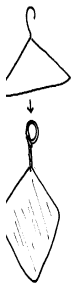


Home made toys

Toddlers 18 months - 3 years

ACTIVE PLAY

Home-made toys are fun, easy to make, have minimal cost, and develop creativity in your child. You can make them for your child's special interests and needs. Children have a wonderful imagination. Let them use it when making toys. Help your child when required, but let them learn by doing as much for themselves as they can. Involve them in choosing colours, designs and materials.



BAT AND BALL

To make a bat re-shape a wire coat hanger and make the hook into a safe circle. Thread stocking over the top and secure around the handle with insulation tape. For the ball, stuff the toe of the stocking with plastic bags to make a ball. Secure with a knot and tie on extra stockings to give length to hang from clothesline or under patio rafter.



HOBBY HORSE

Take an adult's sock and stuff with acrylic filling. Sew on felt ears, nose, buttons for eyes and wool strips for the main. Use a cord for harness. Attach to a broom handle with insulation or masking tape.

COMMUNICATION TOYS

BOOKS

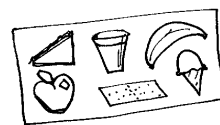
Use a photograph album with "sticky" clear covers on each page. Put favourite pictures, cards, photos, etc in album. Seal up edges with masking tape. Do it together with your toddler and make it "their" book.

Use cardboard pieces and tie together with string. Glue pictures, photos, cards etc to cardboard, and cover with clear contact. Make it with your toddler. Theme ideas for each page could include animals, birds, family, my body, cars and trucks, big and little, "what I found on my walk" (leaves, small seeds, etc).



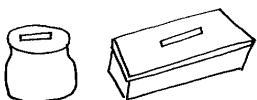
COMMUNICATION BOARD

Use the "junk" mail catalogues to cut out pictures of favourite foods, toys, etc and glue on to a piece of cardboard. Cover with clear contact and use to encourage pointing and using words, rather than crying or whinging.



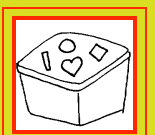
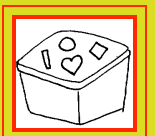
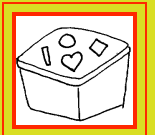
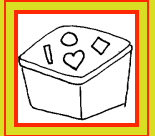
POSTING CONTAINERS

Use an ice-cream container, wine cask, shoe box (or similar), and cut the lid to make suitable slots for different objects to post into the box. Use plastic lids (from milk/ juice containers) as "coins" to post. Or post pegs, buttons, cards, ping-pong balls, etc. As your child gets older, cut a variety of slots for different shapes. Be aware of choking hazards when choosing objects to post.



PLAY
IDEAS 21

ABOUT
TODDLER
TOYS



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PRETEND PLAY

PLAY
IDEAS 21

TEDDY/DOLLY CARRY BASKET

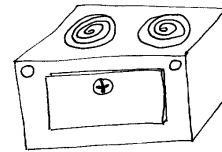


Take the bottom of a shoebox and cover with material or contact. Attach cord handles through holes inside of box.

POTS AND PANS

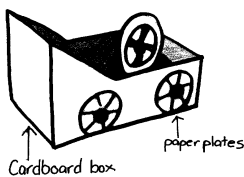
Use film containers as handles on take-away containers. Attach with plastic string.

TOY STOVE / FRIDGE / KITCHEN CUPBOARD



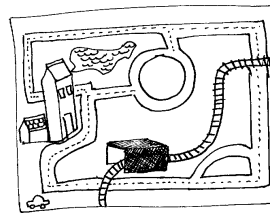
Cover a sturdy box with contact or paper. Cut a large flap in one side for a door. Attach knobs (using plastic bottle lids) or draw hot plates on the top.

CAR, BUS, FIRE-ENGINE



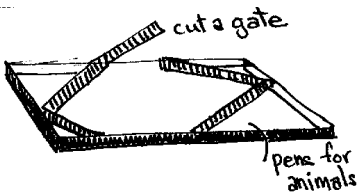
Use a strong fruit box that is large enough for your child to sit in. Attach plastic lids or paper plates with plastic string to act as wheels. Attach smaller plastic lids as head and tail lights. Use plastic bottle lids as control knobs. Attach larger lid or paper plate to act as a steering wheel. Paint and decorate as needed. Attach another box on the back with pegs for teddy or dolly.

ROAD CITY/AIRPORT MAT



Draw a road map/airport map on a large piece of cardboard (disassemble a large box). Draw roads wide enough for small cars, trains or planes. Paint areas green to resemble grass. Make houses, garages, and other buildings from cardboard milk containers. Make bridges and tunnels with blocks or boxes.

FARM

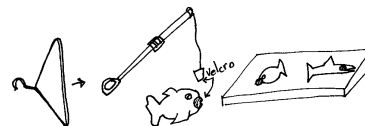


Use a box with low sides and place green contact, crepe paper, paint or material on base. Make fences with cardboard or sticks. Make trees from cardboard rolls and crepe paper, add food troughs, ponds etc.

MOBILE TELEPHONE

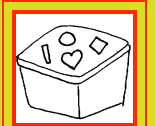
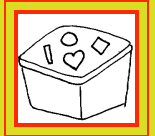
Cut a piece of cardboard to mobile's size. Cover with contact or just draw on numbers, screen and controls. Make two mobiles and pretend to "call" each other.

FISHING GAME



Make a shallow box into a pond with blue paper on the base. Stretch out a wire coat hanger and tape over hook to form fishing rod. Tie string or wool to rod and stick "velcro" on end of string. Place velcro dots on small pictures of fish and you're ready to go fishing!

ABOUT TODDLER TOYS



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Supervise children closely while making toys, especially if using knives/scissors/glue/paint/staplers etc. Be aware of choking hazards and toxic materials.



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