

Playful activities to set up for children to explore independently...

Images from Imagination Tree & other sources

These activities can be set up for independent exploration as well as with an adult if possible, they are fairly open ended and provide opportunities for other learning. There are some ways to enhance and add challenge but equally the children will often find new ways to do things within their play as well.

Maths activities



Beans and flower pots counting activity



Using beans and small pots, children need to fill up the pots with the correct number of beans.

This can be adapted to addition and subtraction—instead of having pots with just the numeral, have an equation on the pots that children have to solve and then put the correct number of beans in.

To make it more challenging physically, put a spoon, pair of tweezers or small tongs and children must pick the beans up using this,

Encourage use of mathematical language “I took away _ and now I have _ left.”

“Three plus/add three is equal to 6” “five take away 2 is equal to 3”

Showing children the equation backwards e.g.

$4 = 2 + 2$ to encourage understanding of equal meaning balanced either side.

Stick spaghetti into the playdough and using beads (or coloured cheerios if you don't have beads) make patterns—discuss the structure of the repeating pattern, is it ABAB or ABB or AAB etc. and encourage children to then record their pattern on paper maybe using coloured pencils or pens.

Questions during this activity could be like...

Can you make a pattern using 2/3/4 different colours?

Can you place 10 beads on the spaghetti?

Can you place $4+3$ beads on?

Can you place $7-4$ beads on?



PATTERNING & COUNTING WITH BEADS ON SPAGHETTI



Number bonds to 10

If you have eggs like these in your house you can use them to create a number bonds to 10 activities, using the bottom and the top to show the number pairs—inside the eggs you could place beans, pom poms or other small objects to help add the two numbers together e.g. 3 pompoms in the 3 half and 7 in the 7 half and children can count them altogether, therefore independently finding the number bonds to 10.

Questions to ask:

What do you need to add to [7] to make 10?

How many more than 6 is 10?

What is one fewer than 10?

If we need to find 10 and we already have 4 how could we find out how many we need to add to 4 to make 10?

Encourage recording of these number facts and recalling them with speed and accuracy, as well as looking at the inverse e.g. if $6+4=10$ what is $10-6$?

You can also use the part-whole model and tens frame provided to help with the understanding of number bonds to 10.



We have been learning about 3D shapes—to consolidate this learning you could talk about the different shapes and their properties when building or looking at things around your home. To look at the difference between 2D and 3D you could make 2D shapes using lolly sticks and talk about the 2D shapes we see around the environment too. Note: we learn about rectangles as a family that has oblongs (two long sides and two short sides) and squares (all equal sides).

Some active ways to develop sound recognition and blending skills whilst also developing fine motor skills.



Alphabet Beans *matching game*



Sounds to consolidate:

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: l, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

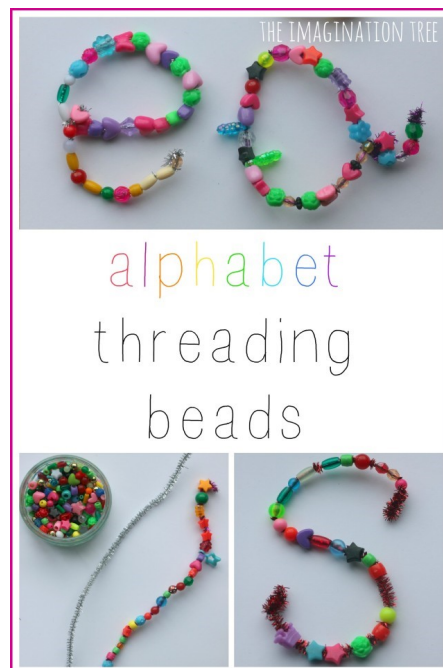
Set 5: h, b, f, l, ll, ss, ff

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

Vowel digraphs: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, er, ear, air, ure



Please look at the sound sheet in your child's reading record which will show the sounds your child should focus on. Enhance the games by creating words instead of just matching sounds, this will help their blending and segmenting skills. You could start by writing words that they have to make and then allow them to make words independently through their play. You could add the red and green word cards that have been given previously to help make sentences alongside these activities.



For this activity, instead of having both the capital and lower case letter on the tube rolls—try having just the capital letter on the tube rolls and lower case on the ball (or whatever else is handy to put down the rolls), this will help children to recognise both lower and upper case letters as this can be tricky



PHONICS CUPS word building



Magical Moon Dust *Sensory Writing Tray*

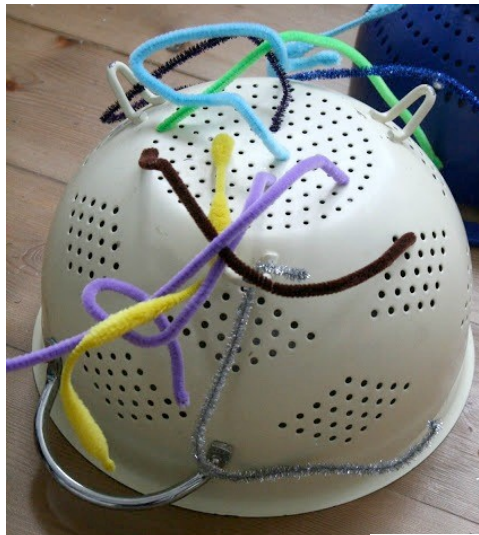


You don't need to have coloured sand for this—you can use rice, normal sand, paint, glitter, slime, etc.

Fine Motor Activities—to strengthen those hands!



Painting with... fingers, cotton buds, forks, paintbrushes, tea bags, etc.



Weaving, threading and sewing—combine this with pattern making, counting, addition, subtraction, etc.



Sorting pom-poms and placing them through the bottles—enhance by moving on from numerals to equations.

Playdough—moulding, rolling, cutting, shaping, placing things like sticks, gems, candles in it. There are lots of recipes online for making your own playdough and the children have made it before by themselves—an opportunity for them to use their measuring skills and talk about how the ingredients combine and change.



Cutting—with scissors, hole punches, tearing, etc. They can cut different materials and encourage them to hold scissors correctly and safely.



Stacking objects is a great way to develop fine motor skills and hand/eye coordination. It is also a way to incorporate problem solving, counting, addition, subtraction, language and resilience into an activity.