

Blue's Clues

What should be included:

- Bag with cake/cupcakes and decorations
- "Orders to be Filled" picture cards
- Dinosaur stompers
- Rhyming pictures Cards
- Book- **My First Grocery Store**

Play Plan:

To begin just allow your child to play with Blue's bag of cake decorating items. When you feel like your child has had time to explore and is ready to have directed play you can try some of the following:

- **Fill an Order** – Using the picture cards and Blue's cake decorating items, fill each of the cake orders *It adds more to this activity if your child is filling the cake order for someone in particular, so you could have other family members or stuffed animals give your child the picture of what they would like.
- **Take My Order** - In this activity you (and other family members or stuffed animals) are **verbally** giving your child an order to be filled. Start with easy directions (one step directions) until your child begins to successfully remember and fill the order. Then progress to more complicated (2-3 step directions) orders to be given and filled. Example: First order something like "I would like a cupcake with a candle please." Then begin to add more to the order "I would like a blue cupcake with green swirly icing and a blue candle." You can continue to increase the directions given as you feel your child is ready.

***Both visual and auditory memory are extremely important for success in school and this is just one fun way to practice these skills.**

Book Activity:

To begin take the play pieces out of the book and lay them out where you and your child can see all of them. Then go to each page and read the directions and see if your child can find appropriate pieces to add to each page. Once you have had several chances to read and play with the book try the following extensions:

- Use the Headings on each page (the words up in the handle of the book) and have your child clap each time you say a word – this helps your child better understand that what we are saying is what is in the book.
 - First **POINT** to each of the words as you read them point and say "Around", point and say "the", point and say "store"

- Then **you say and clap the words** Example: say “Around”(clap) “the”(clap) “store”(clap)
- Then do it again and **have your child clap with you** each time you say the word
- Next time you **POINT** to each of the words **you are saying** and have your **child clap** each time you say a word
- Last **you point** to each of the words as **your child say** the words and **your child claps** the words

* This helps your child better understand that what we are saying is from the words in the book – this understanding is very important when your child begins to **READ** and **WRITE** words in Kindergarten.

Big Body Movement:

Give your child some time to just walk around on the dinosaur stompers. Once you feel he/she can handle them well enough to play a game, you can try the following:

- Before playing the games, help your child understand what we mean when we say two words **RHYME**. Tell them that rhyming words are words with the same **ENDING SOUND** and then give them some examples (cat/bat – they both end with the sound “at”, top/hop – they both end with the sound “op”, boy/toy – they both end with the sound “oy”, etc.).
- Spread out the Rhyming picture cards (far enough apart that your child can Stomper to them)
 - **You name one of the pictures** and then have your child Stomper to that picture and then say a word (that may or may not rhyme with that picture). Ask your child “Does (repeat the word) rhymes with (repeat the name of the picture)?” If the word and the picture rhyme have your child turn that picture face down and continue the game until all cards are face down.
 - Next **you can say a word** and let your child Stomper to a picture that he/she thinks rhymes with the word you said. When your child gets to his/her chosen picture, **repeat the word you said and say the name of the picture your child is standing beside**. If the picture doesn’t rhyme with the word you said, have him/her choose another picture repeat the word you said and the name of the new picture – continue this process until the rhyming picture is found and have your child turn it face down. Then continue this game until all pictures have been turned face down.

*Rhyming is a good way to help your child begin to **HEAR** differences in the sounds that make up our words. Being able to hear the different sounds in words is a skill that your child will be using in Kindergarten.

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!