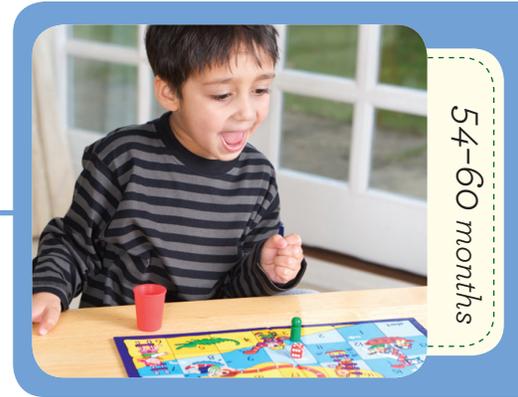


Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child can count to at least 15 from memory and can accurately count at least 10 objects. He is able to follow directions in a group activity and knows the rules at home and at school. He enjoys pretend play and may act out different roles with friends. Wild stories and exaggerations are common. He enjoys reading books and may have simple books memorized. He is starting to understand how things work in the world and is curious about why things are the way they are.

Pretzel Fun

Have fun making pretzel letters (or numbers). Wash your hands, then cut pizza dough into strips. Help your child form numbers or letters with the dough. Show her how to brush with a beaten egg, sprinkle with salt, and bake until golden brown. Tell your child the sounds that the letters make. Eat up an A, B, or C!

Fun Food Coloring

Let your child experiment with food coloring in his food. It only takes a small drop! Color scrambled eggs blue. Color a glass of milk red. Add a drop of green to a piece of apple or to a slice of bread before toasting it. Color mashed potatoes yellow. Ask your child for ideas!

How Long? How Many?

Count how long or how many times your child can do a new skill, such as standing on one foot or bouncing a ball. Celebrate doing a new skill for a little more time. Let her count while you try balancing a book on your head. Help your child practice new skills and counting.

Storytime Acting

Tell your child a story using different voices, body postures, facial expressions, or even hats to be different characters. Now it's your child's turn to tell a story. Encourage your little one to ham it up—and don't forget to be a good audience.

What's Missing?

Give your child time to look at a group of five or more different toys. Hide a single toy and ask, "Which toy is missing?" You may need to give clues at first. Once he guesses correctly, hide a different toy. Let him hide a toy for you. It's his turn to try to trick you!

Find the Treasure

Plan this activity ahead of time. Hide "treasure" (a favorite snack, a bag of crayons, some stickers) in a place your child can reach. Draw the place you want your child to search for each "treasure." Be sure to make the drawings simple and clear. Your child will have great fun with the treasure map. Celebrate when your child finds the treasure!

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. Always watch your child during mealtime.