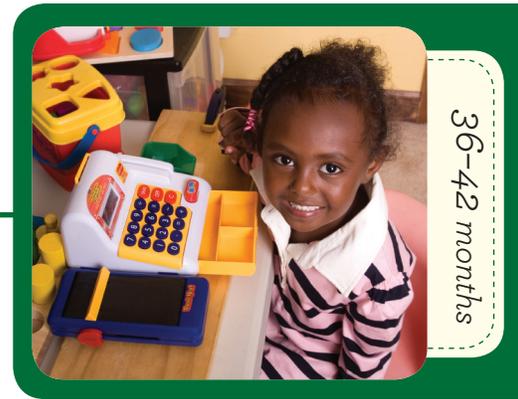


Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn

Your busy learner is gaining many skills. She can put puzzles together (six pieces or maybe more), draw some shapes (circles and squares), and identify a few colors. She can match an object to a picture of that object and notices many similarities and differences. She is very curious about how things work, and your answers really help her understand and learn.



Box o' Blocks

Collect blocks and small boxes for your child to use for building. Build things together. Cardboard pieces make great roofs, and rulers or paint-stirring sticks make great bridges. Make a town. Add some toy cars and toy people. The town will come to life!

Picnic Memory Magic

Pretend that you are going on a picnic to help your child develop her memory. Say, "We're going on a picnic, and we're bringing apples." Encourage your child to think of the next item. "We're going on a picnic and we're bringing apples and (cookies)." Take turns and keep adding new items. How many items can she remember? This is great fun while riding in the car or on the bus!

Mr. Sticks

Ask your child to draw a stick figure on a paper plate or piece of cardboard. Say, "This is Mr. Sticks." Hide Mr. Sticks, and give your child clues to lead to Mr. Sticks: "He's in a room with water but not the bathroom. He's in a drawer near a door." Finding Mr. Sticks earns a big hug. Now it's your child's turn to give you clues.

Money Management

Make play money from green paper. Pretend to be the storekeeper and say, "Those socks cost \$2. This lunch costs \$3." Help your child count the right amount of money. Now let your child be the storekeeper. Add to the fun by collecting cereal boxes or empty milk cartons to make a store.

Picture Shopping List

Cut magazine or newspaper pictures of some foods you'll be shopping for. Place them in an empty envelope and take them to the supermarket. Let your child pull out the pictures and remind you of what you need. If he is holding a picture of eggs, say, "Yes, we need eggs today." When you buy the items, be sure to thank him for helping you remember!

Set the Table

Let your child help you set the table. Put a plate at each place. Now ask your child to count the plates. Ask your child to tell you how many spoons she will need. Help her count them out loud. As she gets better at counting, add other items: "How many napkins do we need? You are a very good helper."

Big, Bigger, Biggest!

Gather four or five shoes of different sizes. Make a line on the floor with tape or string, or draw a line on a large piece of paper. Ask your child to line up the shoes. Show him how to start with the smallest, then find the next biggest, then the next, until the biggest shoe is at the other end. Once he has the idea, gather up all the shoes again and mix them up. Ask him how fast he can line them up from smallest to biggest. Ready, set, go! Try this game with other items such as rocks or pinecones.

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.