

# OUR WORLD

## An Activity Guide

created by Marcie Colleen  
based upon the book  
written by Sue Lowell Gallion and illustrated by Lisk Feng



Published by Phaidon

**How to Use This Guide:** This activity guide for *Our World* is designed for parents and caretakers of infants, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten children. It is assumed that the parents and caretakers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own children.

**Earth Day, Every Day** – It's never too early to teach children about the diverse beauty of the Earth and the importance of taking care of our planet. With a little guidance and supervision, children of all ages can participate in activities that promote awareness, appreciation and good stewardship.

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Hello!

My dream for this book is that it will inspire curiosity, connections, and care for our world. That's a tall order for a toddler, isn't it? But don't infants begin to learn about their world as soon as they arrive in it? It just starts small.

Geography is all about place and space. When astronauts look down at the Earth, they don't see human-made borders. They see oceans and continents, mountains and rivers. How wonderful to share with kids how parts of the natural world are similar to where they live, and other areas are so very different.



A globe gives kids a physical sense of the shape of our world, and I hope this book does, too. Where a region is located on the Earth affects so many things – the temperature during the year, soil, amount of light, and amount of water. These, in turn, determine what plants and animals survive and thrive there.

There are so many details to discover in Lisk Feng's amazing illustrations. I hope *Our World* helps develop the skill of "noticing," whether in a book or in a back yard. The text offers questions to ask as you interact with kids and this book, depending on their age. I hope you enjoy sharing the activities in this guide with kids and coming up with others of your own. You can find more information at my website, [suegallion.com](http://suegallion.com). I'd love to hear from you.

Learning about our world helps all of us connect with places we haven't been and people we haven't met . . . yet! I hope it will inspire us to do everything we can to protect our fragile planet, starting with the smallest child and the smallest actions.

I loved playing globe games and exploring the natural world with my own kids. Now, I'm blessed to play with my grandkids, and ask questions like these:

Where do you live?  
Where might you go?  
How will you care for our earth as you grow?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue". The letters are fluid and cursive.

Sue Gallion, Author of *Our World*

## Infant (0-1 Year)

Infants love to hear your voice, and it's never too early to begin reading together! At this stage, a book is less about the story and more about the tone of your voice, the rhythm of your speech and the visual stimulation of the pictures.

### What Do We See?

Point to the illustrations on each page as you read, naming the objects and colors.

For example:

| <u>Nature</u> | <u>Shapes</u> | <u>Colors</u> | <u>Animals</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mountains     | Circle        | White         | Zebra          |
| Sun           | Square        | Blue          | Sloth          |
| Trees         | Triangle      | White         | Camel          |
| Clouds        |               | Red           | Deer           |
| Plants        |               | Green         | Birds          |
| Water         |               | Orange        |                |

### Act it Out!

Play a hand game with geographic concepts. Use the illustrations to inspire additional verses. Sung to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World."

We've got the whole world in this book.  
We've got the whole world in this book.  
We've got the whole wide world in this book.  
We've got the whole world in this book.

*(Palms together  
and when sing "in this book" open  
hands like a book.)*

We've got the seas with the fishes in this book.  
We've got the seas with the fishes in this book.  
We've got the seas with the fishes in this book.  
We've got the whole world in this book.

*(Make swimming gesture  
and when sing "in this book" open  
hands like a book.)*

We've got the bears in the forest in this book.  
We've got the bears in the forest in this book.  
We've got the bears in the forest in this book.  
We've got the whole world in this book.

*(Hands up with claws  
and when sing "in this book" open  
hands like a book.)*

### Earth Day, Every Day

Appreciation for the earth starts with observing nature and encouraging a sense of curiosity in the world around us, which provide excellent foundations for baby's motor and cognitive development. At this stage, an infant cannot focus on watching actual birds or leaves rustling on a tree. To help develop this ability, move an object (if outside, a leaf or a flower work really well) slowly back and forth a few inches from their face so they can practice tracking it with their eyes.

## Toddler (1-2 Years)

Many toddlers are ready to take a more active role in story time. They can repeat words, count along with you, and begin to identify shapes and colors.

### Visual Comprehension

As you read, ask, "Where is the...?" Your toddler can respond by pointing to the correct illustration.

| <u>Nature</u> | <u>Shapes</u> | <u>Colors</u> | <u>Animals</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mountains     | Circle        | White         | Zebra          |
| Sun           | Square        | Blue          | Sloth          |
| Trees         | Triangle      | White         | Camel          |
| Clouds        |               | Red           | Deer           |
| Plants        |               | Green         | Birds          |
| Water         |               | Orange        |                |

Practice more shape and color recognition. Say, "I spy something \_\_\_\_\_" The blank can be filled with any color or shape in the room. The child can then guess what you spy.

### Counting Through the Book

Read through the book, counting as you go.

"How many clouds do you see?"  
"Let's count the trees."  
"Can you count the birds in the sky?"  
"Count what's swimming."

### I Am the World, The World is Me

Every time you say the following "command" words, your child can perform the action.

| <u>Command</u> | <u>Action</u>                                   |
|----------------|---|
| Mountain       | Stand wide with arms forming a peak above head. |
| Ocean          | Lay on the ground and wiggle like waves.        |
| Forest         | Stand straight and tall and still.              |
| Icy Poles      | Make entire body shiver and shake.              |

### Earth Day, Every Day

Make a list of items for your toddler to collect outdoors, like pinecones, leaves, flowers, rocks, and sticks. When all the items on the list have been gathered, talk about what role they have and the impact they make on the surrounding environment. For example sticks are gathered by birds to make nests, and flowers have nectar that bees carry back to their hives to make honey.

# Preschool/Kindergarten (3-5 Years)

## Reading Comprehension

Ask questions throughout the exploration of the book. Encourage your preschooler to help tell the story.

- “The people and the sea life are swimming. Do you like to swim? Where do you like to swim?”
- “When you step outside, what nature do you see? Do you see trees? The trees are home to lots of animals. Have you ever seen animals in trees? What kind?”

## Counting Continents

Take a world map and cut out the continents into a big puzzle which can be rejoined to form the entire world. Now jumble them up and let your child solve the puzzle to build the map on their own.

Count the continents with your child. Repeat several times.

Then, hide the pieces of the map around the room. Ask children to hunt and find the pieces, counting the continents as they are found. When they find all eight they can build the map puzzle again.

## A Picture Walk

After reading *Our World*, encourage children to re-read the book using the pictures as clues. Look at the cover and assist your child in describing what they see in the picture. For example, “in this picture, I see land with water around it. What do you see on the land? In the air? What about in the water?”

Now, open to the first page of the book and help your child describe what is happening on this page.

Encourage speaking in full sentences and giving as many details as possible. Continue in this manner, through the rest of the book.

## Earth Day, Every Day

Create paper plate versions of Earth. Use markers, crayons, colored paper, or tissue paper to decorate. Then, either around the rim of the plate or on the other side, help kids write the many things they love about the planet they call home. If they need help coming up a list, visit the pages of *Our World* for inspiration.