

Nursery: Ways to help your child learn through play at home.

1. Garden chalks – mark making is so much more fun outside and on a big scale it is great for smaller children to build pre-writing skills.



2. Scrap/recycled paper collage – use of magazines, packaging even junk mail to create pictures in mosaic or collage style.



3. Coloured rice – You can use it to hide and find things which also promotes conversation and builds vocabulary. You can make temporary or permanent art from it. You can kill hours getting it to sort it back in to the right colours when you finish playing with it!! Put rice, 1 tbs of white vinegar and a few drops of food colouring into a Tupperware pot. Shake until coloured and then pop somewhere to dry for a few hours and voila!



4. Look through and talk about old photos – children absolutely love to look through and talk about old photographs – I'm talking 90's style (or older) printed photos! They want to know who is who and why people look funny! The conversation is so beneficial, they can learn more about their heritage, culture and family.



5. Jenga car park and car colour sorting – Colour sorting is so helpful for younger children and if you can make it in a rainbow style it teaches them about hue, colour mixing and naming colours! Imaginative and construction play is god for developing interaction, motor skills, pretending, role play, and more!



6. Colour hunting – Another great time waster for “bored little ones” go on a family colour hunt and see how many things you can find of the same colour... Why not try a different colour each day –be sure to show those photos on Tapestry!



7. Studying flowers – why not have a look what flowers are in your garden – you can go that far out the house! Study some pretty flowers, take them apart, draw them, colour them, laminate them or press them (trap between sheets of greaseproof or baking paper and heavy books leave somewhere warm for at least 24 hours).

<http://www.beafunmum.com/2014/11/how-to-press-flowers/>



8. Make a play house from an old box- children will love to do this and have hours fun playing with it afterwards. Best of it is it's easy to do!



you can go overboard



9. Bubble snakes - so much fun! Cut the end off the end of an old bottle, tie a flannel or put an old sock over the end with an elastic band and dip it into water and washing up liquid and then blow! (You can also put food colouring into the flannel for coloured snakes)



10. Make wildlife feeders – Once you have done this you could also spend time learning about the different animals that use your feeder! You can use old cereal, bread, sweetcorn, peas etc to fill your feeder as well as bird seed!



12. Small world play – Don't underestimate the fun that can be had with a few building blocks and some small character toys. Children love to build their own fantasy worlds and if you join them they will get even more out of it!



13. Moon sand – you can make your very own mouldable sand from this really simple recipe. It can be a bit messy so you may want your children to make and play with it in a tray!



14. Ice cream dough – its edible! It's easy to make smells great fun to play with washable and edible for those troublesome tots who sneak a bite of everything. Two ingredients frosting and icing sugar and combine until you get the texture required. For more info: <https://thesoccermomblog.com/edible-strawberry-ice-cream-play-dough/>



15. Number stones – why not decorate your own set of number stones this is creative fun and helps children recognise the numerals.



16. Story – Reading stories is the best thing you can possibly do with young children. Why not enhance this by making your very own story sack or basket so the children can use props to retell the story.



Enjoy, chat, play!

