

**ACTIVITIES & LINKS TO KEEP
YOUR 18 MONTHS - 3.5 YEARS OLD ACTIVE &
HAVING FUN WHILE THEY ARE AT HOME.**



SmartKids' "Play-2-Learn" builds on 40+ years of experience demonstrating how learning through play is a powerful and effective approach to ensure children's healthy development, wellbeing, and learning.

Play can support the holistic development and resilience children need to thrive in a complex and constantly changing world.

Kind Regards, International Child Care & Learning Centres

QUICK SET UP ACTIVITIES

CARDBOARD TREE HOUSE

Try this recycled cardboard treehouse for small world play. It is great with all small world figures, Lego, or bears. It could even be painted. This treehouse has been made using sturdy cardboard from a box; cardboard paper towel rolls; string or jute and items from the garden eg twigs and glued together with pva glue.

GROUPING OBJECTS FROM MAGAZINES

Separating things in different groups enables children to develop their categorisation skills. Bring out some old magazines, safety scissors, glue and paper. Together, choose a category you will look for in the magazine eg. Fruit and vegetables or transport etc. Once you find a picture, cut around the shape and glue onto your paper.

BALANCING ACTIVITIES

While children are riding a three-wheeled bicycle, or walking along a line, or yoga, they will face some of the difficulties such as losing the balance of the three-wheeled bicycle or stepping off the line and they will learn to cope with these kinds of difficulties over a period of time. In this way, children's concentration and balance ability will develop.



FIVE LITTLE DUCKS

This is a fun finger play rhyme you can do with your fingers. Hold up five fingers to represent the little ducks and your other hand makes a duck beak to represent mother duck.

Lyrics:

Five little ducks went out one day, over the hill and far away
Mother duck said "Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But only four little ducks came back.
Repeat song 4, 3, 2, 1. No little ducks came back.
Then, Old Mother duck went out one day over the hills and far away,
Mother duck said' Quack, quack, quack, quack and all of her five little ducks came back!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cujpd2O6_nw



INDOOR BASKETBALL

Scrunch up sheets of old newspaper to make lots of balls. Clear a space and remove any breakable objects before starting play. Start off by having a competition to see who can throw the balls the furthest. Then place a wastepaper bin a meter or so away and see who can throw their ball into the bin. Besides keeping your child entertained for ages, this type of physical play will also help to improve your child's hand-eye coordination.

FUN BRAIN

Funbrain offers hundreds of games, books, comics, and videos that develop skills in math, reading, problem-solving and literacy.

<https://www.funbrain.com/pre-k-and-k-playground>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

This is where you can discover some of the coolest facts for kids from around our planet.

From animals and geography to science, nature and history, there are so many amazing facts for kids just waiting to be discovered by young explorers like you!

<https://www.natgeokids.com/au/>



EYE CONTACT

Young minds absorb the world around them and develop their ability to communicate using their visual senses. From an early age, children prefer to look at faces that engage them in mutual gaze. The majority of information that a child receives initially gets processed through their vision. Visual development among toddlers not only promotes language development but also their fine motor skills, and gradually leading towards other activities that would require hand-eye coordination. Here are some tricks to help your child develop eye contact.

- To establish eye contact, sit face to face with your child. Attempt to place your child higher than you. Examples of possible positions are:
 - Sit your child on your lap, facing you
 - Sit in a chair and place your child in a high chair or booster seat,
 - Place you child on the couch or chair and sit on the floor in front of him/her
- To draw your child's attention, hold objects near your face to help guide your child with verbalizing. Often words do not have meaning and for other children, a verbal cue could cause him/her to tune you out.
- Tap your child's nose and then your nose. After the child looks, even for a brief second, reward him/her and say "good looking"
- Put your child's hands on your face to gain attention before giving him/her a direction to follow or a choice
- Eliminate or reduce auditory and visual distraction, like the television, radio, etc.. This helps your child to focus on you.
- As your child increases eye contact with you, give him/her the verbal cue "Look". When you child looks at you respond.
- Play "funny faces" games in the mirror. Your child can establish eye contact with you in the mirror.

ACTIVITIES WITH MINIMAL RESOURCES



WEEKLY FAMILY TRADITION

Add a NEW weekly tradition to your family, so everyone has something to look forward to. Eg game night, charades, baking day, craft day, family movie night, dance party or even as simple as an I love you or story before bedtime ritual.



FEEL GOOD BOX

Fill a small box with things that make your child/ren feel good (something soft or squishy to touch, lyrics or quote from favourite songs or shows, a favourite book, a non-perishable snack they like etc).



LET'S GO BOWLING!

Turn your hallway into a bowling alley for rainy days or make one outdoors on sunny days. You could use paper towel rolls or empty plastic bottles for bowling pins or design with your own cardstock paper. Get creative!



SHAVING CREAM SENSORY EXPERIENCE

This is a messy but FUN sensory activity! A tip is to head outdoors for this one. You could set this activity up in a shallow tray (and use food colouring for mixing colours, or let your child smear shaving cream on the window/ door or table with a plastic tablecloth. Start with a small area and then let them spread it along the window, having them draw squiggles in the cream with their fingers. It helps your child explore their senses of touch and smell. Can be hosed off when finished.



https://smarkidsinfo.com/parenting/Eye_Contact.pdf
<https://www.lyndhurstschools.net/userfiles/488/my%20files/earlylanguagedevelopment.pdf?id=575195>

At SmartKids, we "Play to Learn" and prepare children for the future, both academically, emotionally and behavioral.

Our daily classes start from 18 months old, with flexible programs. We have an International program and a Dual-Language program.

Are you interested in a facility tour and more detailed Information please contact Ms Yoko 0903 957 316 – yoko@smarkidsinfo.com or Ms Yen 0909 596 075