

Busy Hands – Active Minds

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



Infants (0-11 months)

Tummy Time

Play in a Mirror

Babies love to see their reflections. It is like playing with another baby! The best way is to have them play with a mirror while they are having time on their tummy.



Sensory

Rainbow Spaghetti

You will need: Spaghetti, a colander, cooking oil, food coloring, parchment paper a large container and something to lay down on the floor– if needed.

Cook spaghetti as you regularly would. Drain as usual and rinse with cool water in a colander to keep from sticking together. Once drained and cooled add a VERY small amount of oil and toss. Add a few drops of food coloring and mix well. Lay the spaghetti out on parchment paper to dry for about an hour. After the hours has passed and the spaghetti has dried, put it in a large container and let your little one enjoy. It might be good to lay down a shower curtain because it can get a little messy.



Toddler (1-2 years)

Colors and Shapes

Nature Art Rainbow Collage

You will need: Contact paper, tape (painters tape preferred), scissors and a container to hold the things collected.

Start off by wrap some contact paper around a tree with the sticky side out and secure it with the tape. Now it is time to hunt for some colors—look for different color items—red rose petals, yellow daisies, etc. Once you have chosen your favorites add them to the tree!



Letters and Numbers

Alphabet Cookie Match

You will need: Alphabet Cookies, a container to put the cookies in and construction paper

Start off by printing the letters of the alphabet neatly on two pieces of construction paper. Have your toddler hunt for the letters and match them with the letter on the sheets. Duplicates of course should be eaten!

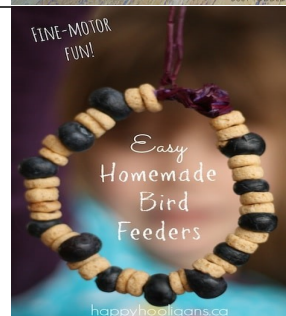


Just for Fun

Cheerios and Blueberries Bird Feeders

You will need: Pipe cleaners, Cheerios, Blueberries, Raffia or ribbon

Bend one end of the pipe cleaners so the fruit and cheerios won't slide off. Children can then thread the berries and cereal on their pipe cleaners. When the pipe cleaners are loaded up and twist the ends together and bend the feeders into a shape i.e. circles and hearts. You will want to tie a long length of raffia to the feeder and tie a bow. Now you can take them outside to hang on a tree.





Preschool/Pre-K (3-5 years)

Words and Letters

Giant Word Search

You will need: Large piece of butcher paper, list of words, Painters tape and washable markers.

On the large piece of butcher paper, you will start with the top row and write out your top row words/letters to set up how wide the word search will be. Then make a column down the left side of the paper and this will set the length. Keep all your words/letters lined up (relatively) well within these guides and you will come out with an "even enough" word search. You can use family member names or simple, sound out words.



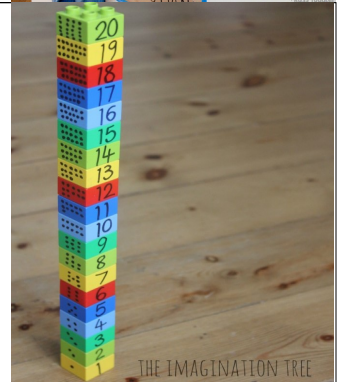
Counting and Math Practice

Counting with Legos

You will need: Legos Duplo blocks and permanent marker

Find 20 Lego Duplo blocks in various colors and write the number 1-20 on the one side of them, using a permanent marker. On the opposing side of each one draw the corresponding number of dots so they can be counted to match the correct amount. Then lay them on the floor with the numbers showing and set the challenge to put them into a tall tower in the right order.

Other ways to use number Lego blocks: pick two blocks at random and add together the totals on their faces, using the dots to count; count them in blocks of 5 and then 10 and use them to count by 5s and 10s (you will need to make more to reach 100)



Fun in the Kitchen

Honey Rice Krispy Cereal Treats

You will need: Honey, peanut butter, parchment paper a 9x9 inch casserole dish and Rice Krispies cereal.

First you will need to mix together: 1/2 cup honey and 1/2 cup peanut butter. Pour these together in a saucepan. Heat on the stovetop and continue stirring until the mixture begins to boil. Remove from heat and pour over 4 cups of Rice Krispies cereal. Mix together until the cereal is coated with the peanut butter/honey mixture. Line a 9x9 inch casserole dish with parchment paper or wax paper. Pour the cereal into the casserole dish. Use another piece of parchment paper to firmly press down the cereal. You will want to press down pretty hard so that the cereal bars are not crumbly. (This is great for the kids to do). You will want to allow the cereal treats to harden for several hours. Once they have hardened you can pop them right out onto a cutting board in one big piece. Use a sharp knife to cut the rice crispy cereal treat squares.



Take It Outside (Inside)

Hop! Skip! Jump!

You will need: Some room if you are inside and some paper plates –two colors work really well

Hand them to the kids to place around the sidewalk, however they want. Have them hop along the paper plates, one to the next. Jumping if they need to. Once that is master - provide additional challenges put them in a line or different patterns; if you have colored plates - set out them out and only touch one of the colors.



Sites to Explore

- * Free Writing and Math Journals, Alphabet and Number Printables available at; <https://www.prekinders.com/free-home-learning-resources-coronavirus-schools/>
- * Children's books read by celebrities: <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- * Online learning: <https://www.abcmouse.com/abt/homepage?8a08850bc2=T2222336195.1585252533.861>

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