

Living and Nonliving

This week, we will explore the characteristics of living and nonliving things. We will talk about the living and nonliving things around us.

Word of the Week

alive

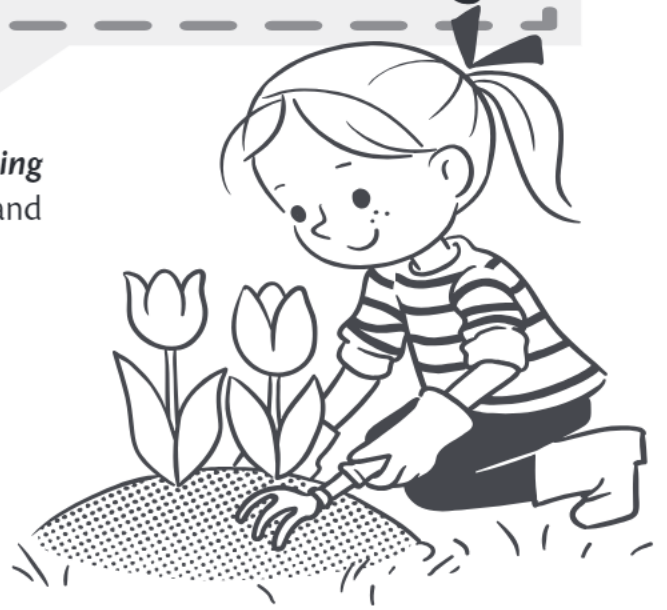
Something that is alive breathes, eats, drinks, moves, grows, and changes.

Use the Word of Week at home.

You might point out a familiar object and talk about whether it is alive or not:

Your bicycle is not alive.

It can move, but it does not eat, drink, or grow.



Seeds Grow into Plants

Plant seeds in the garden with your child. Discuss how you will care for the seeds. Show your child the illustration on the seed package of what the seeds will look like when they grow. Point out that together you will take care of a living thing.

More Words to Know

circle

living

nonliving

quadrilateral

side

square

triangle

Living and Nonliving Things Around Us

Search for several nonliving things in your home (bowl, stuffed toy, phone). Set a goal for how many you want to find and gather them in one location. Say: *Let's see if we can find five nonliving things in your room.* Repeat the activity searching for living things (plants, pets).

I Can Say My ABCs

Recite the alphabet with your child. Try saying the letters in order together. Take turns. You say one letter then your child says the next letter. Continue taking turns until you reach letter Z. Sing the letters, clap the letters, and dance the letters. You might even try rolling or throwing a ball as you say each letter.

Compare and Identify Shapes

Encourage your child to find items that are a particular shape, such as a circle, square, or triangle. Invite your child to trace around the edge of one of the shapes. As your child traces, talk about the shape's attributes. You might say: *This cookie is shaped like a circle and it's round or The book has four straight sides like a rectangle.*

Coming Next Week: We will read and compare many different stories.

Stories



This week, we will enjoy hearing stories and then talking about how the stories are alike and different. We will be noticing the characters, the settings, and what happens in the story.

Word of the Week

villain

A villain is a story character who does bad or hurtful things.

Use the Word of the Week at home. You might ask:
When we read (name of story), was one of the characters a villain?

More Words to Know

characters
compare
cone
contrast
cube
cylinder
setting
sphere

Library Story Time

Take your child to story time at your local library. Check the schedule of children's events and attend those that interest your child. This is a great way to learn about new books and to take advantage of free resources in your community.

Three Little Pigs

Tell your child the version of the "Three Little Pigs" that you remember from your childhood. Compare it to the version your child is learning at school.

Looking at Groceries

Invite your child to help you put groceries away. As you take the items out of the bags, compare and talk about their 3-D shape attributes. Can you stack some of the items (boxes)? Can you roll some of the items (cans)? Ask: *How can we place this can on the shelf so it will not roll around?*

My Favorite!

Share a favorite children's book from your childhood. Tell memories you have about hearing the story. Who read the story to you? If you owned the book, who gave it to you? Why did you like the story? Ask: *What is your favorite book?* Compare your favorite story book with your child's favorite story book.

Coming Next Week: We will explore the differences between real and make-believe stories.

Real and Make-Believe

This week, we will explore the differences between real and make-believe. We will be listening to many fairy tale stories and using our imagination.

Word of the Week

make-believe

Something that is make-believe is not real.

Use the Word of the Week at home. You might say:

A talking animal is make-believe.

Being able to fly over a house is make-believe.



Rhyming Words

Say three words and ask your child to identify the two words that rhyme. Say: *fast, last, and run*. Which two words rhyme? Repeat saying: *past, day, cast*. Try different sets of words.

Reading Nonfiction

Share a nonfiction (true) book with your child. Point out that the story includes facts that are true. Then, remind your child that stories about imaginary things are make-believe. Give some examples of imaginary things (animals talking, characters that are giants, fairies, elves, or trolls).

The Tallest Pencil

Challenge your child to find the tallest pencil around your house. Place the pencil in a cup. Throughout the week, have your child look for another pencil that is taller than the one in the cup. Compare any new pencil with the pencil in the cup and keep the tallest one in the cup. Whichever pencil standing in the cup at the end of the week will win the "tallest pencil" challenge!

Create a Story

Make up a fictional (make-believe) story with your child. Begin the story with the words "Once upon a time": *Once upon a time, in a land far away, there was a village of people no bigger than your finger*. Invite your child to take turns with you adding to the story. Ask questions to help your child with ideas: *Where do you think these people lived? What do you think these people ate? What kind of games did they play?*

More Words to Know

circumference
diameter
distance
fairy tale
imagination
measure
real

Coming Next Week: Children will focus on opposites.



Opposites



This week, we will explore how things are exactly different from each other as we continue to compare and contrast things around us.

Word of the Week

opposites

Opposites are two words that mean something exactly different.

Use the Word of the Week at home. You might say:

*When you take a bath, you are **wet**. After you use the towel, you are **dry**.*

***Wet** and **dry** are opposites.*

Yes-and-No Game

Play a fun game of opposites. Say “yes,” and have your child say “no” using the same voice tone, facial expression, or movement that you use. Be as silly as you can be. For example, you might use a high pitch voice, make a frown, or shout. Try saying the word as you laugh, sneeze, hiccup, or cry. Offer your child the chance to be the leader and say “yes” as you respond with “no” in the same way.

Opposites at Home

Point out opposites in your home (light switches **on** and **off**, thermostat with **cool** and **heat**, **high** chairs and **low** chairs, **hard** and **soft** surfaces). When you are in the car, point out when the car goes **backward** and **forward**. As you go inside, **open** the door and **close** the door.

More Words to Know

attribute
different
fiction
nonfiction
pull
push
same

I Spy Opposites in Nature

Encourage your child to find something in nature that is up/down (clouds/grass), hard/soft (seed pod/flower), heavy/light (tree branch, feather), hot/cold (sun/shade), rough/smooth (rocks, shells). Enjoy looking for opposites whenever you are outside.

Let's Compare

Look for items around your house that you can compare to see how they are the same and different. For example, look at one of your child's socks and one of your socks. Ask: *What is the same? What is different?* The socks may be the same color and different sizes.

Coming Next Week: We will be learning about construction and the steps construction workers follow when building.