

Activity Guide: March

Items in green are included in your PBL kit from CMNH

Ages 0-24 months:

● Paint & Play

- *This activity has been sent to us by multiple program partners, so we want to share with everyone else!*
 - Use the **plastic balls** and **bath buddies** for painting! Dip the balls in paint and then roll them across paper or big pieces of cardboard. Try dipping the plastic animal's feet in paint and making footprints.
 - *Worried about little ones tasting the paint? Try using yogurt (dairy or non-dairy) and a bit of food coloring for a fun and taste-safe sensory experience!*
 - If you're talking about footprints, a fun book for this age group is [Step by Step](#) by Loreen Leedy. A cute guessing book with animal footprints, fun facts, and adorable baby animals.

● Muffin cup exploration

- Set up space for children to play with the **balls** and **muffin "tins"**. Young babies will enjoy putting in and taking out the balls from the muffin tins, older toddlers might enjoy putting all one color ball into the muffin tin or choosing two colors to put in. And, of course, dumping them out at the end will be a highlight!



Ronan, son of Museum staffer Colie, is 12 months old

"It took some time with show & tell, but when he figured out putting in the balls and taking them out of the muffin cups, he was sold! But, as predicted, dumping them out was the most fun!"

Ages 2-3 years:

- **Create a cardboard playscape for trucks**
 - Flatten out a large cardboard box, or several large boxes and tape them together. Use tape to design some simple roads on the cardboard box. Use a marker to draw parking spots.
 - Place the **trucks** (and other vehicles you may have) on the road or in the parking spots and see how children play! What other toys might they add to this playscape? Provide markers, crayons, and/or stickers and let them design the scenery!
 - Need a great "things that go" book? We love [Car, Car, Truck, Jeep](#) by Katrina Charmin and Nick Sharratt. Set to the tune of *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, this fun book is super catchy and will have kids singing along in no time thanks to this familiar tune.
- **Free the animals!**
 - Place the **wild & farm animals** in the **metal bowls** with the lids on. Secure the lids further by putting the **large clothespins** around the edges. Invite children to free the animals by carefully removing the clothespins that are clipped on—a great fine motor activity!



Jules, daughter of Museum staffer Meredith, is 2.5 years old

"She created a whole world on her cardboard map. She gathered a few more toys and had places for houses, barns, animals, cars, and more. Lots of creative play! The bowls were fun, too. She liked "opening the presents", then it turned into a guessing game. We would put things in the bowls for each other, shake and listen, feel the weight, and guess what was inside!"

Ages 4-5 years:

● Create an indoor obstacle course

- Stuck inside on a really cold day? Use the PBL materials to create a “shake your sillies out” adventure. Make an example then challenge children to create their own obstacle course.
 - Use the **cardboard blocks** to create a balance beam (each individual block boasts that it can hold up to 150 pounds!)
 - Create rivers to hop over with the **scarves**
 - Climb over or wiggle on the **balance board**
 - Use more **blocks** as places to weave in and out of or jump over!

● Make & explore snow dough

- [Have you tried making snow dough?](#) This easy concoction is created with two ingredients: cornstarch and inexpensive hair conditioner. To make enough snow dough for a large class of students should only cost about \$8. **Read our blog/watch the video linked above for full instructions.**
 - Let children help to make snow dough by mixing cornstarch and hair conditioner in a large bin together or in individual bowls.
 - Once the desired consistency is reached, explore the snow dough with the **sensory bin scoops** and other tools. Add in the little **counting manipulatives**, too!
 - There are lots of great books about snow. One of our favorites is [Snow Rabbit Spring Rabbit](#) by Il Sung Na. It’s a story about what different animals do in the winter and a fun surprise ending that reminds us Spring is on its way!



(Snow dough ready to play with and children at a partner site playing with the balance board!)