

Theme: Developing Independence

The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle about developing new skills.

TV that teaches

Caillou: #119—I Can Do It!

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood: #1633—Growing Takes Time—
So Does Learning to Read

Dragon Tales: #108—The Talent Pool

Arthur: #107—Buster Makes the Grade

Barney: #505—The One and Only You

Storybooks

Clifford Grows Up by Norman Bridwell

How Kids Grow by Jean Marzollo

These Hands by Hope Lynne Price

Bright Eyes, Brown Skin by Cheryl Willis

Busy Toes by C.W. Bowie



Activities

1. **I used to be a baby...:** Look at photographs of your child when she was a baby and talk about ways she has grown and changed. Think about things that your child can do now that she couldn't do then; for example, tying her shoe, buckling her car seat, drawing a picture, drinking from a cup. Let your child know how proud you are of her accomplishments.
2. **Hand prints:** Brush a thin layer of washable paint on your child's palms and press them carefully on a piece of paper (have soapy water and a towel close by!). Lift hands and feet from the paper into the soapy water. Make your own prints, too. Talk about all of the things your child can do and create with his hands.
3. **Job for a Day:** On small strips of paper, write out several jobs your child can do to help around the house. Place the strips of paper in a bowl. Let your child draw a different piece of paper from the bowl each day and carry out that job. Praise your child for her efforts.
4. **All About Me Book:** Help your child make a book about himself. One page can be a picture of your child, one picture can be a drawing of a favorite toy, one page can be a drawing of the family, and so on. Staple the pages together to make a book. It's fun to do a new book each year—to see how your child has grown and changed.
5. **Recognize Struggles:** Learning something new can be difficult. Let your child know that some skills take longer than others. Share stories about your own childhood. Talk to your child about how difficult it was for you to learn to ride a bike or how long it took for you to learn to read. Recognize small accomplishments and encourage your child to keep trying.

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail delaney1@will.uiuc.edu.

