

Don't Let the Pigeon Play!

This month's book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, is a family favorite full of silliness and expressive drawing! As we focus on kindergarten readiness, we can begin to look at all the ways our little ones learn new skills to help with reading and writing.

Learning to read and write involves many steps along the way. The back of this card focuses on just a few of these, including how words can tell a story in speech bubbles, using puppets or drawings to retell a favorite book, or drawing to express emotion. Use the box materials to create your own pigeon and bus, and then have fun retelling the story together!

What's in the box?



popsicle sticks



paper plates



black marker



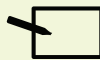
light blue marker



glue stick



yellow, blue, and black construction paper



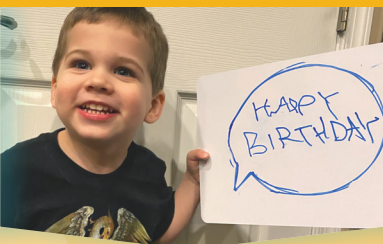
white board and marker

Make Your Own Pigeon and Bus!

You can make your own pigeon puppet and bus using the materials in the play box! Your empty playbox can turn into the bus by gluing on some yellow paper, and cutting some black paper for wheels and windows! Use the paper plate to make a pigeon puppet two ways: just the face, or a whole body! Remember to add his big eye! Attach a popsicle stick on the back so you can hold your pigeon like a puppet.



**Play Plan: Do these three activities this month to help your child learn and grow!
When you've completed the activities, write some words in the speech bubbles below!**



Write your own book!

- Using the white board, make your own speech bubbles to tell a story!
- To draw your speech bubble, make a big round shape with a triangle at the corner; draw pictures or write words inside to tell your story!
- Ask your child: what would my speech bubble say? What would yours?



Tell your own story!

- Grab the pigeon and bus you made to tell the story your own way!
- Use your pigeon and bus to tell your own NEW story! What happens if the pigeon DOES drive the bus?!
- Ask your child: what wouldn't you let the pigeon do? Have a party? Eat a hot dog?



Many faces of feelings!

- Using the plates and black marker, draw how your face looks when you feel sad, angry, or happy!
- You can hang these plates on a fridge or wall to share how you feel each day.
- Ask your child: how can we draw a happy face? A scared face?

Kindergarten Readiness skills: This month highlights three new readiness skills for kindergarten. You can use the questions listed for each activity to connect and extend the skills listed below.

Language skills:

your child will begin to use drawings or artwork to show their thoughts and ideas



Reading Comprehension:

your child will begin to retell or re-enact familiar stories, ask and answer questions about books, and remember major events in stories



Social and Emotional Development:

your child will begin to recognize, identify, and describe their emotions as well as the feelings of others

