A Day at the Park A Picture DOTS Storybook

Fun activities for kids and their grown-ups!
Amaya and her mom live in New York City. Amaya wakes up and looks out the window. “Wow, what a sunny day!” she says. Amaya asks her mom, “Can we take a walk to the park today?” “What a great idea!” her mom says. When they get to the park, Amaya says, “Mom, there are so many interesting things going on in the park today!”

**Try This:**

Take a picture of the image on the page in the storybook.

**Step 1:**
Read through the story.

**Step 2:**
Take a picture of the image on the page in the storybook.

**Step 3:**
Follow the instructions in the book for ideas of ways to use the app.

★ Stars indicate early learning skills. Find out more at the end of the book.
Read the story all the way through or try one page at a time. Remember that these are just some of the ways to use Picture Dots. There is no right or wrong way to use it.

Have fun finding your own ways to explore the world with Picture Dots!

App Guide

Start
Tap “Notice and Play!” to make Picture Dots.

Tap “My Picture Dots” to visit your saved picture gallery.

Swipe on “Settings” to change language between English and Spanish.
Amaya and her mom live in New York City. Amaya wakes up and looks out the window. “Wow, what a sunny day!” she says. Amaya asks her mom, “Can we take a walk to the park today?” “What a great idea!” her mom says. When they get to the park, Amaya says, “Mom, there are so many interesting things going on in the park today!”

What are some of the interesting things that you notice?

Try This:

Take a picture of the image on the page.

Can you see trees?
○ Put a red dot on a tree.

Can you see the sky?
○ Put a green dot on the sky.

Can you see buildings?
○ Put a blue dot on a building.

Can you see people?
○ Put a yellow dot on a person.
Amaya looks up at the sky and says, “Wow! The sky looks so bright and blue today, and the clouds look so fluffy and white. How many clouds do you think there are in the whole sky, Mom?” “I don’t know. Why don’t we count them?” her mom asks.

How many clouds can you count in the sky?
Amaya and her mom lie down in the grass and watch the clouds. “I wonder how the clouds sound when they’re not making thunder?” Amaya says. As each cloud passes by, they have fun imagining the sounds the clouds might make.

**Do you think clouds make music? What kinds of sounds do you think they would make?**

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**Try This:**

Use the picture you just took to make music! Count along as the music plays.

1. Select the music note from the menu at the top.
2. Press the pencil to edit the musical note for the red dot.
3. Press the red dot to hear the note that the red dots play right now.
   You can change the note the red dots play by pressing the other dots until you find one you like.
4. Press ✔️ when you are done.
5. Press ▶️ to hear your creation.

To explore more music, try adding different colors of dots to your picture and choosing a note for them to play.
Amaya and her mom stare at the sky and watch the clouds slowly moving and changing shape. “Don’t these clouds remind you of shapes and things we’ve seen before?” Amaya’s mom asks. Amaya and her mom talk about what they think the clouds look like.

What do the clouds look like to you?

Try This:

Take a picture of the image on the page.

Drag a different color dot onto each cloud that looks like something familiar.

Select 🕐, then press and hold one of the dots to type a word for each cloud that tells what you think it looks like.

For example:

- 🕐 Bear
- 🕐 Elephant
- 🕐 Flower
- 🕐 Cloud

Press ⏯️ to hear your creation.
As more and more clouds pass by, Amaya notices that some of them look like animals. “That one looks like a bear!” she exclaims as she points to one of them. “I want to give all of the animals happy faces.” Amaya says.

**How would you decorate the animals?**

**Try This:**
Press and hold 🗑️ to delete the dots you put on the image of the last page or take another picture of the image on this page.

Use the dots to decorate the image of the clouds.

For example, you can add eyes to the bear or stems and leaves to the flowers.
Amaya reaches up and pretends to grab the clouds. “I wish I could make a cloud that looks like our cat at home,” Amaya says. “I think it would also be fun to see clouds that look like things you see in the sky, like butterflies and airplanes,” her mom says.

What shape cloud would you want to see?

Try This:

Take a picture of the image on the page.

Use the dots to create your own objects in the sky.

How many dots of each color did you use to make your clouds?

Did you use more dots of one color than another?
“Let’s take a picture before we go,” Amaya says. Amaya’s mom asks someone to take a picture of them together so they can remember their day at the park.

What do you like most about going to the park?

Try This:

Take a picture of the image on the page.

Use the dots to have your child tell a story about Amaya’s day at the park.

Select ☐, then press and hold one of the dots. For each dot, have your child tell a part of the story.

Place the dots in the order you want to hear them play.

Press ▶ to hear the story read aloud.
Yellow stars throughout the book show when an activity connects to early literacy, mathematics and science skills.

The next three pages share some of the ways this story connects to early learning skills. You’ll also find ideas for using Picture Dots with kids to continue developing early literacy, early mathematics and early science skills.

Keep the fun going by using Picture Dots with your own photos.

You can take photos of people, places or anything you see!
**Observing Nature:**
In this story, kids observed the clouds.

Have kids place dots on what they see in nature such as fall leaves, spring flowers or plants growing in a garden.

**Categorizing:**
In this story, kids categorized objects in the photo (trees, buildings, people, sky etc.).

Photograph objects kids have collected (such as toys, buttons or shells). Then ask them to put them into categories using the dots.

**Making Comparisons:**
In this story, kids compared the shape of clouds to familiar things.

Have kids notice similarities and differences in objects they see, such as the sizes of two flowers, the colors of two birds, or the heights of two people.
**EARLY LITERACY**

**EL**

**Telling a Story:**

In this story, kids used the dots to tell a story about what Amaya and her mom did at the park.

Have kids create a story or remember an event by typing different parts of the story for each dot and arranging the dots in the order of events.

**Identifying:**

In this story, kids found the sky, trees, buildings and people.

Ask kids to find and place a dot on other things in the picture.

**Naming:**

In this story, kids typed in the name of something that the cloud looked like.

Have kids practice typing the names of objects and listening to Picture Dots read the words back.

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**Try This:**

- Take a picture of the image on the page.
- Use the dots to have your kids tell a story about Amaya and her mom.
- Add dots to the story and let kids practice typing.
- Have kids share their creations.

**Amaya and her mom:** Amaya and her mom live in New York City. Amaya wakes up and looks out the window. "Wow, what a cloudy day," she says. Amaya asks her mom, "Can we take a walk in the park today?" "That’s a great idea," her mom says. When they get to the park, Amaya says, "Wow, there are so many interesting things going on in this park today!" What are some of the interesting things that you notice?

**Try This:**

- Take a picture of the image on the page.
- Go out and take a walk in a local park.
- Ask kids to find and place a dot on other things in the picture.

**Amaya and her mom:** Amaya and her mom live in New York City. Amaya wakes up and looks out the window. "Wow, what a cloudy day," she says. Amaya asks her mom, "Can we take a walk in the park today?" "That’s a great idea," her mom says. When they get to the park, Amaya says, "Wow, there are so many interesting things going on in this park today!" What are some of the interesting things that you notice?
More Than and Less/Fewer Than:
In this story, kids compared which color of dot they used more or less of when creating an object in the sky.
Have kids categorize items by color, shape or size and then use the dots to decide which category has more or fewer items.

Counting:
In this story, kids counted the number of clouds in the sky.
Have kids take photos of things they can count (such as people, toys, fruits, etc.). Then use the dots to practice counting.

Try This:
Take a picture of the image on the page.

Amaya looks up at the sky and says, “Wow! The sky looks so bright and blue today, and the clouds look so fluffy and white. How many clouds do you think there are in the whole sky, Mom?” “I don’t know. Why don’t we count them?” her mom asks.
How many clouds can you count in the sky?

Amaya reaches up and pretends to grab the clouds. “I wish I could make a cloud that looks like our cat at home,” Amaya says. “I think it would also be fun to see clouds that look like things you see in the sky, like butterflies and airplanes,” her mom says.
What shape cloud would you want to see?

Try This:
Take a picture of the image on the page.

Did you use more dots of one color than another?
Don’t stop here. Be creative!

What else can you and your child create with Picture Dots?
The New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) has collaborated with a number of partners during the research and development of the Picture Dots Guides.

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