

Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child can notice how things are the same and how they are different. He knows about colors, long and short, a little and a lot, and which one of your kitchen spoons is the biggest. With your help, he can put three things of different sizes in order from small to large. Pretend play is still very important and fun for both of you!

What Is This?

After giving your child a bath, stand or seat your child in front of a mirror. With a towel, dry different parts of her body. While drying her hair, be silly and ask, "What is this stuff?" While drying her shoulder, ask, "What is this thing?" While drying ribs, ask, "What are these bony things?" Have fun being together while tickling, cuddling, and teaching the names of body parts.

Making Trains

Line up four to five small cars or other objects in a row to make a "train." Make sure your child sees what you did. Now give your child some objects to line up and make a train. You can line up different things, such as blocks, spoons, or shells. Say, "Wow, look at your train. Where is it going?"

Big and Little

Show your child two items of different sizes, such as shoes, cups, or spoons. Talk about the big one and the little one. Talk about the size of things in your house, at the park, or at the supermarket: "Wow. Look at that pumpkin. It's really big!" Add a medium-size item and try playing Big, Little, and One in the Middle.

Tell Me Your Story

Give your child plain paper and a few washable crayons or markers for drawing. Ask her to tell you about what she drew. Write the story on your child's paper. Print her name. Tell her, "This is your story, and this is your name." Read the story to someone important.

Reading the Neighborhood

Show your child signs in your neighborhood, such as a stop sign. Tell him what it means. Point out the railroad sign and tell him it's where the trains go. In a restaurant, show your child the different pictures on rest room doors, one for girls and one for boys. Look at the painted crosswalk on the street. Next time you go out, ask him to read signs with you.

Silly Sounds

Play a silly copy game with your child in the car or on the bus. For example, tell her a silly phrase like, "Bee, zim, zop." See if your child can copy you. Let your child make up a silly phrase and copy her. Now make up a silly song to sing!

Notes:



Don't Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any material, food, or toy given to a young child should be reviewed for safety.