

Busy Hands – Active Minds

Ideas to keep your Littles (0-5 year olds) busy!



Infants (0-11 months)

Arty and Crafty

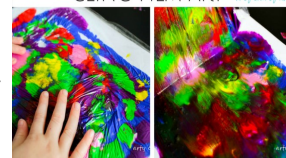
Cling Film Art

You will need: White card stock, kids paint, and cling film.

Give the paint bottle a little squeeze and allow it to flow freely. Spread the paint randomly across the card, crisscrossing with other colors. Next, cover it with cling film. Be careful not to wrap the card too tightly. There needs to be a little give in the cling film otherwise the paint may be too difficult to spread. Now the fun begins, have your child place two hands onto the cling film and begin spreading. Gently mixing the colors and see what happens. Spread it quickly, gently, with on finger or bash it. Once the paint has been spread across the card, peel the cling film away to reveal the finished piece.



CLING FILM ART diywithyoko.blogspot.com



Sensory

A Mouthing Bin

Have a bin full of different, safe and interesting things for you infant to put in their mouth. One of the most prominent ways most babies learn is through exploring, at this age, is with their mouth. Have a bin full of things like: Big metal juice lids, wood spoons, spatulas, plastic cups, etc.



Toddler (1-2 years)

Colors and Shapes

Circle Painting

You will need: Circle items (cups, straws, pencils, markers, candles, etc.), paint, paper plate and paper

Pour paints onto the paper plate. Then show your child how to dip the circle shape into the paint. Then print onto the paper.

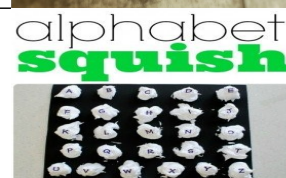


Letters and Numbers

Alphabet Squish

You will need: Shaving cream, liquid glue, alphabet letters, craft sticks, and poster board

Mix the shaving cream and glue together, about 4 parts shaving cream to 1 part glue. Use a craft stick to make small drops of the shaving cream mixture onto the poster board - 26 drops. Add an alphabet sticker to the top of each "cloud". Let dry overnight. When ready—call out letters and have your child squish the correct one. Or you could let your child call out the letter as they squishing!



Just for Fun

Easy Butterfly Craft

You will need: Clear Con-tact paper, tissue paper and a sharpie marker.

First, you will need to cut a bunch of squares out the tissue paper. Cut off a long rectangle of con-tact paper. On the bottom half, draw the outline of a butterfly. Carefully tear off the backing and lay the con-tact paper sticky side up on a table. The butterfly will be visible on the back. You will want to tape the con-tact paper to the table. Lay the tissue paper flat on the con-tact paper—try not to ball it up or crinkle the paper. Once all the tissue paper is laid on the butterfly outline, it is time to seal it up and turn it into a butterfly sun catcher. Take the top half—the half that doesn't have the butterfly outline—and fold on top of the butterfly. Press to seal it up. Cut out the butterfly and you will have a perfect butterfly sun catcher. Tape it to the window and watch the colors come to life.





Preschool/Pre-K (3-5 years)

Words and Letters

Letter Painting Art!

You will need: Paint, white construction paper, pipe cleaners and a paintbrush.

Pour a few droplets (quarter-size) of the paint onto the paper. Have your child spread the paint out with the brush. They can mix colors or make stripes of different hues. Keep it thick. Pick a letter to draw. Draw the letter in the paint. Your child will use the edge of a pipe cleaner. Repeat the activity—you can add more paint onto the paper and spread it out again. You can do small words if they have mastered letters.

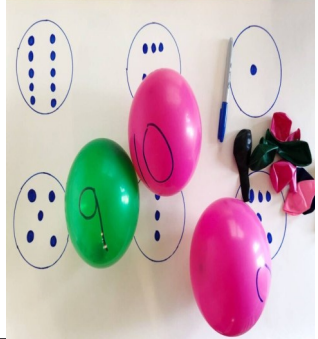


Counting and Math

Balloon Number Matching Game

You will need: A large sheet of paper or multiple papers taped together, permanent marker, tape and balloons.

To set up the paper for matching, create 10 or more circles roughly the same size—you can use a plastic lid. Then inside each circle draw dots to match number 1-10 or higher. Next, blow up the balloons for the number matching game. Once the balloons are blown up, you will need to number them with the marker and tape them to a table. Have your child try and match each numbered balloon to the dots/circles on the paper.



Fun in the Kitchen

Animal Face Toast

You will need: Slice of bread, banana, strawberries, raspberries, almonds, blueberries, nut or seed butter, whipped cream cheese.

Toast bread and get creative with it —Owl Toast: whipped cream cheese, banana, strawberry slices and almond—Monkey Toast: a few banana slices, a couple of blueberries and seed or nut butter — Kitty Toast: Spread oval shape of seed or nut butter, strawberry slices to make ears and whiskers and two blueberries for eyes — Fox Toast: Spread whipped cream cheese over the toast and them use seed or nut butter to form a triangle at the top. Make ears with strawberry slices and the eyes and nose with banana and blueberries — Pig Toast: mix a little raspberry with whipped cream cheese to get the pink color of the snout and then top it with raspberries for the nostrils. Two blueberry eyes and strawberry ears!

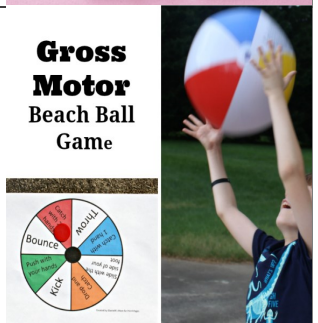


Take It Outside (Inside)

Beach Ball Game

You will need: A piece of paper, a small object to use on the game board, a beach ball.

Prepare the game board: On a piece of paper, draw a circle and divide the circle into sections. On each section, print different type of movements to do with the ball. Some possible movements: Throw, Catch with one Hand, Catch with Two Hands, Kick, Bounce, Slide with Your Foot, Push with Your Hands. Choose an object to toss on the game board—small rock, glass pebble, metal washer, or bean bag. When counter lands on a movement—that is what they will do. To make the ball easier to catch, do not inflate it completely.



Sites to Explore

Scholastic Learn at Home: <https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

Fun Brain Jr.: <http://www.funbrainjr.com/>

Starfall: <https://www.starfall.com/h/>

Preschool Worksheets: <https://www.worksheetfun.com/preschool-worksheets/>



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