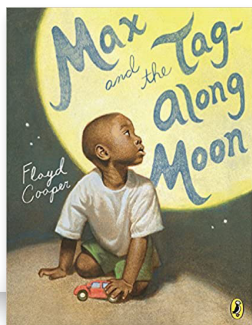


## MAX AND THE TAG-ALONG MOON written by Floyd Cooper



**Floyd Cooper**, a celebrated children’s book author and illustrator explored African American’s experiences rooted in history. Over 30 years and some 100 titles, Cooper illustrated stories with his golden, earthy toned pastel images of Black Life. In them, he shares African American history that was not taught enough, or sometimes not at all, in school. He was based in Easton, Pennsylvania and worked with Jane Yolen, Nikki Grimes, Eloise Greenfield, Howard Bryant, Joyce Carol Thomas, Bill Martin Jr. and many more. Floyd Cooper authored and illustrated the feature book for this resource, “Max and the Tag-Along Moon.”

### »» BEFORE READING

It is best to read together. Plan a time to read this book to your children or class. Later, play the version below, from Dolly Parton’s “**Goodnight with Dolly**” series on YouTube.

### »» READ THE STORY

#### AS YOU READ:

Share Grandpa’s reminder at the beginning, “That ol’ moon will always shine for you...on and on.” Share it again at the end, and note that Max will think of Grandpa, on and on too. Ask children about how that feels. It is important for a grandchild to know that grandparents’ love and care goes on and on.

#### INTRODUCING NEW WORDS:

- Tagalong: one that follows the lead of another
- Orb: a round solid body, like a ball
- Sphere: a round solid figure, like a ball

**NOTE:** The actions in the story and ask children to act them out.

- Swervy, curvy
- Up

- Down
- Around
- Roundabout

### »» ACTIVITIES

#### ACTIVITY ONE: ERUPTING MOON DUST (Ages 2 - 4 yrs)

Supplies needed: baking soda, 1 cup measuring cup, big bowl with a lid, black powdered tempera, glitter, vinegar, spray bottles, cookie sheets or trays, Tbsp measuring spoons

1. Measure 1 cup of baking soda in a bowl. Measure two tablespoons each of black powdered tempera and glitter.
2. Place the lid on the bowl and ensure it’s sealed tightly.
3. Let children take turns shaking it hard to mix the ingredients.



4. Go outside if the weather is nice.
5. Spread the moon dust onto cookie sheets.
6. Let children take turns spraying the vinegar on the trays to watch the magic.
7. Then, do simple writing activities on the trays, while the vinegar continues to erupt the moon dust, children can draw or write letters or CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words in the dust.

### ACTIVITY TWO: PEEK-A-BOO (Gross motor for ages 1 month +)

**NOTE:** This activity is great for interaction with infants age 4 months and older, which is when a baby learns object permanence. Eye contact and individual interaction is enjoyable for babies as young as 1 month too. An infant may be upset with the first few rounds of Peek-A-Boo. After repetition, the baby will learn the caretaker hasn't disappeared. Playing this repetitive game teaches infants that even though you cannot be seen, you still exist. This teaches the big lesson of object permanence. Learning that lesson is clear when the expression of worry shifts to joy. Older toddlers also love this and other repetitive games because they teach cause and effect.

1. Situate yourself close to the baby so your face can be clearly seen. For very young babies, make sure you are only 12" away to account for their developing eyesight. That way, you ensure your face is clear.
2. Cover your face with your hands, a blanket or a stuffed toy.
3. Dramatically move your hands or the other item to do a quick reveal with a cooing sound or other fun, sweet noises. This will make it more exciting and teach the baby how to play too.

### ACTIVITY THREE: DRIVING CARS (Ages 18 months +)

Supplies needed: cardboard, variety of toy cars & painter's tape

1. Make a 'road' or 'roads' on the floor with the painter's tape.
2. Be sure to make it 'swervy curvy', lead the road(s)

up and down 'hills' made by taping cardboard together along one edge and taping the other edges to the floor to create triangle hills that will be fun to drive on.

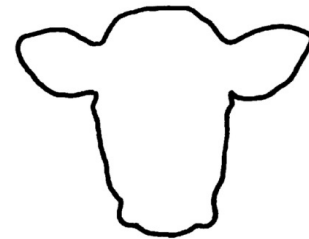
3. Continue by taping around things to follow the action words from the book.
4. Every child gets a car and then will 'drive' the road(s).

### ACTIVITY FOUR: SILLY HOLSTEIN COW CRAFTIVITY (Ages 6 months+)

Prepare ahead: size the cow head template and print on white paper, cut ahead - 1 per child

Supplies needed: blue construction paper - 1 per child, white, black, and pink paint, pink marker, glue sticks, large and small paintbrushes- 1 per child

**NOTE:** For ages 3 and 4, watch this video: [4 Reasons Cows are Awesome!](#)



For infants, paint their hands, stamp and do the details. Older children will be able to do the craft.

1. Begin by painting one hand white and stamping it on the blue paper. Children can do this on their own.
2. Using a smaller paint brush, add a tail.
3. Allow the hand print and tail to dry.



4. Next, glue the face template shape to the thumb of the hand print using glue stick.



5. Use a small brush to paint the eyes.
6. Draw the nose and mouth with the pink marker, add pink paint to the ears. Use a paintbrush or dip fingers in black paint to make spots.
7. Paint black hooves with a small brush and add black nostrils.
8. Last, dip the child's thumb in pink paint and add it between the back two legs to be the udder. Use the small paint brush to add 4 small lines for teets.

### ACTIVITY FIVE: POETRY (Ages 2-4 yrs)

Author unknown. Read the poem.

#### THE MOON GAME

I'm the moon and I play a game.  
 I don't always look the same.  
 Sometimes I'm round,  
 A silver sphere.  
 Sometimes just half of me  
 Seems to be here.  
 Sometimes I'm a crescent,  
 Shaped like a smile.  
 Sometimes I surprise you  
 And hide for a while.  
 Look up in the sky  
 For my friendly light.  
 What shape will I have  
 When you see me tonight?

### ACTIVITY SIX: MOON PHASE GAME (18 months-3 yrs)

Supplies needed: white sheet cardstock - 1 per team or child, full sheets of black felt- per team or child, silver or gold glitter spray paint, newspaper or painter's drop cloth or plastic, & Elmer's glue

**NOTE:** Use caution if you are playing on a slippery floor. You may want to glue non-skid carpet backing onto the back of the felt pieces. Make the moon phase cards ahead for younger children. You can make enough for teams or

for each child. For older children, they can make these themselves. Do this next part outside. Place newspaper, the drop cloth or the painter's plastic under the felt. Spray the felt with the glitter spray paint ahead of time so it is dry when you are ready to begin the activity.

1. Show the samples you made.
2. Pass out bowls and cardstock.
3. Each child will trace a bowl three times on white cardstock.
4. Next, children can cut out the circles, keep one full circle, then cut one in half, and 2 crescent shapes from the other full circle, one a sliver, one almost a 1/2 circle crescent, to have phases.



5. Use the Elmer's school glue to attach the white moons to the black felt pieces.
6. Allow the glue to dry.
7. Time to play:

Children can scatter the moon phase cards on the floor in preparation for the gross motor game. For younger children, let them simply scatter and pick up the cards.

For older children, call out "new moon, full moon, sliver crescent, 1/2 moon, or crescent."

Children can test themselves and jump on the phase they think is right. Younger children will love jumping and may or may not jump on the



cards.



## ACTIVITY SIX: MOON DUST (6 months-3 yrs)

### Sensory play promotes:

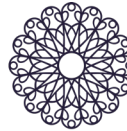
- Free exploration and investigation
- Experiencing sensory attributes (i.e. hot, cold, wet, dry, soft, hard)
- Development of motor skills and how to focus
- Observation, discovery and for older children, discussion

Supplies needed: economy size bag of salt, black food coloring, silver cookie trays, zip lock bags- 1 per child, duct tape, 1 cup measuring cups, solo cups- 1 per child, large plastic bowls -1 per child, or share, & silver or black glitter

Do steps 1 & 2 ahead for younger children.

1. Let older children help. They can put their zip lock bag over the edge of a solo cup, so the zip part folds over the edge. Help them to ensure they fit properly. Place the cups into large bowls to catch stray salt.
2. Let children measure 1 cup of salt and pour it carefully in their zip lock bag.
3. Next, adults add a few squirts of black food coloring and glitter to the bags of salt. Then, zip the bags shut and tape the zip edge with duct tape.
4. Let any age children smash it all together to combine the color and salt, making it dark, like 'moon dust'.
5. To extend this to a literacy activity for older children, pour the 'moon dust' onto a silver baking tray to let children practice writing letters or CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

## >> THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:



CAT Scratch Studios

“It is with gratitude that we are able to work with other outstanding resources already available and I am truly happy to share those in this set of activities with you.”

-Cary A. Thrall