

Toddler Learning Activities

Spend some quality time with your toddler with a few basic supplies and 25 different fun learning activities written on basic index cards. Let your child choose the activity if desired and play together. These 25 activities can easily be rotated to complete on a monthly basis to keep reinforcing and building skills. Bind index cards together with a simple hole punch and string for safe keeping and collect all your supplies and store in a basket for easy access all in one place.

Supplies:

Life size piece of white paper (butcher paper or two pieces of poster board taped together)

Paper lunch bags

Small identical items (2 of each): caps, cotton balls, keys, buttons, coins, toy cars, rocks, pin cones, blocks, clothespin, rubber bands, spoons

Toilet paper rolls

Wax paper

Large bubble wrap

White rice

Containers & lids (various shapes & sizes)

Shoebox & lid

Nerf ball

Empty bottle (juice container)

Bean bag

Bucket (put all items in pink bucket)

Painters tape

Medicine dropper

Construction paper: red, blue, yellow

Goldfish

Cheerios

Grapes

Pennies

Two pieces of yarn (1 yd & 2 yd)

Old magazines

Straws

Finger paint

Puzzles

Pattern blocks

Brain quest (2-3 year old pack)

Flashcards

Let's start kumon books

Activity #1 - Feely Bag Fun

Supplies: *two lunch bags, 2 of each of the following: spools, caps, cotton balls, keys, buttons, etc.*

Place one of each object in each bag. Show the child the two bags and match each set of items one by one. Or show child one of the objects and have child try to feel (without looking) for the matching object in the second bag.

Activity #2 - What Color?

Supplies: *old magazines*

Look at child's clothing and point to the color of one of the garments. Call color by name. Tell child to look for something else in the room that is the same color. Look in old magazines or books to find similar colored objects. Repeat for every color they are wearing.

Activity #3 - My Name

Say the following together to introduce child to name, age, and gender.

"My name is _____
I am two
I am a (girl) (boy)
And I love you."

Assemble similar objects in sets of two: blocks, toys, books, buttons, rocks, keys, etc. Count by twos.

Activity #4 - Finger painting

Supplies: *finger paint, wax paper, straws, toilet paper roll, vegetables*

Place a blob of finger paint on wax paper and allow child to explore with fingers and hands. Use straws, empty toilet paper rolls, or cookie cutters to dip in the paint and make different designs. Cut vegetables in half and use the ends for making other fun designs.

Activity #5 - Dirt, Sand or Rice Play

Place dirt, sand, rice or beans in a large bowl or pan. Use various measuring cups, shovel, spoons, and assorted containers to scoop and pour. Allow child to feel and explore. Discuss how it feels. (Play outside or in a pack n' play for easy clean up)

Activity #6 - Containers & Lids

Supplies: pot and lid, jar and lid, box and lid, misc. plastic containers with lids

1. Present child with containers and lids and practice removing and replacing the lids on the correct container. Use “on” and “off” to instruct child.
2. Change containers, graduating to skrew on styles as they get experience.

Activity #7 - Pick Up

Supplies: paper bag, small items: toy, key, ball, clothespin, block, spoon

1. Assemble items in a row. Name items and encourage child to put them in the bag.
2. Place items around room and have child locate them as you call them by name.
3. Pick items of similar color and have child find and pick up. Play “I spy” for another variation.

Activity # 8 - Ball

Supplies: two brooms, soft ball, empty 1 liter bottle

1. Set up two brooms on a smooth floor surface forming a straight pathway. Roll the ball between the brooms. Practice straight aim. Use both hands and progress gradually to using only one hand.
2. Place an empty detergent bottle or 1 liter container at the end and encourage child to knock it down with the ball.

Activity #9 - Look at Me

Supplies: Large sheet of butcher paper or two poster board sheets taped together

1. Trace child’s body on paper. Draw different body parts and ask child what they are. Point to different spots (as in the left ear) and ask child what should be drawn there. Identify color of clothing that child is wearing and draw those items on their paper with that color.

2. Use a bean bag and ask child to place it on various parts of their body on the paper as you call them out: head, eyes, nose, ear, mouth, arm, hand, leg, foot, tummy, etc.

Activity #10 - Bean Bag Toss

Supplies: small bean bags, large container

Encourage child to toss bean bags into container. Move container to different distances for greater challenge.

Activity #11 - Left & Right

Supplies: masking/painters tape, assortment of small toys

1. Place a line of tape on the floor. Place a selection of small items or toys on the left or right side of the tape. Discuss left & right as you identify which side each object is on. As child understands the concept, instruct them to pick up an item and place it on the left or right side of the tape.
2. Have child line up their toys from left to right on top of the tape.

Activity #12 - Top & Bottom

Supplies: A shoebox and various household items (toy, rattle, spool, block, spoon).

1. Turn box on its side and discuss the top and bottom of the box. Instruct child to put specific objects by name on the top or bottom. Use other words such as “inside” and “outside”, as they become more familiar.
2. Use a variety of big/little items for variety. Place the “big ball inside”, etc.
3. Use coffee table or couch as another object to place items “on top” or “under”.

Activity #13 - Medicine Dropper

Supplies: medicine dropper or meat baster, food coloring, two clear containers

Discuss the concepts of full and empty. Fill one container with water and a few drops of food coloring. Demonstrate how to use the dropper to transfer liquid from one container to the other. Use a meat baster to start and graduate to a medicine dropper over time. Use different colors. Allow child to move liquids back and forth, left to right, right to left, etc.

Activity #14 - Sorting by Color

Supplies: construction paper (red, blue, yellow), small toys, rainbow goldfish, M&Ms

Place one piece of each of the following colors of construction paper on the floor: red, blue, yellow. Ask child to sort his toys by color and place on correct color page. Discuss that these are the primary colors.

Sort rainbow goldfish, M & Ms, or other similar items of various colors into a cupcake pan or egg carton by color.

Activity #15 - Sorting by Pairs

Take several pairs of socks and place on the floor. Have him sort by pairs. Count “1” “2” as you match. Do the same activity with shoes or any other pair items (cups, bowls, etc).

Activity #16 - Counting

Use one of the following items to practice counting: goldfish crackers, grapes, cheerios, pennies, beans, silverware, stairs, buttons

Activity #17 - Jump & Hop

Supplies: two pieces of string/yarn, beanbag

Make a big circle and a small circle with yarn or string. Discuss “big” and “little” circles with your child.

1. Show child how to jump up and down on two feet inside big circle. Then do the same in the smaller circle. Count or chant as they jump.
2. Hop on one foot, inside and outside of each circle. Emphasize “inside” and “outside”.
3. Try balancing on one foot.
4. Toss a beanbag inside one of the circles and then jump inside the circle, pick up object and jump or hop while holding object.
5. Try making other shapes on the floor with tape for variety. Walk on outline. Drive cars on it.
6. Draw shapes with chalk.

Activity #18 - Stacking/Nesting

Supplies: measuring cups, nesting set of mixing bowls

Count each set of mixing bowls or measuring cups/spoons. Name the relative size of each (large, medium, small, etc). Discuss how they nest inside each other due to size. Have child explore stacking/nesting them from smallest to largest or vice versa. Discuss different size measurements of cups and spoons.

Activity #19 - Create a Story

Supplies: old magazines

Gather old magazines and have child cut out 4-5 pictures. Then arrange the pictures to make a story. Create a story with a beginning and an end.

Additional toddler activities:

These are additional toddler learning activities that we have purchased. We wrote them individually on the 3x5 cards as well to do together. Feel free to take these recommendations or use whatever fun activities you might have on hand.

My First Touch & Feel Picture Cards: Colors & Shapes / Numbers
Wooden Peg Puzzles
Duplos/Lego blocks

Melissa & Doug Pattern Blocks & Boards (Discuss colors and shapes. Match on trays to form pictures)

My First Brain Quest (2-3 years)

Songs:

This is an assortment of fun songs to sing together with a toddler.

Baa, Baa Black Sheep

ABC Song

B-I-N-G-O

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Head and Shoulders

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Hickory Dickory Dock

Hokey Pokey

Humpty Dumpty

Jack and Jill

If You're Happy and You Know It

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Merrily We Roll Along

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Pat a Cake

Pop Goes the Weasel

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

This Little Piggy

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Wheels on the Bus