

April Choice Board

<p>Play the What's Missing? Game—find several small objects from around the house and arrange them on floor. Lay a towel on top and as you pick up the towel, remove an item (so that your child does not see it). Try to guess what's missing. Offer clues as needed.</p>	<p>Squirt some shaving cream on the bathtub wall during bath time. Draw or write in the shaving cream. Watch the shaving cream float in the water.</p>	<p>Make paper plate tambourines. Staple a paper plate together leaving a 4 inch hole to add shaker items. Fill with beans, noodles, etc. Finish stapling the hole together. Put some tape around the staples to cover shape edges and to further close the edge of the plates together.</p>	<p>Make a list of items in the house or outside or use cut pictures from old magazines. Have your child find all items on the list and describe what they have found</p>	<p>Lay on your tummy and color or draw a picture. Tape a piece of paper to the bottom of a table & draw on it laying on your back. Which is harder? Why?</p>
<p>Build a tent using old blankets or sheets and chairs. What other items did you need to use? How did you keep the sheet from falling?</p>	<p>Draw on the sidewalk using chalk. Practice writing your name or your ABCs.</p> <p>Take out some old paintbrushes and a cup of water and encourage your child to paint on a fence or wall with the water</p>	<p>Use a deck of cards to practice counting and number recognition. Make sure to take the face cards out!</p>	<p>Make toilet paper tube binoculars. Tape two tubes together. Cover with aluminum foil and decorate if you want. Punch a hole in each side & attach a string to hang around your neck. Use for "I Spy" or other games!</p>	<p>Make maracas out of empty water or juice bottles. Fill bottle half full of beans, rice, beads, etc. Replace the lids and shake! You can decorate outside with stickers or tissue paper if you wish.</p>

May Choice Board

<p>Keep track of rainy/sunny/cloudy days for the week or month. How many did you have of each? Which one had the most? The least?</p>	<p>Do a number hunt around your home. Can you find the numbers 1-5? What items did you see them on? What other numbers did you see?</p>	<p>Read books with your child. Have them try to guess what the book is about by looking at the pictures before reading.</p>	<p>Find an extra chore that will help your child become a better mover (sorting clothes to work on throwing skills; sweeping the floor to work on strength).</p>	<p>Say your ABCs by making your body into the shape of each letter. Do you need more than one person to make any of the letters?</p>
<p>Can you skip? Give it a try- step, hop, step, hop. How about gallop? Pretend you are ice skating & try to glide across the ground.</p> <p>Can you leap? Pretend that your house is full of puddles and your job is to leap over all of them. Don't get wet!</p>	<p>Statues Game: Put your body into a balanced position and hold it while you count to 10. Try a more challenging position.</p>	<p>Go outside and explore speed – try moving really fast. Now move very slowly. Practice changing from fast to slow.</p>	<p>Go outside and practice your throwing skills. Find a big target and throw as hard as you can at it. Work on stepping right at the target with your “opposite” foot.</p>	<p>Cut a cereal box picture or greeting card into four or five pieces. Have your child try putting it back together.</p>
<p>Take a color walk and talk about the different colored flowers you see. What other items do you see with lots of colors?</p>	<p>Look at a cereal box while eating breakfast. What letters do you see that are also in your name? Which letters aren't in your name?</p>	<p>Take a rhyming walk around your house. Find all the rhyming matches you can. Try this outside also.</p>	<p>Turn on some music and have a dance party!</p>	<p>Blow bubbles outside. Talk about the different sizes of the bubbles. Try making your own bubble solution using dish soap & water.</p>
<p>Count how many footsteps it takes to get from the front door to your bedroom. Try this with other rooms in your home.</p>	<p>Have the family sit in a circle. Go around & tell something they like or appreciate about each other.</p>	<p>Clap & count the syllables in your name. Do all family members names.</p>	<p>Go on a sound hunt: find items that start with /s/, /t/, & /m/. You can change the sounds weekly.</p>	<p>Tell something that makes you happy. Why does it make you happy? How can you make others happy?</p>

June Choice Board

<p>Count everyone's fingers & toes in your house. Count each one, then by five's, then ten's.</p>	<p>How does it feel to walk barefoot on the grass, sand, on the kitchen floor, driveway? Give descriptions words. Do you feel differently walking inside or outside?</p>	<p>Count out silverware. Which do you have the most of? Least of? Can you make a pattern with them? (ex. Fork, spoon, fork, spoon)</p> <p>Have your child help set the table for a meal. Show them where everything goes. Talk about who sits at which seat.</p>	<p>Take all of those single socks and have your child find the match! Earn a point for each match which can be turned in for extra minutes of TV time or a fun family activity.</p> <p>Have your child sort laundry by lights and dark colors. This is a great activity for color discrimination & an important life skill lesson.</p>	<p>Use coffee filters or cut large flowers from colored paper and write a number on each flower 1-10. Lay the flowers on the floor and use beans, seeds, or small rocks to count out to match each number on each flower.</p>
<p>Light Letters: Write a letter, shape or picture on a piece of construction paper. Use a toothpick to punch holes along the lines of the letters. Hold a flashlight to the back of the paper to see the light shining through (or hold the paper up to a window).</p>	<p>Practice putting on your jacket or other items of clothing with buttons or zippers. If your child can already button or zip, practice tying shoes!</p>	<p>Go outside and lay down in the grass where you have a clear view of the sky. Look for different shapes in the clouds and tell a story about what you see. Draw a picture when you go back inside.</p> <p>Close your eyes and see how many sounds you can hear. Listen for the wind, birds, cars, etc.</p>	<p>Make an obstacle course. Jump, crawl, step, walk on a line on the floor, etc. inside or outside. See how many motor movements you can perform.</p>	<p>Make playdough – see recipe below. Make letters and numbers with the dough.</p> <p>Take a pipe cleaner and anchor it in a lump of PlayDoh and string fruit loops or Cheerios. This is a great way to practice patterning as well!</p>

Online Resources for Engagement Activities

www.Scholastic.com

Full learning themes with reading, videos, games, and activities for pre-K to 6 grade.

www.Wrl.org

This is the link to our local library for many resources, including “Book Flix,” animated books accompanied by non-fiction videos and games to help introduce new ideas and build comprehension.

Wideopenschool.org

Almost every kind of activity imaginable for grades Pre-K to 12.

www.highlightskids.com

Read and conduct cool science experiments along with games.

www.truceteachers.org

TRUCE offers some seasonal, screen-free ideas, using everyday items, to inspire your whole family - whatever their ages - to play together.

<https://healthyathome.readyrosie.com/en/>

With the growing impact of the COVID-19 virus, ReadyRosie is developing this free toolkit as a resource to support families with information and resources for supporting the children in their care.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/parenting/article/fun-learning-parents-children-activities-handbook>

Children are learning all the time. Parents will find this booklet helpful with great activities to share with their children. The booklet contains fun activities for parents and children to do together at home, indoors, and outdoors.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents>

Explore parent resources to help you raise kind, curious and resilient children.

<https://talkingisteaching.org/bundles>

<https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/literacy>

<https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/math>

<https://talkingisteaching.org/resources/social-emotional>

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/CDC_LTSAE-Checklists_WIC-Version_FINAL-2019-508.pdf

This is a comprehensive set of developmental milestones with wonderful engagement strategies for children from 2 months to 5 years old.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxxNIVz3M0EcR3vTKVwVIQ>

This is Phonics Man, with many activities about sounds and reading.

www.switcheroozoo.com

Watch, listen and play games to learn all about amazing animals.

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

Learn all about geography and fascinating animals.

www.reading.ecb.org

Go “into the book” to play games that practice reading skills and strategies.

www.seussville.com

Read, play games, and hang out with Dr. Seuss and his friends.

www.abcya.com

Practice math and reading skills all while playing fun games.

www.funbrain.com

Play games while practicing math and reading skills.

www.starfall.com

Practice phonics skills with read-along stories.

www.storylineonline.net

Have some of your favorite stories read to you by famous people.

**The following links are “Brain Breaks,” meaning they give your brain a break by using physical and musical activities to refresh your mind.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMdf9FfnT5A&list=PLhB4mdZpLV9Pam1YLI54lniDig8LOZ8R2&index=5&t=0s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VBrYBcxFPE&list=PLhB4mdZpLV9Pam1YLI54lniDig8LOZ8R2&index=5>

<http://www.viewpure.com/ETWjQTZR95o?start=0&end=0>

Calming: Maximo Tight Rope (K-5)

<http://www.viewpure.com/jTQrR1UIBRY?start=0&end=0>

Active: Yes, I Want to Build a Snowman! (K-2)

RECIPES FOR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES!

Homemade Playdough

***Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/4 cup salt
- 1.5 teaspoon canola oil
- 1 pack unsweetened kool-aid or 4-5 drops of food coloring

***Directions:**

1. Combine water and food coloring in a pot and bring to boil.
 2. While waiting for the water to boil, combine your dry ingredients in a separate bowl.
 3. Remove from heat and add the oil.
 4. Slowly stir in the dry ingredients. Continue mixing until the playdough forms a ball.
 5. When the playdough is cool enough, knead it until it is no longer sticky. Lightly flour hands first to prevent sticking.
- Notes: If you like a softer playdough, add a splash more water during step 5. If your playdough is too sticky add a couple drops of oil. Store your playdough in an airtight container or Ziploc bag.

Homemade Slime

***Ingredients:**

1/2 cup Elmer's glue
1/4 cup water
1/2 cup Sta-Flo liquid starch
optional: glitter and food coloring

***Directions:**

1. Start by adding 1/2 cup glue to a bowl.
2. Stir in 1/4 cup of water.
3. Then mix in any glitter or food coloring. Make sure to only use a few drops of food coloring.
4. Slowly stir in the 1/2 cup of liquid starch.
5. Knead the slime on a mat. It will be sticky at first, but don't give up! Use a little more extra liquid starch or contact solution (that contains sodium borate or boric acid) as you knead it. The more you play with it, the less sticky it gets. Just don't use TOO much liquid starch or contact solution, or the slime will start to get stringy.
6. After playing, store for a few days in a Ziploc bag or airtight container.

Soap-based Paint in the Bathtub

Note: First test a small amount of your paint on the bathtub surfaces to make sure that it won't stain. Recipe based on recipe found at <http://diypreschool.blogspot.com/2007/04/bathtub-paints.html>

***Ingredients:**

1 cup Liquid soap
1 cup cornstarch

***Directions:**

Mix the ingredients and separate into several muffin tins or other small containers. Color each with a drop of different color food coloring. Allow child to paint with his hands in the bathtub. Can also be used outdoors to paint toes and fingers.

Cloud Dough

***Ingredients:**

2 cups corn starch
1 cup baby lotion

***Directions:**

Mix together. Add food coloring and/or essential oils if you want. *Feels Amazing!

Homemade Finger Paint

***Ingredients:**

3 Tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup corn starch
2 cups water

***Directions:**

Combine ingredients in small saucepan. Warm until mixture thickens. Cool and pour in several small containers. Add food coloring to create different colors. Finger paint on large sheets of paper, wax paper, or foil.

Simple Salt Dough

***Ingredients:**

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup salt
1 cup warm water

***Directions:**

In a large bowl, mix water and salt until dissolved. Gradually add flour to form a soft dough. Roll, cut, color, paint and play with your dough. Bake at 250 degrees until dry if you want to save your creation.

Moon Sand

***Ingredients:**

8 cups flour
1 cup baby oil

***Directions:**

Mix ingredients together. It is really soft and easy to clean up!

Homemade Paint

***Ingredients:**

1 cup salt
1 cup flour
1 cup water
Several colors of food coloring

***Directions:**

Stir all ingredients together. Separate the mixture into 4 portions and color each with a different food color. Can be stored in old jars or squirt bottles (like old ketchup bottles), Paint on paper, cardboard, wax paper, foil, or old newspapers.

COOKING CAN BE AN ART—AND A SCIENCE!

Simple Banana Muffins

***Ingredients:**

4 very ripe or frozen bananas
1 box yellow cake mix
Optional: ¼ cup uncooked oatmeal or 3 table spoons flax seed
Cooking temp: What it says on the box (usually 350)

***Directions:**

1. Preheat oven.
2. Mix the flax seed and contents of box together.
3. Mash the bananas.
4. Mix the mashed bananas with the dry ingredients.
5. Scoop into muffin tins and cook about 16- 18 mins.

Simple Chocolate Pumpkin Muffins

***Ingredients:**

One box chocolate cake mix (15.25 – 18.25)

¼ cup oatmeal (optional)

1 can pure pumpkin (15 oz)

Baking Temp: 400

***Directions:**

1. Preheat oven.
 2. Stir the rolled oats and the box of cake mix together
 3. Add the whole can of pumpkin and mix well.
- Scoop into muffin tins and bake about 20 mins.

Other Artsy Activity Ideas:

- Put glow sticks in plastic water bottles for outdoor nighttime bowling
- Paint the sidewalk, the fence, a cement wall, etc. with paintbrushes and water
- Make your own ABC book – Write the letter at the top of a piece of paper. Add pictures of things that start with that letter (draw them, cut them out of magazines, ask family members to all draw one)