

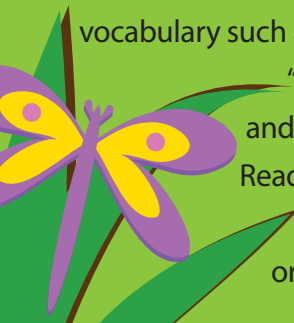
0-12 months

Experience Nature

Spread a quilt on the grassy area of your play space. Place baby so she can reach and feel the grass. Talk to your baby about its color and texture. Notice the movement of the leaves in the wind. Show your baby how the sunlight shines on the blanket or the grass and wave your hand to make shadows. Use varied and descriptive

vocabulary such as "soft," "green," "breezy," "windy" and "shadow".

Read a book to your child about wind or the sun.

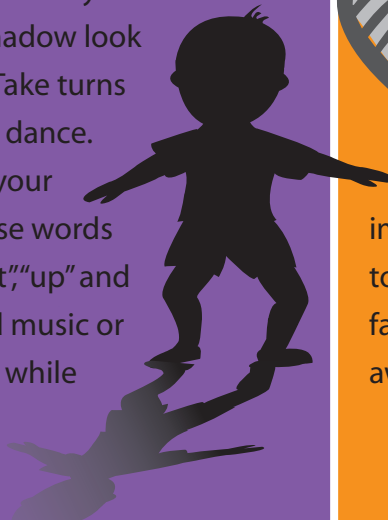


Age 1

Shadow Dancing

Take your toddler outside on a sunny day and do a shadow dance with him. Stand next to your child and move your arms and other body parts. Have your child make his shadow look like yours. Take turns leading the dance.

Talk about your motions. Use words such as "fast," "up" and "small". Add music or sing a song while you dance.



Age 2

Ring the Bell

Attach a length of string to a large bell, hang it from a tree at your child's eye level and give him a ball (or beanbag).

Have him stand back and toss the ball at the bell to try to make it ring. As his skill improves, encourage him to try to toss the ball from farther away.



Preschool

Leaf Match

Lay out several pairs of leaves from different plants, mix them up, and encourage your child to match up the leaf pairs.





To find out where you can see Leaf the Bookworm,
please visit www.growingmindsread.org
or call the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County
at **941-954-4830**.

find us on **facebook**

Become a fan of the LEAF Mascot on Facebook today!



This program is funded by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Participating community partners include the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, Sarasota County Library System, Children First and the Sarasota County School Board.



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