


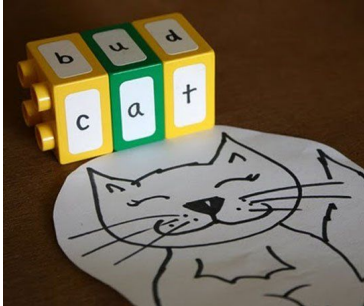


ACTIVITIES

[The Essentials: butcher paper, painter's tape, permanent markers]

LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Alphabet Connect the Dots	 <p>Source: Big Activities</p>	Connect the Dot activities are a wonderful way for children to reinforce their alphabet knowledge. Use one of the many templates available online, or create your own activity by drawing scattered letters on butcher paper, affixing it to a wall, and letting your child uncover the sequence.
Alphabet Dig	 <p>Source: Growing Book by Book</p>	Fill a storage container or large bowl with oats/cornmeal/sand, alphabet magnets, and a shovel/colander. Model the process of scooping up oats/cornmeal/sand and sifting it in order to uncover any magnets. Provide a magnetic cookie sheet on which your child can store the letters he or she uncovers.
Alphabet Fishing	 <p>Source: Fun Learning for Kids</p>	Grab a life jacket, and practice letter identification while out at sea! A laundry basket, a blue tablecloth or towel, labeled fish shapes, and a simple fishing rod (stick and yarn) enable your child to engage in pretend play while honing their literacy skills. Expand on this activity by targeting color names or sight words.
Alphabet Legos	 <p>Source: Pinterest</p>	Using printable stickers or a permanent marker, label each Lego brick with a letter of the alphabet. Have your child engage in matching activities: depending on his or her age and skillset, he or she can match uppercase to uppercase, lowercase to lowercase, or uppercase to lowercase. Expand on this activity to have him or her copy words found in a favorite book.

Matching
Magnets / Post-its / Letters



Source: Busy Toddler



Source: Busy Toddler



Source: The Letters of Literacy

Matching games facilitate young children's attention to detail, concentration, visual memory, and classification skills. As your child's gains mastery of the alphabet, shuffle the order of the letters for an additional challenge!

TIP: Instead of downloading and printing a template, use dry erase marker to write the alphabet directly on a cookie sheet.

Post-it Name
Letters and Words



POST-IT NAME
AN EASY LEARNING ACTIVITY

Source: Busy Toddler



Source: Busy Toddler

Children derive pride and excitement when learning how to read and spell their own names; those of their family members follow shortly thereafter. Set this activity up with butcher paper on your wall, then scatter the relevant Post-it notes around the room. Once your child finds them, he or she can get to letter or name matching!




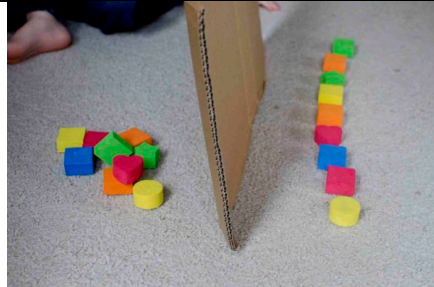

Secret Letters



Source: *This Reading Mama*

Crayon resistant activities can highlight the magic of literacy learning! Use a white crayon to write targeted letters onto white paper; don't press too lightly (the letters will remain invisible) or too strongly (the letters will be visible before the activity begins). Pass your child the watercolors, and let him or her get to work!

MATH AND SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Color Mixing	 <p>Source: Learning 4 Kids</p>	<p>Pour milk into a shallow dish or plastic plate. Help your child squeeze a few drops of various colors of food coloring into the milk, dip a cotton swab into dishwashing liquid, and place the tip of the swab into the milk. You won't believe your eyes! Experiment with different combinations of primary colors to explore secondary colors, or different types of dairy or dairy alternatives: Skim? Cream? Soy?</p>
Cooking	 <p>Source: Shutterstock</p>	<p>Cooking with your children is not only a way to practice measurements, but also a means of augmenting responsibility, fine motor skills, and collaboration. Enjoy the process, and clean up the mess later – bon appétit!</p>
Number Weave	 <p>Source: Toddler at Play</p>	<p>Label strips of colored cardstock with the numbers that you'd like to target. Glue the ends of each strip together, then glue each circle onto the cardboard. Create a small circle at the top or bottom of the board, knot a shoelace or long string though, and encourage your child to thread the numbers sequentially. He or she can simultaneously hone color recognition, focus, and fine motor skills.</p>
Pattern Matching	 <p>Source: Busy Toddler</p>	<p>Create a pattern of your own on one side of the cardboard divider. Ensuring that your child cannot see your work, use verbal instructions and sequence words to help him or her build an identical block both. Pattern awareness, color recognition, shape recognition, and sequential skills are all targeted.</p>
Shape Sort	 <p>Source: Busy Toddler</p>	<p>Use painter's tape to outline the shapes that you'd like to target on the floor. Gather a selection of household items that can be neatly sorted into the relevant categories, and then review the attributes of each shape with your child. Recognizing shapes in their surrounding environment is an advanced level of math understanding.</p>

Treasuring Toddler Time: What To Do Before 2
with Natalie Alterman and the Parents League

Splish Splash Science



Source: Buggy and Buddy

Fill a bin or bucket with water, and grab a variety of household items. Will each one sink or float? Why? How can we describe the items in each category? Try this one during bathtime, too!

Snack Math



Source: Fun A Day

Snack time can be productive, too! Guide children through the steps of populating each card, and then follow up with information about counting. The process hones number awareness, one-to-one correspondence, and fine motor skills. Feel free to use it outside of snack time, too!

FINE MOTOR SKILL ACTIVITIES

Drop it!



Source: Laughing Kids Learn



Source: Busy Toddler



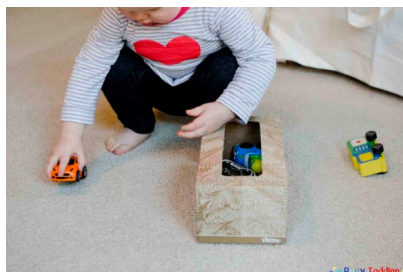
Source: Chick Link

These ball and pom-pom drop activities facilitate the development of fine motor skills, cause and effect, and more. Use a cardboard tube and painter's tape, a clean and cut wipe container, or a tray and ice cream scoop – the opportunities are endless.

Hidden Toys
Gelatin / Grab Bag




Source: Learning 4 Kids



Source: Busy Toddler

Tap into your child's curiosity by hiding their toys in anything from a tray of gelatin to an empty tissue box. They won't even realize that they're honing their fine motor skills as they dig through to reveal the toys!

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Jewelry Making	 <p>Source: Alibi</p>	<p>Place large beads or raw pasta on string strengthens fingers, enhances hand-eye coordination, and improves fine motor skills. Target color and pattern knowledge as children mature, too!</p>
Open and Close Bin	 <p>Source: Living Montessori Now</p>	<p>Toddlers often express curiosity about what is <i>inside</i> objects; they're prone to opening drawers, bags, and so on. This bin provides them with a safe outlet. Feel free to update the contents as time goes on.</p>
Parade Time	 <p>Source: Learners in Bloom</p>	<p>Place some butcher paper on the floor, and trace out a route for your child's parade of tiny animal toys, cars, and so on. Encourage your child to line up the objects along the different shapes of lines, either randomly or in a sequence that targets color or pattern awareness.</p>
Tape Pull / Rescue	 <p>Source: Mama Papa Bubba</p>  <p>Source: Busy Toddler</p>	<p>Stick pieces of painter's or patterned tape on a bin, cookie, sheet, or even a window; fold over one side of each piece, so as to facilitate the process for your little one. Younger children may be better suited to simply pull pieces of tape; older children may be further motivated by the opportunity to "rescue" their taped down toys.</p>





The Bin of Senses



Source: Little Bins for Little Hands

Sensory play – and, accordingly, sensory bins – are helpful tools for engaging your child's five senses while enhancing tactile learning, pre-math skills, self-control, and fine motor skills. Adjust the contents as you see fit; almost anything will do!

GROSS MOTOR SKILL ACTIVITIES

<p>Gigantic Building Blocks</p>	 <p>Source: Busy Toddler</p>	<p>Use duct tape to seal old boxes closed, and let your child's imagination do the rest. The research surrounding building activities is clear: they promote problem solving, mathematics (balance, symmetry), creativity, and more. Encourage your child to create buildings, cities, and anything else that inspires them.</p>
<p>Letter Detective</p>	 <p>Source: Frugal Fun 4 Boys</p>	<p>Write each letter of the alphabet on Post-its or index cards. Hide them around your home, pass your child a magnifying glass, and let them get to work. If they're ready for an accelerated version of this activity, they can check off the letters as they find them.</p>
<p>Soft Obstacle Course</p>	 <p>Source: Teach Me Mommy</p>	<p>Scatter a few soft items – pillows, plush toys, soft balls – in a warped path around your home. Cover the objects with towels or a blanket, and allow your baby or toddler to crawl through explore!</p>
<p>Spiderweb Doorway / Tic Tac Toe Toss</p>	 <p>Source: Hands On As We Grow</p> <p>Source: I Love My Kids Blog</p>	<p>Use painter's tape to create either a spiderweb pattern across a doorway or narrow hallway, or a Tic Tac Toe pattern on the floor; both activities will hone children's hand-eye coordination, aim, and gross motor skill strength. In the former, children can toss balls made out of crumpled newspaper at the web, trying to get them to stick. In the latter, they can toss beanbags – or sandwich bags filled with colored rice – onto the game board.</p>

Zig Zag Tape



Source: Hands On As We Grow

Use different colors of painter's tape to create various routes along the floor. Calling on your child's knowledge of colors, direct him or her to walk along a specific path. He or she will target balance, a crucial gross motor skill. Expand on this activity by prompting your little one to walk backwards or sideways.

PRESCHOOL-BASED TODDLER PROGRAMS

[This list is not comprehensive. If you are interested in applying to a preschool-based toddler program, contact the Parents League for individualized guidance.]

14 th Street Y 344 East 14 th Street between 1 st and 2 nd Avenues	1.5 years
A.C.T Early Childhood Program: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine 1047 Amsterdam Avenue at West 112 th Street	0.9 years
The Acorn School: All About Two 330 East 26 th Street between 1 st and 2 nd Avenues	1.9 years
Bank Street Family Center: Toddler Program 610 West 112 th Street between Broadway and Riverside Drive	0.6 years
Barrow Street Nursery School: Toddler Programs 27 Barrow Street between 7 th Avenue and West 4 th Street	1.7 years
Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Parenting Center: Boker Twos 131 Remsen Street between Clinton and Henry Streets	1.6 years
Brooklyn Schoolhouse: Twos Class 156 Gates Avenue between Downing Street and Grand Avenue	1.1 years
Central Synagogue Young Family Center: Toddler Time 123 East 55 th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues	1.6 years
Chelsea Day School: The Toddler Group 319 Fifth Avenue at East 32 nd Street	1.4 years
The Community School 15 Borage Place between Greenway North and Beechknoll Place	1.6 years
Dwight Preschool: Small Wonders and Next Steps Programs 144 Riverside Boulevard at West 67 th Street	1.6 years
*Explore and Discover 444 2 nd Avenue at 26 th Street	2 months
Jack and Jill Playgroup 61 Gramercy Park North between Park Avenue and Irving Place	1.8 years
JCP Bridge Program and JCPlay 146 Duane Street between Church Street and West Broadway	Bridge: 1.9 years JCPlay: 0.1 years
Kid's Korner Toddlers 247 West 24 th Street between 7 th and 8 th Avenues	1.3 years
Montessori Soho 75 Sullivan Street between Broome and Spring Streets	1.5 years
Perry School: Toddlers Program 155 Bank Street between West and Washington Streets	1.5 years
*Reade Street Prep 104 Reade Street between West Broadway and Church Street	1.5 years
Stephen Wise Synagogue Early Childhood Center: Seeds of Wonder 30 West 68 th Street between Central Park and Columbus Avenue	1.2 years
Third Street Music School Settlement: Third Street Toddlers 235 East 11 th Street between 2 nd and 3 rd Avenues	1.6 years
Village Preschool Center: Toddler Time & Preschool Prep Toddler Time 136 East 10 th Street between Greenwich Avenue and Waverly Place	1.6 years

*Natalie is currently on retainer as Explore and Discover's consultant, and she previously worked as Reade Street Prep's School Director.