

# SCHOOL AGE

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Week

# 29

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Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

## Animal, Plant, or Mineral with 5 Reps Challenge

**Materials:** minimum of two players, small items to track number of questions

**Preparation:** Review the classic Animal, Plant, or Mineral guessing game: one person thinks of an animal, plant, or mineral while the other person has 20 opportunities to ask yes or no questions to gain clues and guess the item.

**Instructions:**

1. Players decide who will be the "answerer" first. This person chooses a subject that is either an animal, plant, or mineral. All the other players are the "questioners" who ask yes or no questions that will give them clues to the subject.
2. Here is the extra challenge... in order for the questioners to ask their questions, they must first perform five repetitions of an exercise! Players will make up a rule to decide how the exercises will be determined.
3. If 21 questions are asked with no correct answer, the "answerer" wins.

Suggested exercises:

plank	sit-ups	jumping jacks	high knees	lunges
toe touch	jog in place	bridge lift	push ups	crunches

## Barn Owl Mobile

**Materials:** cardstock or paper and thin cardboard (cereal boxes), scissors, glue, string, color printer, internet access, website: <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/owl-facts-for-kids/owl-crafts/barn-owl-mobile/>

**Preparation:** An adult will help with internet.

**Instructions:**

Why did the owl invite his friends over? Because he didn't want to be OWL by himself! Make a fun friend from the animal kingdom with this barn owl mobile.

1. Print the two pages from the website with the parts of the owl's body. Use cardstock, or if printing on paper, cut out the pieces and glue onto thin cardboard and cut pieces when dry. Glue the front pieces and back pieces together.
2. Cut short lines where indicated on each piece. This is how the body parts will be slotted together for a 3-dimensional effect.
3. Fit the slots together to assemble the body parts to the main body part. Attach the legs on the bottom. Make small holes to hang with string.
4. Hang it with string and give it a name!



## Inside the Owl's Nest

**Materials:** internet access, websites: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred\\_Owl/sounds](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/sounds)  
<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/scenes-from-inside-a-barred-owl-nest>

**Preparation:** An adult will help with the internet.

**Instructions:**

Using the first link, listen to the bird call here to become familiar with the sound the Barred Owl makes.

Using the second link, watch the video to see what happens during breeding season for the Barred Owl. Listen for the call you heard in the first video.

Discuss the following questions related to the video:

- What do you think a clutch means?
- What time of year were the eggs laid?
- How was the female able to eat while she was incubating the eggs?
- How long did it take until the eggs were ready to hatch?
- How long did the female tend to the nestlings? Why do you think they are called nestlings?
- What did they eat?
- Can you describe how much they grew in the first month?
- Can you describe what it was like when they first left the nest box?
- Why do you think they are in a nest box and not a nest they created?



## Fall Pinecone Owls

**Materials:** pinecones, acorns (just need the tops), glue gun (low heat- **adult supervision needed**), craft paint (optional), paintbrush (optional), feathers or leaves

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. If you would like a colorful owl, paint the pine cone whatever color you desire. Let dry.
2. Next, paint the acorn tops white and let dry, then use the handle end of a paintbrush to add the black pupils.
3. Once everything is dry, glue 2 of the acorn tops onto the pinecone, next to each other for the eyes.
4. Using an extra pinecone, cut off one of the pieces of it to use as a beak. You can paint this orange or leave it natural color. Glue the beak under the eyes using your glue gun.
5. Now, take your feathers or leaves and glue onto each side of the pinecone for its wings.



## Water Fountain

**Materials:** 2-liter empty soda bottle, balloon, funnel, bendable straw, putty or adhesive glue, tray for catching the water (or do in a sink or outside), pen or screwdriver (to poke a hole in the soda bottle), water, pitcher for holding and pouring the water, food coloring

**Preparation:** Gather materials. Fill the pitcher with water and add food coloring. Blow up the balloon and release the air a couple of times to stretch out the balloon for easier blowing up.

**Instructions:**

1. First, poke a hole in the empty bottle just big enough to insert the straw (**adult supervision/help required**). This can be close to the top.
2. Insert the straw in the hole and press putty or glue all the way around the straw. Make sure it is a tight seal.
3. Place the funnel in the bottle neck and then pour water into the empty soda bottle making sure the water is at the same level as the straw.
4. Next, blow up the balloon and put the mouth of the balloon over the opening of the soda bottle and watch your fountain flow.

Variation: add additional straws around the bottle and you have multiple streams of water.



## Rubber Band Bracelet

**Materials:** small colorful rubber bands (choose 2 or more colors), S or C clip, fingers or fork, view these websites for guidance (<https://www.instructables.com/id/Rubber-Band-Bracelet-Without-Loom/> , <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ah2KQGi8Swk> , or for a Christmas wreath-  
<https://www.redtedart.com/christmas-wreath-ornament-rainbow-loom/> )

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

### Instructions:

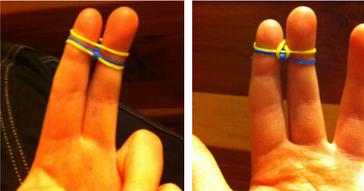
1. This is done with your hands and fingers. Your fingers will act as the loom. Put a rubber band on your finger and twist it like an eight then put two more on top of the first one. Do not twist the last two! If using multiple colors decide on your pattern and set up the rubber bands in that order.



2. Then grab the bottom one like in the picture. It should look like the picture when your done.



3. Put another rubber band on top of the other ones. Then keep doing that until it is long enough.



4. When it is long enough, take the bottom rubber band and pull it over the top one like in the first picture. Once the bottom one is looped over the top two, take the new bottom one and loop it over. Then Loop a rubber band through each end and tie or you can add an S or C clip.



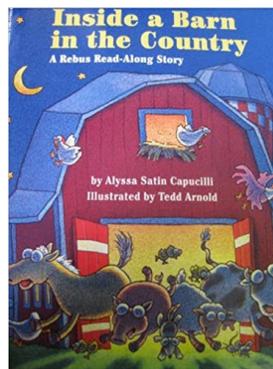
## Rebus Read-Aloud

**Materials:** book *Inside a Barn in the Country* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, or internet access, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDNNqvcz8Rs>

**Preparation:** Preview book or video. This activity is best for younger age groups (K-2).

**Instructions:**

Explain that a rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures instead of words to communicate the message. There are also rebus books that use the same idea to tell the story. This story follows a sequence of animals on the farm who wake each other up with the unique sound they make and is a simple way to introduce the idea of a rebus poem.



## Rebus Rhymes

**Materials:** Rebus Rhymes picture cards (included), scissors, glue stick, paper, crayons/art materials, internet access, websites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coZpMw5jqw>  
<https://momlovesbest.com/rhyming-words-for-kids#q2>

**Preparation:** Review the concept of rebus puzzles that substitute pictures for words to convey the message. This can be a useful way to help children who are learning how to read.

**Instructions:**

Use the Rebus Rhymes picture cards to help your child understand using pictures in place of words.

Using the first website, listen to the read-aloud for *I Love You – A Rebus Poem* by Jean Marzillo to help your child determine the structure of the poem:

Use the video to read the story and come up with the structure of the poem:

Every \_\_\_\_\_ loves a \_\_\_\_\_ (rhyming word)

Every \_\_\_\_\_ loves a \_\_\_\_\_ (rhyming word)

Every \_\_\_\_\_ loves a \_\_\_\_\_ (rhyming word)

And I love you!

Have your child come up with three words that rhyme. He/she can think of some or use the rhyming words website. Then, encourage your child to create a poem to go with the rhyming words that follows the same pattern as the *I Love You* poem. Create pictures for the rhyming words. For example: three rhyming words are lake, snake, and cake. The poem would read: Every swimmer loves a lake, every field loves a snake, every birthday loves a cake. And I love you!

**Rhyming Words Picture Cards**

