

T is for Talented

JOY



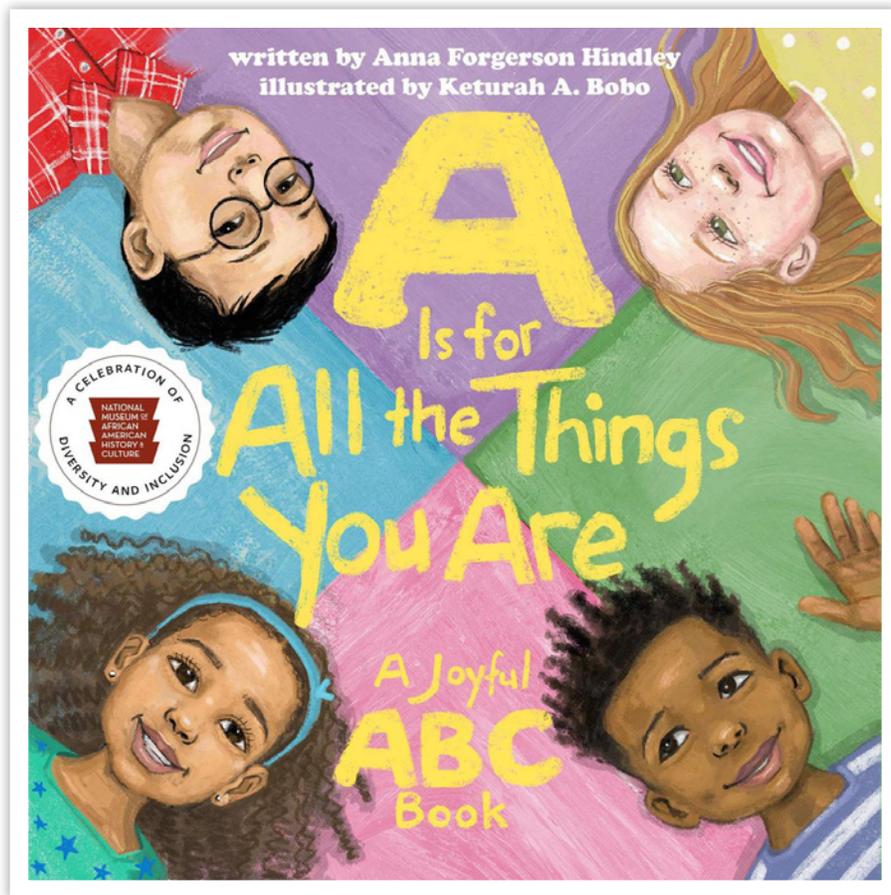
FUL

A NMAAHC KIDS ABCs ACTIVITY BOOK

INFANT AND TODDLER EDITION

Brought to you by the National Museum of African American History and Culture Early Childhood Education Initiative.
Inspired by the children's book, A is for All The Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book written by Anna Forgeron Hindley
and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, ©2018 Art by Keturah Ariel LLC.

Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



A is for All the Things You Are was written to affirm our children and empower them to see themselves as many things at once – daring and loving, creative and just, amazing and zany – and everything in between. The book offers wonderful opportunities for conversations with children to build their vocabularies, strengthen their sense of self and deepen their joy in and acceptance of human diversity. The illustrations allow them to see not only themselves, but others in the same positive light. By seeing positive images of children of different colors, genders, abilities, classes, and other social identities, we nurture the child’s comfort and joy in human diversity so deep caring connections can be made across humanity.

Each activity booklet offers suggestions of how to begin the lifelong work of having a positive sense of self and others with your infant or toddler, how to support their language development and how to build the foundations of literacy.

A Is for All the Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book
© 2018 Art by Keturah Ariel LLC (artwork)
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T is for Talented:

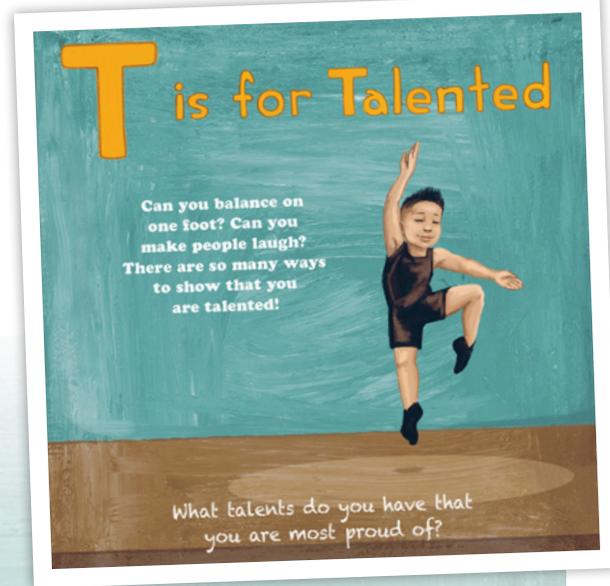
Can you balance on one foot? Can you make people laugh? There are so many ways to show that you are talented.

What talents do you have that you are most proud of?

One of the joys of being around babies and toddlers is witnessing their wonderful “aha” moments and discovering what makes them light up with delight. Some little ones turn their attention to every sound like clanging pots, crunching leaves or moving cars. Music may catch the ears of others and inspire movement. With another, colors or textures may draw their attention as other little ones may love words and join our conversations with excited babbles and gurgles. Each way a child interacts with the world is a unique clue about what gives them joy and what experiences are the spark for their potential talents.

Talent is often framed as some extraordinary quality that only a few lucky people are born with. But talent is really about recognizing what sparks internal joy and then returning to it over and over with our energy, hard work and love. Talent is something we all possess.

Give your little one opportunities to explore and express for their own sense of competence rather than for your approval. Their talents aren't for our entertainment but for their own development and joy. Early labeling of a young child's gifts can put them in a box of expectations, keeping them from building wider interests and talents. In your child's early years, think of their interests as being a part of who they are *right now*, instead of who they will be forever. That way, you'll keep the door open for an ever-widening spectrum of talents to develop and grow.



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What You'll Need:

The following supplies are suggested for the experiences in this booklet.

- Full-length mirror
- Dancing scarf
- Rattle
- Printed picture of a family member or friend
- Paper
- Markers or crayons



EXPLORE

In early childhood, children learn best through doing! To explore this week's theme, try the activity below with your infant or toddler.

Expressive Movement

When you have a baby or toddler in your world, you are the audience to daily talent shows. With each new day, our little ones discover new ways to move their bodies, communicate and show us who they are and who they are growing to be. What a privilege and joy to have front row seats to their unique and budding talents!

An early way that babies and toddlers share their unique selves with us is through movement! From bobbing and clapping to wiggling and jumping, they begin to figure out what feels natural and enjoyable to their bodies and what sounds spark dancing. While they may later choose to learn about and grow in a particular style of dance, celebrate the energy and creativity of the ways they move now and provide fun moments for movement.

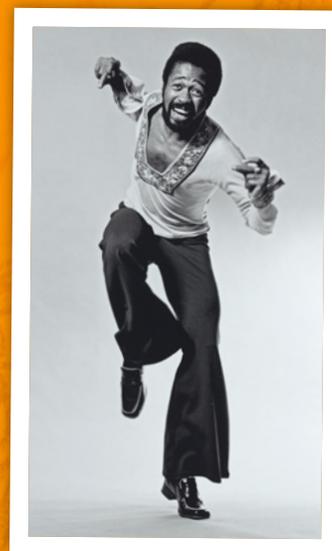
- Turn on some tunes and use a book, like *How Do You Dance?* by Thyra Heder or *Amazing Me! Dance!* by Carol Thompson, to guide your dance session!
- Try dancing in a mirror so your baby or toddler can watch the ways your bodies move. Describe the ways you move the same and differently.
- Add props like rattles or colorful scarves to wave as you move. Model how to wave the scarf above your head and then, low to the ground!



Untitled by Devin Allen



Portrait of three children by Jack Mitchell



Ben Vereen by Jack Mitchell

EXPLORE

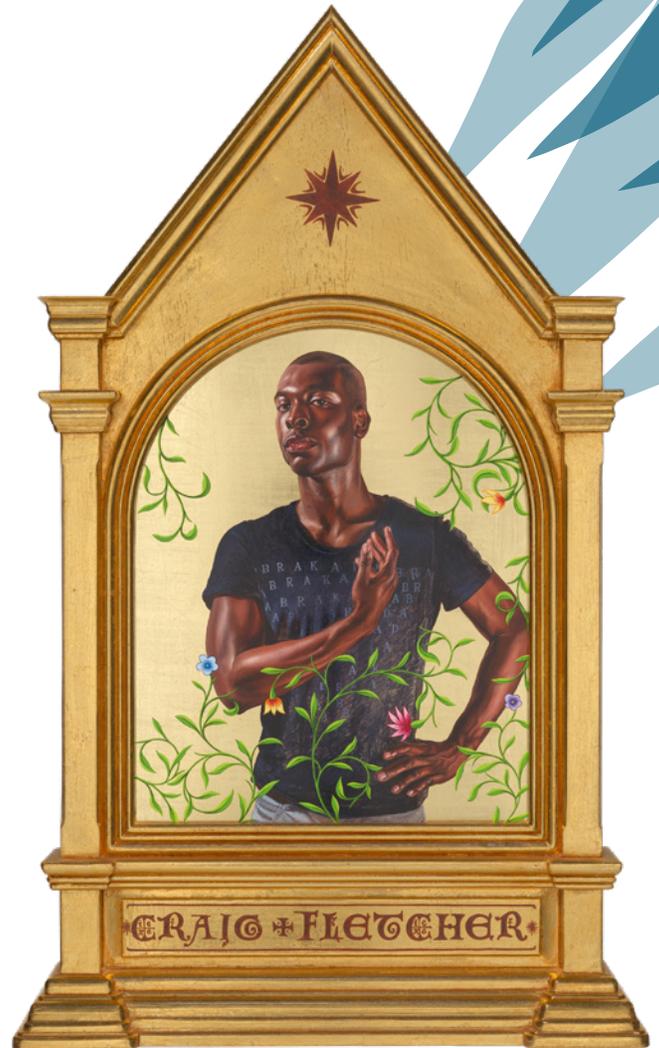
Explore this week's theme with your toddler by trying this engaging experience inspired by our museum collection.

Nurturing Artistic Expression

When toddlers first begin to experiment with art materials, they create with abandon! They excitedly, curiously and freely add marks and brightness where they didn't exist before. As toddlers grow into their school age years, this sense of freedom is often replaced with concern about doing it "right" or being "good at art." Explicitly or implicitly, they're told that they *are* or *are not* artistically talented. However, to simply create for the sake of creating, without seeking others' approval, is truly a talent in itself. As the loving adults in their lives, we must provide opportunities for our little ones to define talent for themselves, and find ways to inspire their creativity and nurture confidence in their ability to create.

Kehinde Wiley, known for painting striking portraits set against intricate floral backgrounds, uses his talent to create portraits that celebrate and uplift Black identity. To inspire your little one's creativity, take a close look together at his artwork in the Smithsonian collection, like the one here or portraits of [Barack Obama](#) and [LL Cool J](#). Describe the colors and trace shapes with your fingers.

Then, print an image of a person in your toddler's life or draw a simple face on a piece of paper. Provide your little one with markers or crayons and invite them to fill the page. Watch the way their brain and body decide to move their hands and add color. This is the start of their unique style. Take delight in being able to witness it!



[Saint John The Baptist by Kehinde Wiley](#)

EXPLORE MORE

Continue learning with your little one using these recommended resources:

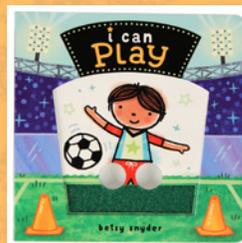
Books

Introduce your baby or toddler to the joys of talents, like singing, dancing, playing and creating, with the books below.



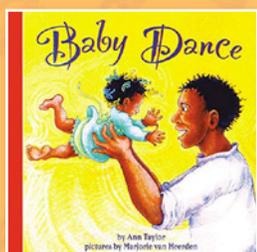
Singing in the Rain

based on the song by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown, illustrated by Tim Hopgood



I Can Play

by Betsy Snyder



Baby Dance

by Ann Taylor, illustrated by Marjorie van Heerden



Press Here

by Herve Tullet

Tip:

Use your favorite search engine to find read-aloud videos online!

Online Resources

Discover ways to support your little one to grow in the ways they express themselves.

- ★ [Tips on Helping Your Child Develop Confidence - Zero to Three](#)
- ★ [Talk and Move Together - Sesame Street in Communities](#)
- ★ [Toddler Dancing - What To Expect](#)

CONNECT

A Guide for Families and Caregivers

Why do these experiences matter?

A child's identity is both internally constructed and externally imposed. They learn who they are and how they are valued from the words and actions of others and from the way they do or don't make sense of those messages. Their beloved adults (that's you!) are the most important people in their world. The words you give a child to describe themselves and others have lasting power in their lives. When a child has the words to think about their strengths and their worth, they can sort through negative messages and hold on to their sense of being loveable and capable. The experiences in this booklet are invitations for you to use objects, activities and words to support your child's positive identity development, their fascination with how people are both different and the same, and their ability to read emotions and build empathy. In time, experiences like these will also support your child's ability to recognize unfairness or unkindness and to stand up for themselves and others.

What about supporting language development and getting ready to read?

Alphabets, in and of themselves, are not particularly interesting to young children. However, learning letter-filled words to describe the world around them and inside of them (their feelings, experiences and senses) is very interesting to children! Discovering new words, new ways to say things and new ways to think is exciting and essential to a child's literacy and identity development.

In the first three years of life, early language and literacy skills are best learned through everyday moments. The experiences in these booklets invite you to boost your child's literacy through talking, playing and creating together in fun and accessible ways. Some experiences will guide you in helping your infant or toddler "name the universe" with descriptive words for the actions and emotions of themselves and others. Other experiences will encourage you to point out written words and look closely at objects to provide your little one with the beginning connections between the real world, reading and talking.

Every child's path to literacy is different and valid - just like their identity. The experiences in these booklets aim to support you and your child along their unique journey to literacy and a positive sense of self. **Remember to have fun along the way!**

Credits

Objects

- *Ben Vereen* by Jack Mitchell, 1972. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of the Jack Mitchell Archives, © Jack Mitchell, All Rights Reserved. [2016.77.13](#)
- *Untitled* by Devin Allen, August 2, 2015. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Devin Allen, © Devin Allen. [2016.98.14](#)
- Portrait of three children by Jack Mitchell, ca. 1960. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, © Jack Mitchell, All Rights Reserved. [2016.83.2](#)
- *Saint John The Baptist* by Kehinde Wiley, 2014. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of The Martin Z. Margulies Foundation, Miami, FL, © Kehinde Wiley. [2017.105](#)

Original Artwork

- Bluebird (cover) © 2018 Art by Keturah Ariel LLC

Course Evaluation (return this evaluation with homework)

Your Name: _____ Registry# _____

Course Name: Book ____ (A-Z) Smithsonian Joyful activity book series - <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/early-childhood>

Date you Completed Course: _____ Are you Family or Group Center

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Training outcome survey rating

Training evaluation statements: Please circle

Please circle
 

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The presentation consisted of hands-on training, questions and answers, and lecture. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| Overall effectiveness of training (I feel the training was clear and easy to understand) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| The interactive classroom and homework assignments were helpful learning materials | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| This subject was useful, and I have incorporated the information into my childcare environment | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| Overall effectiveness of training | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| The method used to present this information was in step with my learning style | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| I would recommend other providers to attend this training | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| The materials used in this training were valuable and relevant (i.e. handouts, books, homework assignments, etc.) | 1 2 3 4 5 |

To receive the 2 hours, complete reviews for two activities below:

1st Activity Name of the activity: _____

Why did you choose this activity? _____

List 3 things you liked about the activity _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

2nd Activity Name of the activity: _____

Why did you choose this activity? _____

List 3 things you liked about the activity _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

My learning style is: (please check one)

- Visual Learner- You learn by seeing and looking.
- Auditory Learners - You learn by hearing and listening.
- Kinesthetic Learners - You learn by touching and doing.

Was the information presented difficult to understand? Yes No

Would you like access to monthly childcare updates? Yes No

The course materials were well organized? Yes No

I received the materials in a timely fashion? Yes No

The information will be helpful to me in my position? Yes No

Would you consider taking another training offered by Child Care Providers' Helper? Yes No

Return this evaluation to: gcoggs@gmail.

Or mail to Child Care Providers Helper

7819 W. Potomac Ave.

Milw. WI. 53222

Any questions call-414-536-3397

Thank you for allowing us to serve your training needs.