

Daily Baby Activities

Sunday	While sitting, put your baby on your knees and bounce them gently. As you're bouncing them, pretend you're a horse by saying "Giddyap".	Record your baby on your phone and show them the video afterwards. Tell them that it's them on the phone and describe what they are doing and seeing.
Monday	Have your baby sit in front of you but facing the other way. Blow on their neck and talk to them. See if they turn to you.	Blow up a balloon in front of your baby, but instead of tying it, let it deflate and fly around the room. Watch your baby's reactions.
Tuesday	Give your baby a face cloth or a kitchen towel, but don't let go. Pull on one end lightly and see if your baby still holds on. Then, stop pulling and let it go to show them that they "won".	Repeat one to two syllable words to your baby, such as "mama" or "dada". Put your face close to them as you're saying the words, so they can see your mouth forming the shapes.
Wednesday	While your baby is on their tummy, show them a toy and move it near their shoulder. See if they'll roll to their side or reach out to grab it.	With your baby in a stroller, walk over different surfaces. Describe them to your baby (i.e. "We're on the sidewalk. It's a bit bumpy.")
Thursday	Scrub up scrap paper, then straighten it out. Scrub it up again. Do this several times, so your baby can hear the "scrunching" sound.	Grab a few items around your home (i.e. plastic bowl, fresh diaper) to put on your head. As you put each one on, make silly faces for your baby.
Friday	Use a bedsheet as a parachute for your baby. With the help of someone else, lift the sheet up for your baby to crawl under, or shake it while they're on top.	Put your baby's hands and feet in a bucket of water, then stamp them on the sidewalk. Then, show your baby their handprints and footprints. Repeat with your hands and feet beside theirs. Take a picture.
Saturday	Show your baby pictures that you took with your phone. Tell them who's in the pictures and where they were taken.	When you're outside with your baby, look up at the clouds in the sky. Describe them to your baby (i.e. what colour they are, what they look like, etc.)

*If you'd like, do the daily activities repeatedly, and on other days too! Repetition is key for babies to learn and develop.

Pollinating Flowers

Your little biologist will celebrate [National Pollinator Week \(June 22-28\)](#) by learning all about pollinating flowers. And they'll get to practice their math skills! Great for ages 2 years and older.

What You Need:

- Blue and Green Construction paper
- Cupcake liners
- Glue
- Marker
- Scissors
- Pom poms (cotton balls, or any other small object that you can use as the 'pollen')

Directions:

1. Have an adult precut the green flower stems.
2. Have your child glue the flower stems and cupcake liners onto the full-size blue piece of construction paper.
3. In each cupcake liner, write the numbers 1-5, or if your child is able, have them write the numbers.
4. Tell your child to act like a butterfly (flap their wings) or a bee (make a buzzing sound) and to place the correct number of pollen grains (pom poms) in the corresponding flower (cupcake liner).



Talking Points:

Talk to your little one about pollen. Explain to them that every plant that flowers has pollen and that it is so tiny it is very hard to see. Also, let them know that pollen travels to other flowers in many ways, such as by wind, water, and by insects/animals.

Also, talk to your little one about numbers and count with them. If your child is a little older, you can add a few pom poms to one of the flowers and ask them how many more they need to add. Or add too many pom poms and ask how many they need to subtract. Or if they have mastered numbers 1-5, then try numbers 6-10.

On VPL's database, [Kanopy Kids](#), watch the free video of the book, "[My Garden](#)" by Weston Woods.

Pollen Transfer with Bees

Your busy bee will celebrate [National Pollinator Week \(June 22-28\)](#) by learning all about how bees pollinate flowers. Great for ages 2.5 years and older.

What You Need:

- White paper (1 piece)
- Markers
- Pipe cleaners (one of each colour - yellow, black, and white)
- Some type of coloured food seasoning (such as taco seasoning, cheese powder, cinnamon, etc.)

Directions:

1. Have an adult draw some large flowers on a piece of white paper.
2. On the centre of each flower, have an adult place a small amount of food seasoning).
3. Have an adult twist the black and yellow pipe cleaner together and then wrap it around their pinkie finger. Add the white pipe cleaner to the middle to form wings
4. Place the pipe cleaner (the bee) on your child's index finger and have them pollinate the flowers by touching one flower with the bee and then pressing it on another flower. Make sure to show them how the food seasoning (pollen) sticks to the pipe cleaners (bee).



Talking Points:

Talk to your little learner that when bees/butterflies/flies/hummingbirds/etc. visit flowers for nectar they get dusted with pollen which they then move to other plants to help grow more flowers.

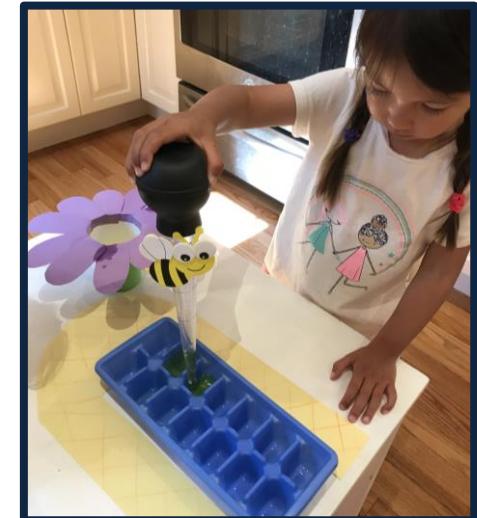
On VPL's database, [Tumblebooks](#), watch the video of the book, "[The Bumblebee Queen](#)" by April Pulley Sayre.

Collecting Nectar

Your little learner will discover how bees collect nectar and then transfers it to the hives so honey can be made. Great for ages 2 years and older.

What You Need:

- Paper cup (or plastic cup)
- Turkey baster
- Ice cube tray
- Yellow food colouring
- Water
- Construction paper, tape & markers (optional)
- Honey & Bread (optional)



Directions:

1. This step is optional - Have an adult draw a bee and tape it onto the turkey baster, make flower petals and tape it around the paper cup, and use some yellow paper to make the ice cube tray look like a honeycomb/hive.
2. With your child, fill the 'flower' cup with some water and add some yellow food colouring.
3. Then show your child how to collect the yellow food dye (which is the nectar) with the turkey baster and move it to the 'hive' ice tray.
4. Let your child try. Note, it might get messy so have lots of rags or paper towel on hand.
5. Optional - Enjoy some honey with bread as a treat after the activity (note - honey should not be give to children under the age of 12 months).

Talking Points:

Talk to your little learner about simple bee facts, such as: Bees have two stomachs - one stomach for eating and the other special stomach is for storing nectar to bring back to the hive; Bees are the only insect that make food that humans can eat; Honey tastes different depending on the area where it is grown and what flowers the bees visit.

Talk about the texture of honey (sticky and gooey) and how it tastes (sweet).

Here are a couple of songs to sing to your little one...

Baby Put Your Pants On

Baby, put your pants on, pants on, pants on. Baby, put your pants on. 1, 2, 3. (x2)
Leg to the left. Leg to the right. Wiggle and jiggle and pull them up tight. (x2)
Other verses: shirt, socks, hat



Roll, Roll Sugar Babies

Roll, roll sugar babies. Roll, roll sugar babies. Push and pull, and clap, clap, clap. (x2)
Roll up high and roll down low. Roll real fast and roll real slow.
Roll, roll sugar babies. Roll, roll sugar babies. Push and pull, and clap, clap, clap.

Hurry, Hurry Drive the Firetruck

Hurry, hurry, drive the firetruck (x3) Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.
Hurry, hurry, turn the corner (x3) Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.
Hurry, hurry, climb the ladder (x3) Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.
Hurry, hurry, squirt the water (x3) Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.
Slowly, slowly back to the station (x3) Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding.

