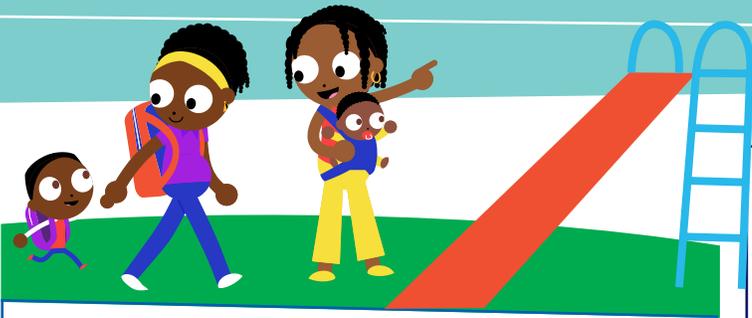


The Little Excavator

Anna Dewdney



READ

Before

- Ask your child(ren) if an adult has ever told them, “Someday when you are big, you can help.” Why do you think they said that?
- Show the cover of the book as you read the title.
- Discuss what an excavator is and its purpose.
- Introduce Little E as the Little Excavator on his first day on the construction site, where he is helping the Big Rigs turn a vacant lot into a beautiful park.

During

- Ask your child(ren) questions such as:
 - How do you think Little E is feeling right now?
 - What happened to Little E to make you think he is feeling _____?
 - Do you think Little E will get to help make the playground?
- Encourage your child to repeat the sounds of the Big Rigs

After

- After reading, ask your child(ren) questions such as:
 - Did Little E become a helper completing the playground?
 - Why was he needed?
 - How do you think Little E felt at the end of the story?
 - Do you believe everyone can become a helper?
 - How are you a helper?

PLAY

Let's Learn Kentucky - Count Together

Make counting a fun part of your day. Count socks as you sort them; count toys as you and your child put them away; count the cars going by your window. Understanding the meaning of numbers takes time but the foundation is built by having regular practice with counting.

Little Helper*

- Toddlers love to help! Ask your child to be your big helper as you get ready for the day.
- Ask your child: What do you need to get ready? Shoes, phone, car keys, diaper bag? Invite them to bring you what you need.
- Do you have everything you need? Thank your child for their help in getting ready!

Make It Easier

Focus on one or two special things that your child has recently learned to do.

Extend the Learning

Invite your child to brainstorm with you what you might need for a trip to the park or the grocery store. Make a list together and let them take the lead!



Find More Ways to Play

Let's Learn Kentucky
[Count Together](#)



Governor's Office of Early Childhood
[Kentucky Family Guides](#)



ENROLL

Enroll your child in [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) and receive a FREE, age-appropriate book once per month.



SHARE

Children want to be viewed as helpers — that idea is appealing and therefore motivating.

Learn more from PBS Parents:
[Encouraging Your Child To Become a "Helper"](#)



EXPLORE

[Ben Steps Up](#) - Ben wants to help Lola make pichi-pichi, but he's too short to see over the kitchen counter; Jelly and Pogo work with Ben to make a stool so that he can help out.



*Little Helper is shared from the Family Guides, a companion of the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards, housed in the Governor's Office of Early Childhood.