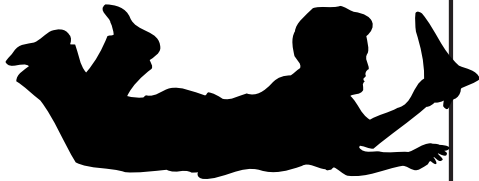
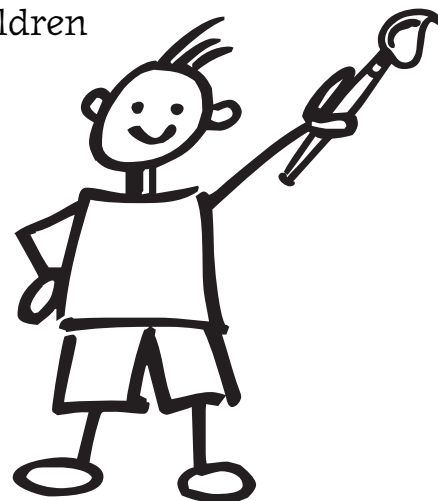


7

Creativity

Through experimenting with sounds, colors, forms, motion and words, children communicate in ways that are all their own. When you encourage children to be involved in pretend or dramatic play, experiment with music, build with blocks or paint, you will start to discover their interests, abilities and the way they learn. At the same time, children will discover unique and wonderful ways to express what they know about their world.

**Books Your Child Will Enjoy**

- Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- Go Away Big Green Monster* by Ed Emberly
- It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles G. Shaw
- Ben's Trumpet* by Rachel Isadora
- Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

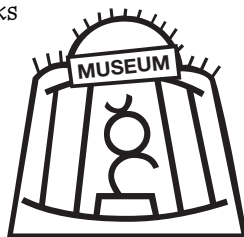
7

Begin to Notice and Appreciate Art

- Look for artwork in the community such as painted buildings, billboards and signs
- Go to an art show or museum
- Create an art show at home with your child's work

Explore Pictures in Books

- Choose a few of your child's books with interesting pictures
- Look at them together and ask questions. "What did the artist use to make this picture – a pencil, markers, paintbrush or maybe a camera?"
- Talk about how the artwork is similar or different
- Use words such as "light, dark, bright, shades of color, drawing, sketching, details" to describe the artwork

**Rhode Island Early Learning Standards****Creativity**  **7.1****RI* Family Favorite****YOUR CHILD'S VERY OWN ART BOX**

Fill a box or laundry basket with simple art supplies. Don't forget to include a vinyl tablecloth for messy projects. You might want to include:

- Crayons, colored chalk, pencils, pens and markers
- Paper, tracing paper, old cards, newspaper and magazines
- Paste and glue sticks
- Scissors without sharp edges and a paper punch
- Cloth scraps, string, yarn, cotton balls, glitter and buttons
- Ruler and compass
- Finger, tempera and water color paint
- Stamp pad sets and bingo markers

7

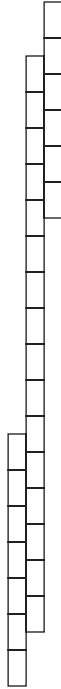
Building

Children can build with almost anything. As they build, they learn to use different materials to create structures. With materials that you already have around the house, children can create cities, zoos, farms, furniture, roads, airplanes, trains, robots and so much more! Be creative and follow your child's lead.

Getting Ready to Build

Pull some household items together that will serve as good building supplies.

- Cardboard boxes from shoes, diapers and tissues
- Milk or juice cartons
- Paper or plastic cups and plastic food storage containers
- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Straws, sticks and rocks
- Ready-made wooden blocks
- Wood scraps
- Store-bought building sets like Legos®, Bristle Blocks®, Lincoln Logs® or Tinkertoy®



Let your child have fun and be creative. Find a safe place where the building can be left if your child wants to display it or add to it later. Add cars, pretend people and stuffed animals.

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

Your Very Own Obstacle Course

You and your child can set up a series of activities outside that will encourage your child to climb over, under, jump, crawl and move in different directions. Gather together a variety of free or inexpensive materials such as:

- used tires
- Hula Hoops®
- milk crates
- big boxes
- boards
- carpet remnants

The possibilities are endless, limited only by your imagination. Most important, keep your child safe!

RI* Family Favorite

CREATE YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD



Your child can use a variety of building materials to create their own little neighborhood. Color or decorate shoeboxes to make your house and the houses of friends and family. Create places where you go regularly such as the park, school and the grocery store.

7

Pretend Play

Dramatic or pretend play is a valuable way for young children to spend their time. When children pretend, they act out the experiences they have had and imagine things that could be. Just watch as their imagination and creativity grows.

Make a Pretend Box

You can encourage your child to pretend play by filling a shopping bag or box with materials and supplies that can be found in a place in the community. You can find things around your house that, with a **little imagination**, can become a:

- Doctor's Office
- Zoo
- Dentist's Office
- Party
- Veterinarian's Office
- Construction Site
- Shoe Store
- Gas Station
- Post Office
- Restaurant
- Library
- Flower Store
- Beauty Shop



Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

RI* Family Favorite

GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE



Set up a grocery store with your child. Here are some ideas for items to include:

- Toy cash register or empty tea box for holding pretend money
- Pretend shopping cart or baby carriage
- Grocery store containers like milk cartons, plastic bottles and boxes
- Brown paper bag
- Coupons and store flyers
- Doll or stuffed animal to bring as a shopping helper
- Wallet, change purse or pocketbook

Take turns playing different roles – the cashier, the person who stocks the shelves or works in the deli or bakeshop. Encourage your child to write a shopping list. You can write the words that your child dictates or your child can draw pictures of the items. Make price tags. Count the items in your basket or bag as you check out.

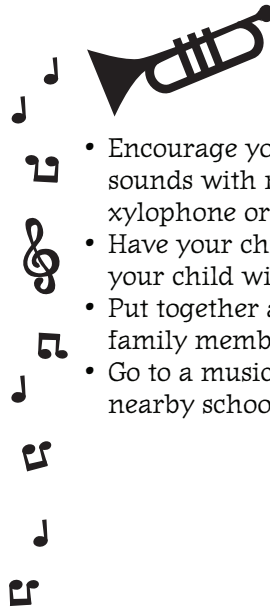
7

Music

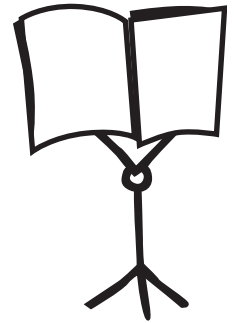
Young children love to sing, listen and move to music. They also love to play musical instruments. They delight in words and sounds they hear in songs, rhymes and rhythms. Music helps to release tension and also provides children with another way to express themselves.

Get ready for some noise and great fun!

- Listen to all kinds of music on the radio – jazz, rock, classical and golden oldies. Play a children’s tape and sing loudly.
- Play “Guess the Song” game. One person can start by humming a familiar song or clapping or tapping the beat or use a kazoo. Others can try to guess the song.
- Pretend to be in a band or parade. Use kazoos and musical instruments made from things you find around the house. For added fun, wear costumes.
- Talk to your child about the instruments you hear in the music that you listen to together. Try to detect the guitar, drums and piano.



- Encourage your child to explore and experiment with sounds with real or toy instruments such as a piano, xylophone or bells
- Have your child sing into a tape recorder. You and your child will love to listen to the recordings.
- Put together a musical performance to show to other family members
- Go to a musical play or concert at a nearby school or in the community



Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

★ Use the back of this card to make a list of your family’s favorite songs... ➡

7

Make Your Own Instruments

Families can make musical instruments out of anything that makes noise. Use your imagination to create instruments from things you have around the house.

Drums

- Make your own set of fancy drums by decorating empty boxes, coffee cans with lids or plastic storage containers
- Use stickers, tape, paint or markers to decorate
- After decorating your drum, use different kinds of drumsticks to make different sounds. Try small sticks, toothbrushes or paintbrushes.
- Drum fast, slowly, loudly and softly to the music
 - Keep the beat to your favorite music
 - Beat out simple rhythms and have your child repeat after you. Take turns. Now you try repeating the beat your child makes.



Rain Sticks

You will need:

- Cardboard tubes from paper towels
- Plastic carrier from a six pack of soda
- Some buttons or small stones
- Sponges or duct tape to seal the ends

Cover one end of the tube completely with a sponge or duct tape. Stuff plastic into the paper tube. Put a handful of buttons, small stones or other small objects into the paper towel tube. Cover the other end of the tube with another piece of sponge or duct tape. Decorate the tube anyway you wish. When the tube is turned up and down, you can hear the sound of rain.

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards