



Table of Contents



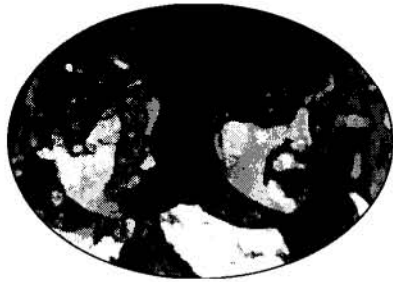
Part One *Before Five in a Row* Stories and Activities

Making the Most of <i>Before Five in a Row</i>	3
<i>Jesse Bear. What Will You Wear?.</i> by N.W. Carlstrom	7
<i>Yellow Ball.</i> by Molly Bang	13
<i>My Blue Boat.</i> by Chris L. Demarest	17
<i>The Little Rabbit.</i> by Judy Dunn.....	21
<i>Ask Mr. Bear.</i> by Majorie Flack	25
<i>Blueberries For Sal.</i> by Robert McCloskey.....	29
<i>Goodnight Moon.</i> by Margaret Wise Brown.....	33
<i>The Big Green Pocketbook.</i> by Candice Ransom.....	37
<i>The Runaway Bunny.</i> by Margaret Wise Brown.....	41
<i>The ABC Bunny.</i> by Wanda Gag.....	45
<i>If Jesus Came to My House.</i> by Joan Gale Thomas.....	49
<i>Caps for Sale.</i> by Esphyr Slobodkina.....	53
<i>The Carrot Seed.</i> by Ruth Krauss	57
<i>The Snowy Day.</i> by Ezra Jack Keats	61
<i>The Quiet Way Home.</i> by Bonny Becker	65
<i>Play With Me,</i> by Marie Hall Ets	69
<i>Prayer for a Child.</i> by Rachel Field.....	73
<i>I Am an Artist.</i> by Pat L. Collins.....	77
<i>Angus Lost.</i> by Marjorie Flack	81
<i>Katy No-Pocket,</i> by Emmy Payne	87
<i>We're Going On A Bear Hunt.</i> by Michael Rosen	91
<i>The Red Carpet.</i> by Rex Parkin.....	95
<i>Corduroy.</i> by Don Freeman	97
<i>Jenny's Surprise Summer.</i> by Eugenie	101

Part Two Parent's Treasury of Creative Ideas for Learning Readiness

Activities for Reading Readiness	106
Talking and Listening	106

Reading.....	106
Poetry.....	107
Hand Games.....	108
Singing.....	109
Dancing.....	110
Making Music.....	110
Drama.....	111
Coordination	114
Development of Large Motor Skills	114
Tumbling and Wrestling.....	114
Rolling Like a Log.....	114
Crab Walk	114
Balancing.....	114
Hopping, Skipping and Balancing	115
Pushing, Pulling and Dragging.....	115
Playing With a Ball.....	116
Playing With Balloons	117
Blowing Bubbles	117
Development of Small Motor Skills	118
Playing With Puzzles.....	118
Compartmental Organization	118
Threading and Lacing Activities.....	119
Choosing the Proper Art Supplies (<i>Bigger is Better</i>).....	119
Cutting and Pasting.....	120
Modeling with Clay.....	120
Activities at Bath Time	121
Activities in the Kitchen	123
Activities at the Store	125
Toys	127
The Arts	134
The Visual Arts	134
The Literary Arts	139
The Performing Arts.....	140
Learning to See Through Children's Eyes	142
Books to Help You Understand	143
In the End	145
Master Index	147
About Other Five in a Row Products	Appendix
Order Form	Appendix



MY BLUE BOAT

Title: *My Blue Boat*
 Author: Chris L. Demarest
 Illustrator: Chris L. Demarest
 Copyright: 1995

Summary

Follow a sailboat out to sea and home to port in an exhilaratingly illustrated picture book. You can taste the salt spray!

Bible

My Blue Boat sailed out on the sea and saw many things. Whales and dolphins and storms and stars all held a wonder for the little boat and its occupant. Psalm 107:23-24 tells about those who go to the sea in ships and who see the wonderful works of the Lord!

Parent's Note

This book covers the same theme as *Yellow Ball*, by Molly Bang. However, in this case it is a toy *boat* rather than a ball that goes to sea and returns. Normally, we would not use two books so similar and yet each one seemed too special to omit. Therefore, we have included this title with a few suggested activities and hope that you will treasure both of these stories. Enjoy comparing and contrasting the two books, while dreaming of the sea!

Art: Medium

These two books are illustrated with different media. The pictures in *Yellow Ball* are pastels (crayon-like chinks) and tempera, while the illustrations in *My Blue Boat* are watercolor and India ink. You do not necessarily need to mention this to your child. He'll enjoy just looking at the wonderful illustrations.



You may wish to help him with some preliminary experimentation in watercolor. Then, he might notice the similarity of his experiments to the illustrations of *My Blue Boat*. (Try taking a white paper plate and brushing a few strokes of rich blue watercolor across it. Then let your child drip a few drops of water off his brush onto the plate. Let him see how the color spreads out and runs. Show him similar areas in the watercolor illustrations of Demarest. A good example is the picture on the pages with the text, "and steer through storms". The paint splashes look as if raindrops had fallen on the page!)

Art: Color

The title of this story contains the name of a color. In fact, the title speaks of a *blue* boat. After enjoying the story together, you could remind your child of the book by Molly Bang about the ball that drifted out to sea. Ask him what color is included in the title of *that* story. (The title is *Yellow Ball*.)

Can your child match on paper some of the colors of *My Blue Boat* with his box of paints? Or perhaps he might name them.



Language: Vocabulary

My Blue Boat is rich in new vocabulary words. You do not need to explain every new word in one reading. But, over many, many readings you will have a chance to introduce the meaning of words like: channel, harbor, fleet, swells, whales, dol-

phins, steer, drift, and beacon—all found in the text. Even if you do not explain all of these words, your child will like the sound of them. When he is older, he will recognize these words as he meets them again, and he will be ready to comprehend their meanings. (If you look at the illustrations, you could also include the words dock, lighthouse, oars, tugboat, and ferry.) But remember, at this age learning should be a by-product with the enjoyment of *reading together* the main goal. Work with *your child's* interest. Keep it fun!

Tracking

One day after reading the story, go back to the title page and let your young child point to the blue boat. Then have him point to and track the blue boat as you quickly turn the pages. Don't forget, there is one last blue boat on the outside back cover of the book!

Another day, use your finger to trace each line of boats on the inside of the book cover pages. When you get to the end of the line, go back to the beginning of the next line and trace across *again* until you reach the bottom of the page. (There are six lines of boats.) Maybe your young child will want to copy your actions. This tracking left to right is actually an important reading readiness skill that he will just be playing as a game!

Art and Action

The page where the blue boat dances with the whales is reminiscent of a Van Gogh painting in action and brush-stroke. Have on hand a book or reprint of *Starry Night* and other Van Gogh paintings that you think appropriate and that remind you of Demarest's story picture. Enjoy both artists' work.

There is a lot of action in this painting as the whales move about in the water. If you have access to a pool for swimming (and it's the right season), pretend you are dancing whales in the water. Make big splashes and turn in circles. If you have several members of your family or friends along, have someone pretend they are the blue boat moving among the sea creatures. (If you cannot use a pool, your child can pretend he is a whale splashing and turning in circles even in a wading pool, or a bath tub if you don't mind the mess! Actually, you can act out this whole scene in the living room or the backyard. Just *pretend* you're in the water!)

Science

After an enjoyable reading of the story, you might want to bring up the subject of whales and dolphins. There are some great bathtub toys of whales and dolphins. You could surprise your child with one of these. If he becomes interested in the subject, you can find simple books that tell about these water animals. If you have a marine aquarium near you that has a whale or dolphin exhibition, think about visiting with your child.

Imagine yourself as a young three-year-old, having read *My Blue Boat*, and having seen simple books about whales, and then actually seeing one! There is nothing to compare with that kind of excitement.

Comparison

There are many pictures in *My Blue Boat* that have a counterpart picture in the book, *Yellow Ball* by Molly Bang. With your child, look at both stories and find pictures that show the same theme of a passing town, wide sea, storms, a sleeping child in bed, etc. Can you find more?

Boats

After reading the story, try making a simple boat. It can be fashioned from paper, wood or aluminum foil. It may or may not have a sail. Your child's boat might be a special wooden creation built by Dad or an older sibling. He can sail it in the tub, in a wading pool, or at a small stream. Just like Chris Demarest in *My Blue Boat*, encourage your child to make up a story about *his* boat, where it goes and what it sees along the way. Remember to write down the boat's adventure. Boats usually have names. Ask him if he'd like to name his boat.

As he sails, maybe he will discover that in order to get much movement for his boat he needs wind in a sail, or water flowing along as in a stream. (An attached string or fishing line will allow a toy boat to sail down a creek or rivulet as your child follows along, without the danger of the boat getting away.) You could even call your child "cap-

