***Exploratory Play Activities for Early Years at Home***

**Fine motor activities**

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| [KITCHEN WHISK BABY FINE MOTOR SKILLS SENSORY ACTIVITY - Hello ...](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hellowonderful.co%2Fpost%2Fkitchen-whisk-baby-fine-motor-sensory-activity%2F&psig=AOvVaw0C8U_UiDv01YSPJ9A6JDnJ&ust=1585653049516000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCOCS84eIwugCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAJ)  Using pom poms child to take them out of the bowl and push them into a whisk. | Fine Motor Activity to Keep Kids Busy When You Need It  Use elastic bands and place on a tin to strengthen their finger muscles. |
| This basic threading activity is super simple to set up. Grab some play dough, spaghetti and some cereal to thread! Make patterns, sort, count!  Use spaghetti in playdoh to thread on cereal. | Children Activities For Toddlers Fun Motor Skills 54 Ideas  Peg on matching colours. |
| I have been busy lately doing  activities with my kids that are more learning-type activities and not  as blog friendly as kids crafts...  Use a peg to pick up pom poms. | [Threading pasta 25 months](https://www.howwemontessori.com/.a/6a0147e1d4f40f970b01910229919f970c-pi)  Use pasta to thread onto string.  Add food colouring to make the pasta fun colours! |

**Sensory play**

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| [Image result for coloured rice play](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fbusytoddler.com%2F2016%2F03%2Frainbow-rice-sensory-bin%2F&psig=AOvVaw2yDt6EYzZ9g7TxCCWo4aQv&ust=1585235655046000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCPjL1Zb1tegCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)  **Rainbow rice.**  Use food colouring and a small amount of vinegar to soak the rice in. Then leave to dry or put on a low heat in the oven. | [Image result for fun activities for early years](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goodbeginningscentralvt.org%2Fevent%2Fsensory-play-studio-playgroup%2F2019-01-28%2F&psig=AOvVaw1r3lDgRd1Dm71F8WKorQnz&ust=1585235947523000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCLiYsKz2tegCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAM)  **Coloured Spaghetti**  Add different food colouring to spaghetti for colourful fun. |
| [Image result for cornflour play](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.learning4kids.net%2F2012%2F05%2F24%2Fplaying-with-gloop%2F&psig=AOvVaw2KuZqRzxIA6G-v5WeUedQV&ust=1585294873203000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKDF3ejRt-gCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)  **Corn flour play**  Mix cornflour with water to create a fun, gloopy sensory experience. | **Colour mixing.**  Put coloured paint in clear plastic bag and seal shut. Children can then mix the paint without touching it to see what happens. |
| [Image result for cloud dough](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fhappyhooligans.ca%2Fcloud-dough%2F&psig=AOvVaw3stvYhZpIeYbop1iLeweDH&ust=1585236914833000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKjBrfj5tegCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)**Cloud Dough 1**  1 cup (13 tablespoons) flour mixed with 120mm of oil. Mix well.  You can add food colouring to make different colours or essential oil to give it a nice smell. | **Cloud dough 2**  Mix 2 parts cornflour with 1-part hair conditioner.  Add a few drops of food colouring for a soft playdough |

**Anticipation activities**

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| [Image result for diy stacking cups](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aliexpress.com%2Fitem%2F32956076316.html&psig=AOvVaw3Ljxx6EiC7Nvm2EseTdQXS&ust=1585294981361000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCPijkZnSt-gCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)  **Stacking cups**.  Use paper cups to build up a pyramid. Say ‘ready, steady’ then knock it down on go or when your child indicates they want you to ‘go | **[Image result for activities for toddlers](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theleangreenbean.com%2Findoor-activities-for-toddlers%2F&psig=AOvVaw2GkhasqCAdpw_dtRAsz_u3&ust=1585302165044000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCIDTnPvst-gCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)**  **Cars on a ramp.**  Place the car at the top of a ramp or slide. ‘ready, steady’ then push the car down on go. Wait for your child to indicate they want you to go. |
| [Image result for flour sandcastles](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.istockphoto.com%2Fae%2Fphoto%2Fsand-castle-on-the-beach-by-the-sea-gm1017141376-273564910&psig=AOvVaw1yA__SCZJH4NGysIUAPiqw&ust=1585311369293000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCPCr652PuOgCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAY)  **Sandcastles.**  Using sand or flour make small sandcastles. ‘ready, steady…..’ and flatten them with your hands | **23 Toddler Activities for Ages 2 Year Old to Preschool! These 23 educational activities for boys and girls are perfect for fun indoor play time! Great for DIY craft time at home or for daycare!Ball Run**  Use tubes to create a ball run. Encourage your child to say ‘go’ before dropping the ball. |

**Creative activities.**

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| [Image result for childrens nature walk sticking](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fi.pinimg.com%2Foriginals%2F4e%2F17%2F40%2F4e17406ae35942b48bd6f237141feffa.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.co.uk%2Fpin%2F431712314272330264%2F&tbnid=0ufHS7v5aKzH-M&vet=10CA8QxiAoAWoXChMIiOGHz8i46AIVAAAAAB0AAAAAEAg..i&docid=4ded1qQca36yYM&w=1600&h=1200&itg=1&q=childrens%20nature%20walk%20sticking&ved=0CA8QxiAoAWoXChMIiOGHz8i46AIVAAAAAB0AAAAAEAg)  **Nature Pictures**.  Collect leaves/twigs and any bits you find on a walk and create a picture. | [Image result for ice dinosaur](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F229965124702172053%2F&psig=AOvVaw0hUck9mvWHo4PzDj51Pa2t&ust=1585312412134000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKjFoI6TuOgCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAJ)**Frozen dinosaur eggs.**  Freeze toy dinosaurs in water (you can use a water balloon or lolly maker mould.) Use spoons/tools and hands to see if they can get the dinosaur out. |
| **Rainbow painting**  Add water to cornflour until it is a runny consistency.  Add drops of food colouring or paint.  Use hands or different tools to move the mixture around in a tray. | |
| **Ice painting**.  Mix paint with a small amount of water and freeze with a cocktail stick. Use the ice paint to create fun pictures and see what happens as they start to melt.  [Image result for sensory activities for toddlers](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fteachingmama.org%2F3-sensory-activities-toddlers-will-love%2F&psig=AOvVaw1e7-4QgOUdXt_aZymeOtK7&ust=1585312260854000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKCS_MeSuOgCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD) | **Outside music**  [Image result for outside musical wall](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fthatnurserylife.com%2Fideascentre%2Findividualplanning%2Factivity%2Fmake-your-own-outdoor-music-wall%2F&psig=AOvVaw1meMiUUPayJiT_PNDrLkKE&ust=1585294573986000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCNi_5N7Qt-gCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)Use old pots and pans/buckets etc. Hang them up to create a musical wall. |
| **Matching activity**  Colour in cotton buds to match on to pre drawn pictures. Create patterns and encourage colour matching. | **Shaving cream sensory paintingShaving foam painting.**  Spray shaving foam in a tray.  Add a small amount of paint. Use a paint  brush or use fingers to be creative. |

**Other play and early learning activities**

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| Toddler Approved!: Quick & Easy Low-Prep Activities for Toddlers  **Indoor croquet**  Create tunnels using card and roll a ball through them. | **This Calming Find It Game is perfect for changing a child's focus from being upset to concentrating on finding fun objects in a find it game. I use this fo**  **I Spy game**  Fill a bottle with rice and small objects. See how many you can find. |
| ANIMAL TAPE RESCUE - A quick and easy toddler activity; taby activity; taby activities; easy activity for one year old; baby activity; airplane ride activity; animal activity; rainy day activity; easy indoor activity from Busy Toddler**Animal Rescue**  Tape down some animals and see if your child can help rescue them. | [Image result for activities for toddlers](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Ftoddleratplay.com%2F2019%2F06%2F20%2Fpompomcaterpillarscountingactivity%2F&psig=AOvVaw2GkhasqCAdpw_dtRAsz_u3&ust=1585302165044000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCIDTnPvst-gCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAJ)  **Pompom caterpillars**  Can be used to support fine motor, colour matching, colour sequencing or number skills.  Colour matching – colour in each section of the caterpillar and get your child to match with the matching coloured pompom.  Sequencing - make a coloured caterpillar for your child to copy or continue the colour sequence. |
| **[Image result for turn taking games](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Frainydaymum.co.uk%2Ffun-games-to-play-at-home-to-promote-sharing-and-turn-taking%2F&psig=AOvVaw2Sav0rGVBmhSnkYZL7Ce1x&ust=1585311060386000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCPid5ZqOuOgCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)Turn taking**  Encourage turn taking by playing games. Use visuals to support whose turn it is. | **[Image result for DIY posting games](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DbEF-vobB4XE&psig=AOvVaw2QK52ocdvooo56srlyKlqP&ust=1585311248613000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKj-suSOuOgCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD)Posting activities**.  Create your own posting box with shapes/numbers/colours or with just one hole for younger children. |
| Eye spy sensory bag learning activity  **Eye spy sensory bag**  Fill a bag with dry rice and some treasures  For your child to find. | How to make homemade Moon Sand recipe from PowerfulMothering.com  **Moon sand**    1 cup brown sugar  1 cup cornflour  5 tablespoons oil |
| **Match the socks**  Place socks of different colours and patterns around the room. Can your child find the pairs, finding ones that are the same. |  |