

Activity Guide: May

Items in green are included in your PBL kit from CMNH

Ages 0-24 months:

- **Untape & Unwrap some FUN!**
 - **Tape & Wrap some of the balls or bath buddies for babies to find!**
 - Use a piece of cardboard or even a short table as the surface for this activity. Use masking or painter's tape to gently secure some balls or bath buddies to the cardboard or table.
 - Introduce the activity to babies! See how they interact with the tape (*it will be a fun sensory experience for them!*) and if they figure out how to untape the balls.
 - If babies need some help, show them how to untape the balls (*try to do this without talking at the same time so they can focus on what your hands are doing*) see how they respond.
 - For older babies, try wrapping up some balls or bath buddies using the scarves. Gently tie a knot and watch the work through how to open the scarf to get to the "prize" inside!



Ronan, son of Museum staffer Colie, is 14 months old.

"He rescued each ball from the tape completely and gave me the piece of tape before moving on to the next one. When he saw the cow wrapped up in the scarf he immediately started to try to get it out by looking it over and shaking it without me giving him any instructions! It was fun to see how he problem solved on his own"

Ages 2-3 years:

● Wash the trucks (& toys!)

- Bring trucks and other easy-to-clean toys outside and have children make them dirty! Roll them in the dirt, the sandbox, or fill up dump trucks with grass and leaves!
 - Have a few bins of soapy water, sponges, brushes, hearty paintbrushes, and other tools. Invite children to clean the toys. Provide towels or rags for drying the toys, too. A full service car wash!
- While you're outside, find some items in nature to clean up, too—rocks work great for this. Children can also investigate using the water to paint on dry rocks—what happens, how do the rocks change?

Looking for a great book about a truck covered in muck? Look no further than [Little Blue Truck](#), by Alice Schertle and illustrated by Jill McElmurry This fun rhyming picture book has a great story and will have little ones wiggling to the rhythm on the edge of their seats!

● Springtime Parachute Play!

- Don't forget to bring your parachute outside in this warm weather!
 - Have children collect nature items that they think will float and fly through the air when jostled by the parachute (leaves, seeds, pinecones) Talk about how they move and why? Helicopter seeds are the most fun!



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

"Jules loves things to be clean so this activity challenged her to embrace some mess. She didn't care for cleaning the truck and touching the dirt, but she really enjoyed -and spent quite awhile!-cleaning up her project area with the sponges and brushes. It was neat to see her using "real tools" that she sees us use all the time"

Ages 4-5 years:

- **Guided play: Put on a show!**

- Read some familiar stories to children (*fairy tales work well! Think: Three Little Pigs*), talk about the story (*the characters, the setting, the problem & resolution*)
- Invite them to recreate the story!
 - This could be acting out the story, or part of the story, using some props (**blocks, balance board, play silks**), recreating it on a mini scale with **play silk** scenery and **counting critters**, or even drawing some scenery and character stick puppets!
 - Invite children to recreate one of their favorite stories using this process—either a book they love, a fun experience from their own lives, or a story they make up as they go! How can they share those stories with their friends?

A great story to encourage pretend play and working together is [*Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy*](#) by Jacky Davis and illustrated by David Soman.



Children at partner sites demonstrate some block building (scenery?!) and creative scarf costumes!