

Activities for Toddlers

Fine Motor:

Crayon Matchup- Purchase two identical boxes of crayons. Take the crayons and put them in a basket. Let the children take turns finding the matching pairs of crayons.

Clothespin Counting Game- Number five paper plates from 1-5. Attach a matching number of circle stickers around the rim of each plate. Set out the plates and fifteen spring-type clothespins. Let the children take turns selecting a plate, and clipping one clothespin over each sticker.

Baster Transfers-Provide two bowls or tubs and a meat baster. Add food color to the bowls that are filled with water. Challenge the children to transfer the colored water into the empty tub, using the baster.

Egg Carton Counter- Punch a hole in the bottom of each cup in an egg carton. Close the lid and turn the carton upside down so that the egg cups are facing up. Set out twelve clothespins. Let the children put one clothespin in the hole in each egg cup.

Look I Can Pour- Sit on the floor with the toddler with some paper cups and Cheerios in front of you. Fill a cup with the cereal and show the child how to pour the cereal from one cup to the other cup. Then let the child try.



Fill and Dump Bucket- Suspend a small plastic or cardboard bucket from the ceiling so it hangs about a foot above the floor. Put a plastic dishpan under it. Put a bunch of small toys in the dishpan. Show the children how to put the toys from the dishpan into the bucket and then dump them back into the dishpan.



Tearing Paper- Provide a variety of different kinds of paper. Show the children how to tear it.

Let's Make Our Personal Pan Pizza-Materials needed: poster board, red paint, red contact paper or paper that looks like meat, yellow yarn, and green construction paper.

1. Cut a large circular poster board approximately 8 inches around.
2. Children will glue on red for sauce, yellow yarn for cheese, strips of contact paper "brown" for pepperoni, green construction paper for peppers and so on.
3. Discuss what the children are placing on their pizza while they are doing it to enhance language.
4. Once this project is dry, cut the pizza into triangle shapes and pretend to eat while in the housekeeping area. Have photos of real pizza, a pizza shop, and other items that relate to pizza there.

(Taken from: The Encyclopedia of Infant and Toddler Activities published by Gryphon House)

Coffee Filter Flowers- Materials needed: round coffee filters in three different sizes, sponge-capped squeeze bottles, food coloring, water, glue

1. Give each child three different sizes of coffee filters.
2. Invite the children to dab colored water from sponge bottles onto the coffee filters. Provide a variety of colors.
3. Allow to dry.
4. Help the children glue the coffee filters into each other.
5. Decorate the classroom with children's artwork.

(Taken from: The Encyclopedia of Infant and Toddler Activities published by Gryphon House)

Three D Sculpture Art- Materials needed: Poster board, paint in various colors, paint brushes, empty paper towel rolls cut in graduated sizes.

1. Children will select a number of cut paper towel rolls.

2. They will select the color they would like to paint the selected rolls.
3. Let the rolls dry.
4. Once dry, children can glue their painted rolls on a 10X12 poster board. Display their artwork around the classroom.

(Created by Rochelle Pleasant)

Sponge Painting-Pour tempera paint into a shallow container. Invite the children to dip small sponge pieces into the paint and press them onto paper to make prints. Encourage them to use the sponges like brushes to paint designs on the paper.

Sponge Blocks-Give the children whole sponges and sponges cut into smaller shapes to use as blocks. Let them experiment with building while the blocks are wet as well as dry.

Gross Motor:

Walk the line- Place a line of tape on the floor. Have the children practice walking on the tape, one foot in front of the other. Tell the children to pretend that they are walking the high wire at the circus- have them hold out their hands to maintain balance.

Variations:

- Have the children walk slowly
- Have the children walk on tip toes
- Have the children walk with one foot on the rope and the other foot on the floor

Bean bag toss- Place a large laundry basket or tub on the floor. Have the toddler throw bean bags into the basket.



Turn Around- Sing “Turn Around” to the tune of “Frere Jacques” a few times, following the instructions in the lyrics and exaggerate the actions- for example, leap high in the air when you sing, “Up we go”.

Turn Around (to the tune of Frere Jacques)

Turn around,
turn around,
touch your toes,
touch your toes.

Do a little jumping,
do a little jumping.

Squat real low.
Up we go!

Putting objects together- Simple puzzles with knobs are great. Putting keys into locks and letters into mailbox slots is fun too.

Make towers-Save milk cartons or gelatin or pudding boxes. Young toddlers can stack them to make towers. You can also stuff grocery bags with newspapers and tape them shut to make big blocks.

