Flannel-Board Fun

Flannel boards or felt boards are interactive, and children love to play with them. Children can practice their fine motor skills by putting the pieces on the board and taking them off. Keep the pieces simple at this young age so your child will feel successful. Use rhymes, tell stories, or sing songs and illustrate them with simple pictures or shapes.

Materials
• Use felt, flannel, or fleece.

Backing
• Cut materials to size to fit either a piece of cardboard that can be inserted into a large ziplock bag, the top cover of an individual pizza box (inside or out), or the inside lid of a shoe box. Glue down securely and, if necessary, tape around the edges.

Pieces
• You can use simple cut-out shapes (circles, squares, triangles, etc.) or figures related to the story/rhyme/song. They should be large enough for your child to hold and still be able to place on the board. Use fun, bright colors.

Storage
• Keep pieces together by storing them inside the box or bag.

To get started, try Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. or the nursery rhyme “Two Little Blackbirds.”

For more ideas, check out The Flannel Board Storytelling Book by Judy Sierra (H. W. Wilson, 1997) and Little Songs for Little Me by Nancy Stewart (Friends Street Music, 1992).

The Preschool Express website at www.preschoolexpress.com is another great place to look.