

Learning At Home Activity

Age Group: 18 months to 5 years old

Objective: Math

Shapes in the Kitchen

Instructions:

1. Draw a shape on a sheet of paper.
2. Show your child the shape and ask, "Can you find any (circles, squares etc) in the kitchen?"
3. Help your child compare the shape of items in the kitchen to the shape you drew on the paper.
 - Compare your drawing of a circle to a clock.
 - Compare your drawing of a square to a slice of American cheese.
 - Continue with other shapes and items around your home.

Questions to ask your child:

1. What did you find in the kitchen?
2. How could you tell it was a (circle, square etc.)
3. Can you name some shapes for me?

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Items found in the home



What will the children learn?

The children will learn to identify and name a variety of shapes within their learning environment.

Learning Objectives:

- Explores shapes
- Identifies characteristics of objects when named.

Ice Cube Transfer

Instructions:

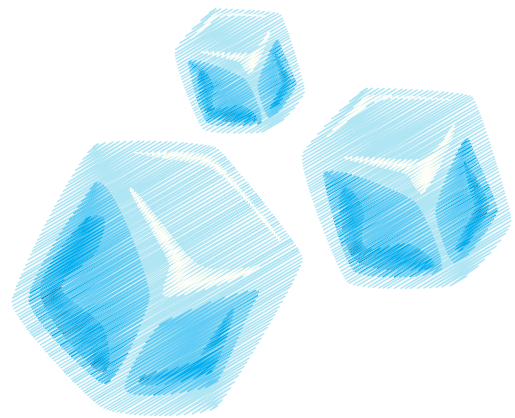
1. Place two containers (anything that can hold water) side by side.
2. Add all ice cubes in one of the containers.
3. Demonstrate to your child how to scoop using your scooping tool. Scoop one ice cube at a time and move it to the empty container.
4. Allow your child to engage in the activity and move all ice cubes from one side to the other.

Materials:

- Two containers (anything that can hold water)
- Ice cubes
- A cup or anything that can be used for scooping (i.e. cup, spoon, small shovel, etc.)

How to extend activity:

Once the ice is melted, you can also add in toys for water play. Add toys of different colors and have your child sort and match the objects into containers based on their colors.



What they learn:

Fine Motor Practice: Children are using the small muscles in their hands to hold the scooping tool to pick up one ice cube at a time.

Cognitive & Problem Solving Practice: Isolating one ice cube at a time and moving it from one container to the other engages problem solving skills.

Let's Go on a Picnic: Choosing Healthy Foods and Eating Together

Instructions:

1. Get comfortable while you bottle feed or breast feed your baby.
2. Once baby is done feeding, face baby where she can see the other guests eat and interact with them.
3. Tell baby what you are eating and involve baby in the conversation.

How to extend activity:

For older children offer two healthy options instead of asking what they want, this way you can avoid the melt down when you say no about unhealthy choices.

Materials:

- Snack or meal
- Books
- Blanket

**What they learn:**

Motor - Eating involves many small muscles in the mouth, tongue, hands and fingers.

Social-Emotional - This is an opportunity for your child to make fun social connections.

Pretend Picnic

What to do:

1. Spread blanket on the floor or carpet.
2. Place pretend items on the blanket.
3. Introduce items as the child touches the items.

Materials:

- Blanket
- Empty Cereal boxes
- Empty egg cartons
- Make up a fun make believe menu of foods.



What they will learn: Your child is learning language and cognitive skills.

Carton of Eggs

Primary Objectives

20a. Counts

Why It's Important

Games that require your child to place one object in an individual designated space encourage her understanding of counting one object at a time. When you play this kind of game with your child, you can give her the assistance she needs to be successful.

Materials

Bowl; empty egg carton; plastic eggs

What You Do

1. Place an empty egg carton and the bowl of plastic eggs on a table. Invite your child to sort the eggs with you.
2. Demonstrate the process of putting one egg in each section of the egg carton. Ask her to repeat the action. *I'm going to put one egg here in this space. I'll put another one in the space next to it.*
3. Allow your child to use trial and error to determine how the eggs can be placed in the carton.
4. When there are only a few remaining empty spaces, count the number of spaces together. Ask your child to count out how many eggs she will need to fill the spaces. *There are one, two, three spots left in the carton. That means we need three more eggs. Can you help me count three eggs?*
5. Repeat the process a few times or for as long as your child is interested. After the egg carton is filled, explain where the eggs and carton are kept so that she can use them again at a later time.

Sandwich Stories

Primary Objectives

- 7a. Uses fingers and hands
- 10a. Engages in conversations

Why It's Important

Working with your child to invent her own culinary creations helps her build confidence in her developing conversational skills.

Materials

Cookie cutters; bread; sandwich ingredients that are easy to cut through (peanut butter, jelly, cheese); plastic spreader

What You Do

1. Explain to your child that she will be making her own sandwich snack. Show her the ingredients and cookie cutters. Invite her to choose her ingredients and spread them on the bread. Assist as needed.
2. Next, invite your child to choose a shape for her sandwich. Talk with your child about the different shapes that are available and ask her to describe them to you.
3. Show her how to press down with the cookie cutter and peel away the edges (which can be saved and eaten with the snack after the activity). Make comments about what she is doing. *I see that you have chosen the dog-shaped cookie cutter. You are working hard at pressing that down to cut out your shape.*
4. Before your child eats her sandwich shape, ask her about the shape that she chose. *What does a dog sound like? Where would you find a tree like that one?*
5. Enjoy the sandwiches together. Talk about the other shapes you can use at another time.