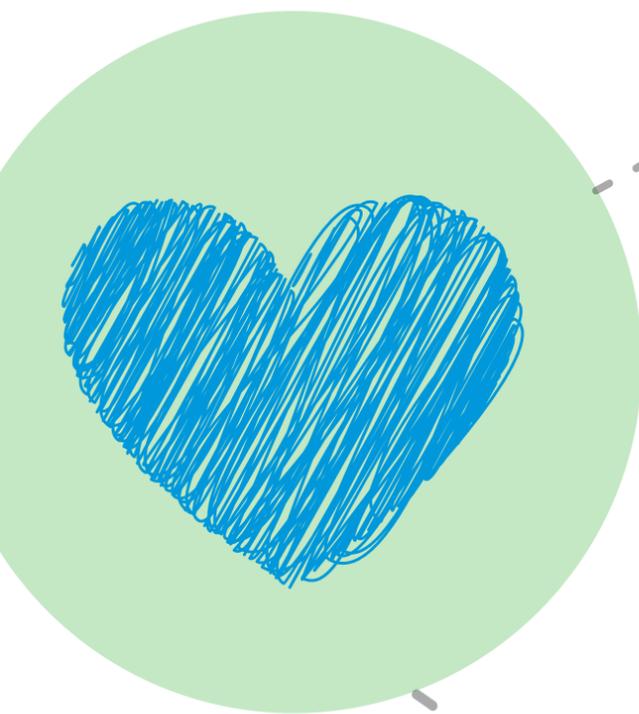
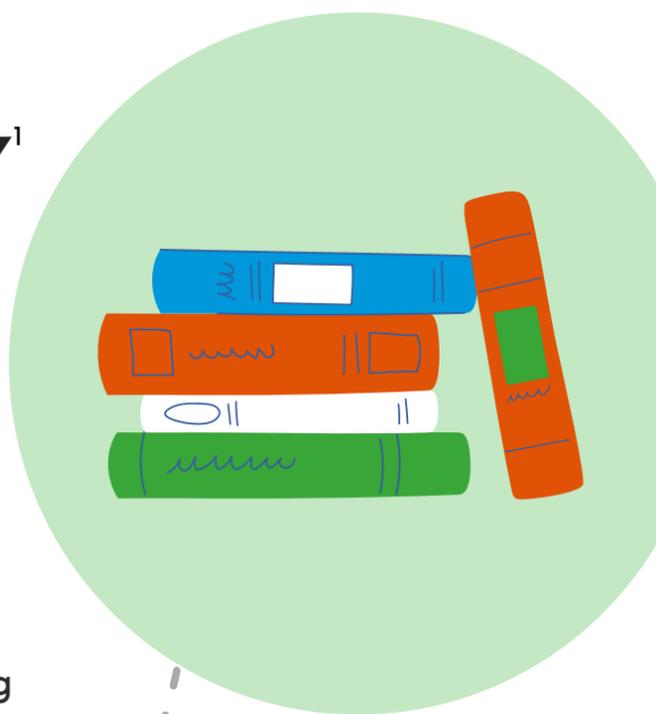


# EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS

## IMPORTANT MILESTONES FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD

### LANGUAGE & LITERACY<sup>1</sup>

- Talk about things your child likes and ask questions.
- Give directions in small parts.
- Help him make up words that rhyme, for example, "dog, fog, hog, log..."
- Sing the ABC song and other songs that emphasize rhymes, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" or "This Old Man."
- Help your child figure out answers on her own; sometimes you can help her understand something new by reminding her of something she already knows.

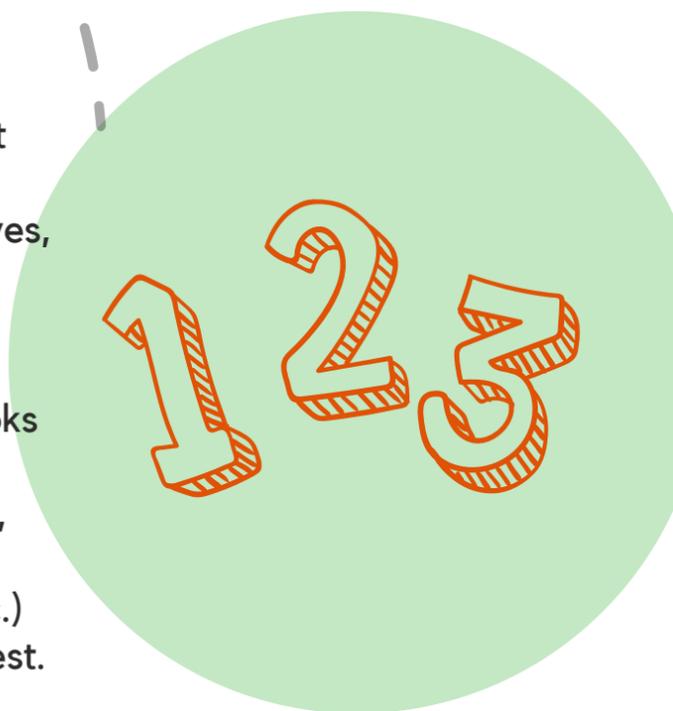


### SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT<sup>1</sup>

- Encourage your child to describe herself.
- Have your child fill in these blanks: When I \_\_\_\_\_ I feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- Use books to explore emotions. Ask a librarian for help in finding such books on your child's level.
- Talk about your child's feelings. Don't put your child down for feeling a certain way, children may feel differently than adults.
- Talk about values you care about: caring, cooperation, courage, fairness, honesty, respect, or responsibility.

### MATH<sup>1</sup>

- Match and sort real objects first. When that becomes easy, use pictures of objects.
- Collect interesting things (shells, rocks, leaves, etc.). Talk about how objects are alike and how they are different.
- Count out loud as you climb steps, button clothes, stack blocks, etc. Use counting books with your child.
- Collect pairs of similar but different objects, then describe (e.g., "this book is bigger").
- Use everyday items (shoes, cans, rocks, etc.) and put them in order from smallest to largest.



**HAS YOUR CHILD HAD THEIR ROUTINE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING? GIVE SPARK A CALL!**

# WHY EARLY LEARNING MATTERS

A strong foundation to succeed in school and life starts in a child's earliest years which is why early learning is so important. Children who enter kindergarten without early social, math and literacy skills will likely remain behind their peers throughout their education.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

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Through SPARK's Gateways to Early Childhood Programs initiative our bilingual(English/Spanish) Family Engagement Team offers free developmental screenings, they can help with enrollment into a preschool program, assist with completing the Child Care Assistance Program application, and connect you to local resources to help ensure your family and child have everything they need to succeed in school and beyond.

### Contact our Family Engagement Team:

Kassia Eide  
630.896.4636 x109  
kassia.eide@foxvalleyunitedway.org

Mayra Cantu  
630.896.4636 x112  
mayra.cantu@foxvalleyunitedway.org

[www.sparkaurora.org](http://www.sparkaurora.org)

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**Fox Valley United Way**

Early Childhood Collaboration



Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten