

ROOM



THE ACTIVITY ROOM

September's Activity Plans
for Toddlers & Preschoolers



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THIS MONTH'S THEME:

Make reading a top priority.



Full Supply List

In each week of activities, there's a supply list. You can quickly scan the list to see what you need for the week. Most items are supplies from the home (office, kitchen, kids toys, etc).

Below is a list of supplies to do every activity in the month of September.

Craft Items:

paint
paper or cardstock
butcher paper
markers
pencil
ribbon
tape
stapler
school glue
craft or popsicle sticks
colored craft sticks
red yarn
green paper
red tissue paper
paper scraps (fall colors)
glitter

Kitchen Items:

water
dish or small tray
kitchen tongs
muffin tin
clear jars
spoons
oven

Pantry Items:

apples
water bottles
pantry items (spices, etc.)

From the Outdoors:

various nature objects

Around the House:

clear tub or bucket
objects and toys
toy trucks
blocks
newspapers
electrical tape
painters tape
box
books

Other:

iPad / camera
narrow neck bottle
play dough
pool noodles
funnels
wall (garage door or fence)
deck of cards



29

Monday: Glue two Popsicle sticks together in a cross and draw an airplane design on the top. A simple airplane for your child to fly.

*(2) craft sticks
school glue
markers*

30

Tuesday: Snap photos of objects around the house (look for shapes) with your iPad or camera. Go on a hunt to find the shapes in the photos!

camera or ipad

31

Wednesday: What floats? Fill a tub with water. Have the kids collect toys, or nature, to see what floats and what sinks.

*clear tub or bucket
toys or nature*

1

Thursday: Push ribbons into a narrow-neck bottle and pull out again.

*ribbons
narrow-neck bottle*

2

Friday: Explore a local attraction that you've never been to and learn something new!

3/4

Over the Weekend: Find the right books for you and your family.

Click [here](http://room.handsonaswegrow.com/monthly-theme/reading/) to download the the book lists, or go to:
<http://room.handsonaswegrow.com/monthly-theme/reading/>

THIS MONTH'S THEME: Make reading a top priority.



- 5** **Monday:** Make an apple by dipping red yarn in glue and covering the bottom of a muffin tin. Add a piece of green paper for a stem and let dry. Hang in a window to enjoy!
*red yarn
glue
glitter (optional)
muffin tin
oven (optional)*

- 6** **Tuesday:** Drive toy trucks through play dough for lots of pretend play!
*play dough (made or bought)
toy trucks or other toys*

- 7** **Wednesday:** Tape various sizes of pool noodles to a wall. Fill up water bottles and pour into top of funnels or pool noodles.
*(2) pool noodles
funnels
electrical tape
water bottles
tub of water
wall or fence*

- 8** **Thursday:** Tape their name on the floor. Trace the letters using objects and toys from around the house.
*painter's tape
objects and toys*

- 9** **Friday:** Bake your favorite dessert together.

- 10/11** **Over the Weekend:** Go to the library. Pick out one book for each person in the family, including yourself.

THIS MONTH'S THEME: Make reading a top priority.



12

Monday: Cut an apple in half, dip it in a tray of paint to cover the cut side of the apple. Stamp onto a piece of paper to make apple prints!

*apples
paint
paper
markers*



13

Tuesday: Use tape to make roads and train tracks to create a whole city! Add toys to the city to play in for days.

*painter's tape
blocks
toys*



14

Wednesday: Fold construction paper and tape together to make a pouch that becomes a mailbox. Set out paper and a pencil to 'write' letters and mail them.

*paper
tape or stapler
pen or pencil*



15

Thursday: Save a box that's big enough for your child to be inside. Collect books and have your child sit in the box and read.

*books
box*



16

Friday: Everyone take a nap together in one big family bed.



17/18

Over the Weekend: Create a Book Nook, a cozy place to read. Nothing fancy, just some place in the house, inside or outside, that you will enjoy reading, and a place for each of the kids too. Sometimes it might be better to have separate spots.

THIS MONTH'S THEME: Make reading a top priority.



19

Monday: Cut and glue a brown tree trunk onto a piece of cardstock. Add torn paper 'leaves' and red tissue paper 'apples' with glue to make an apple tree.

*paper scraps (fall colors)
paper / cardstock
red tissue paper
glue
glitter (optional)*

20

Tuesday: Using items from the pantry, do an experiment to see what dissolves in water.

*clear jars
water
spoons
pantry items (spices, etc)*

21

Wednesday: Lie down on your back and paint a large piece of paper with your feet.

*butcher paper
paint
tray
wall (garage door or fence)*

22

Thursday: Bring a favorite book to life! Become the characters of a book and act it out, beginning to end.

*book
paper (optional)
toys (optional)*

23

Friday: Head outside and pick up sticks and work on the yard together.

24/25

Over the Weekend: Cuddle up and read a book as a family.

THIS MONTH'S THEME: Make reading a top priority.



26

Monday: Create a sticky spider web with tape across an open doorway. Throw balled-up newspapers to stick to it!

*painter's tape
newspaper*

27

Tuesday: Tape one of each number card from a deck of cards to a wall (remove J, Q, K, A). Put tape on the rest of the number cards. Set out to find matches to the numbers on the wall.

*deck of cards
tape*

28

Wednesday: Play with blocks. When you're done, hand over kitchen tongs for clean up time.

*kitchen tongs
blocks*

29

Thursday: Build and create with crafts sticks and glue.

*colored craft sticks
school glue*

30

Friday: Watch a movie together as a family.

1/2

Over the Weekend: Create a creation station to focus on the process of creating. Set out supplies that you feel are 'safe' for your child to use without your guidance. And just see what happens. Items to maybe set out: paint, paintbrushes, sponges, paper, construction paper, scissors, stickers, markers and crayons, pom poms, and glue.

Looking forward to October: We'll be learning to let go.



Popsicle Airplane

Supplies:

- (2) craft sticks
- school glue
- markers

1

Glue two craft sticks together in a cross and let dry.

2

Draw on the craft sticks to make it look like an airplane

3

Pretend play and fly it around!



Tips:

Older kids can decorate their airplane to their desire (get the paint out, markers, etc). Younger kids will need your help.

Talk about what airplanes do and what kind of people fly in them. Who's the one flying it? Where do people go (on vacation, to work, to see family)?

Don't overthink this one, let your child's imagination fly.



Shape Photo Hunt

Supplies:
camera or iPad

1

Take a moment and go around the house or backyard and look for different shapes (triangle, circle, square, rectangle).

2

Snap photos of those shapes with your iPad or camera.

3

Hand over those photos (in digital or print form) to your child and go on a hunt to find them.



Tips:

When taking the photos, try to get in really close to the object. This way the surroundings can't be used as clues.

Add in a fun element of having your child take a photo of it too.

For triangles, look at tires (the spokes or hub caps), circles can be lids, wheels and so many things. Bricks are rectangles, so are tiles. Tiles can also be squares!



What Floats Experiment

Supplies:

*clear tub or bucket
toys or nature*

1

Fill a shallow tub 3/4 full of water.

2

Collect toys that are waterproof, or even pieces of nature.

3

Make a guess if each object will sink or float and then test to see!



Tips:

Collecting the toys can be part of the fun. Go on a hunt for just the right ones.

Be sure to collect some toys that will sink. Many waterproof toys are meant to float. So add in a sponge, a rock, or a spoon to make sure something sinks.

Older kids can chart their findings! On a paper, make a chart with two columns for sink and float and draw pictures of (or write) the objects under their corresponding column.



Ribbons in a Bottle

Supplies:

ribbons

narrow-neck bottle

1

Set out several scrap pieces of ribbon of different lengths, along with a narrow-neck bottle.

2

Push the pieces of ribbon into the opening of the bottle.

3

Shake the ribbons to come out and use fingers to pull them out. Repeat.



Tips:

Add a spark of fun to it with a simple spoon, or craft stick to push the ribbons down through the neck of the bottle.

Older kids can first measure and sort the length of the ribbons. Short and long piles, or a lineup of shortest to longest.

What else could you find to put in the bottle and dump out? Try it!



Yarn Apples

Supplies:

- red yarn
- glue
- green paper
- glitter (optional)
- muffin tin
- oven (optional)

1

Cut a long piece of yarn and stir into a mixture of glue and a tad bit of water in a large bowl (add glitter if desired).

2

Place yarn to lightly cover the bottom of each section of the muffin tin (add more glitter if desired).

3

Add a stem with green paper to each apple. Let dry overnight (or in the oven at the lowest temp).



Tips:

Be patient with them drying, it takes a long time.

Line muffin tin with wax paper for easier removal.

Hang them up in a window!



Play Dough & Trucks

Supplies:

*play dough (made or bought)
toy trucks or other toys*

1

Get out the play dough! Whether its homemade or bought, it doesn't matter.

2

Gather toy trucks.

3

Drive the trucks through the play dough for lots of pretend play!



Tips:

This simple play dough activity is just a prompt to try play dough in a new way.

What other things could you add to play dough for added fun? Try pipe cleaners and craft sticks!

Adding a pair of kids scissors to the mix offers an easy opportunity to practice cutting for the first time.



Pool Noodle Water Wall

Supplies:

- (2) pool noodles
- funnels
- electrical tape
- water bottles
- tub of water
- a wall or fence

1

Cut pool noodles into several different sizes.

2

Attach funnels and pool noodles to wall using electrical tape.

3

Fill water bottles with water and pour into the top of the funnels or pool noodles to run through.



Tips:

Attach the pool noodles at various heights (lower for younger kids, and higher for older kids)

Older kids can help set up the pool noodles and funnels to run the flow of the water from one to another.

The water wall can be as simple as one noodle to a complex structure with water flowing through, follow your child's lead and build on their ability and interest.



Tape Name & Trace

Supplies:

*painter's tape
objects and toys*

1

Tape your child's name on the floor with painter's tape.

2

Have your child collect items (such as blocks, cars, trains, etc) from around the house.

3

Place those items on the tape to trace their name.



Tips:

Be sure to talk about the letter they're working on. "Oh you're putting blocks on the letter L!" "What will you use for the letter O?"

You can also trace the letters with washable markers. They wipe right off with a wet rag or baby wipes.

You can also trace numbers or any letters you're working on with your child.



Apple Stamping

Supplies:

- apples*
- paper*
- paint*
- marker*

1

Cut an apple in half. Squirt red or green paint on a tray.

2

Dip cut side of apple into the paint.

3

Press onto paper to make a print of an apple. Add details of the apple with a marker (seeds, leaf & stem).



Tips:

Use a paper towel to dab off excess paint, if its too much, before making a print.

Younger kids will love making abstract apple prints

Offer older kids 2 different colors to make patterns



Make a Tape City

Supplies:

painter's tape

blocks

toys

1

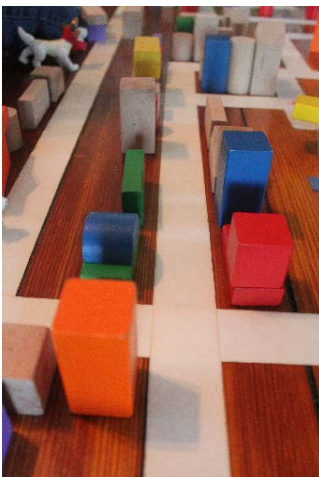
Tape roads or train tracks on the floor.

2

Add blocks and toys to make buildings around the city.

3

Drive cars and trucks through the city for days of pretend play!



Tips:

Only use painter's tape on hardwood floors, and always check a spot first to make sure it won't take off the finish.

Look around the toy box for inspiration, do you have a barn and animals to put around the roads? Do you have a house or fire station that can be used?

Instead of toys, you can build with blocks to make buildings (or simply each block is a building). Or even decorate cardboard boxes (cereal boxes work great) as buildings!



Mailbox Letters

Supplies:

- paper*
- tape or stapler*
- pen or pencil*

1

Fold a piece of construction paper in half and tape, or staple, the edges to create a pouch (mailbox).

2

Set out paper and writing utensils (markers, pencils, crayons, etc).

3

'Write' letters and pretend to mail them in the mailbox.



Tips:

Writing for toddlers is basically scribbling. Let them be creative!

Name the mailbox with a letter. Tell them to put a letter in the "H" mailbox. (Hint: Use letters for family or friends.)

Leave this up for days! It is fantastic pretend play and gets your child using their fine motor skills by writing.



Books in a Box Adventure

Supplies:

box

books

1

Save a box that's big enough for your child to sit inside.

2

Have your child pick out 3-5 of their favorite books.

3

Sit in the box and read the books!



Tips:

Choose books that your child can 'read' on their own, whether that's reading or looking at pictures, or 'reading' stories they know by heart.

Have fun with your box and take breaks to decorate in between books

Don't expect perfect angles sitting in a box! Boxes can be lots of fun, let them explore and see what it becomes.



Apple Tree Craft

Supplies:

paper scraps (fall colors)

paper / cardstock

red tissue paper

glue

glitter (optional)

1

Cut a tree trunk and main branches from brown paper, glue onto cardstock.

2

Rip paper scraps into small pieces. Bunch pieces of red tissue paper into small balls.

3

Glue paper scraps and tissue paper onto tree trunk as leaves and apple. Add glitter if desired.



Tips:

Add an extra touch of fun and trace their hand and forearm to make the tree trunk and branches!

Let kids tear the paper, this is a great fine motor skill.

Show kids where to glue the leaves onto the tree trunk, however, let them be creative.



See What Dissolves

Supplies:

clear jars

water

spoons

pantry items (spices, etc)

1

Fill a bunch of clear jars half full with water (peanut butter jars work great, but glasses would work too!). Gather random items from the pantry.

2

One at a time, dump a spoonful of each pantry item into a jar.

3

Stir each item in the water to see if it dissolves or changes in the water.



Tips:

Items that work great: rice, oatmeal, sugar, salt, colored sprinkles, cereal, spices, popcorn.

Ask your child what they see happening? They may not understand what 'dissolve' means. But they can describe what they see.

Try this outside with items in nature too. Leaves? Dirt? Rocks?



Laying Down Feet Painting

Supplies:

butcher (art) paper

paint

tray

wall (garage door or fence)

1

Tape a large piece of paper on a wall (garage door or fence), that's low to the ground.

2

Put paint in a tray near the paper.

3

Lie down on their back with their feet positioned to touch the paper. Paint the paper with their feet!



Tips:

Be ready with a bucket of water or a hose to wash their feet!

Raise it just a tad higher for older kids to really reach to paint.

Younger kids might like to keep it on the ground and run across. Try it!



Act Out a Story

Supplies:

- book*
- paper (optional)*
- toys (optional)*

1

Read your child's favorite book to refresh the storyline.

2

Use your imaginations to act out the story.

3

Bring the story to life!

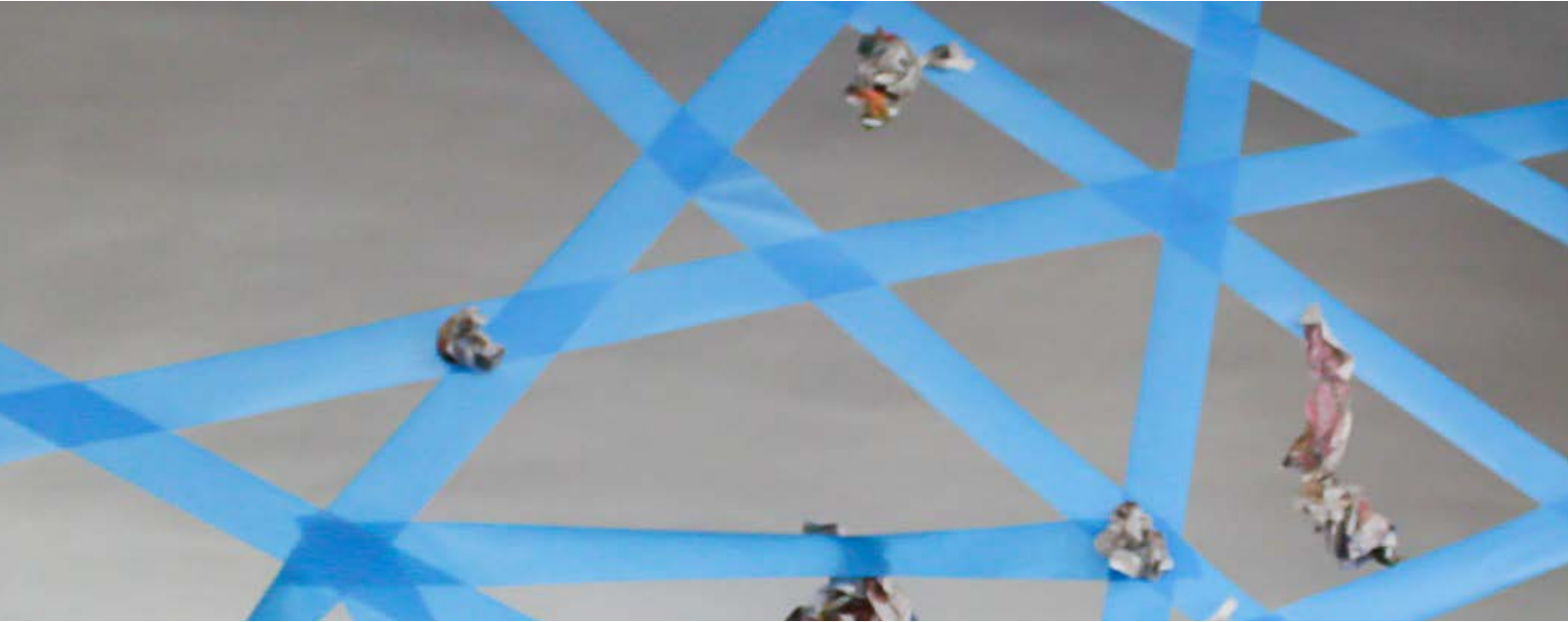


Tips:

You can draw the story on a paper using a road as a timeline, use toys as props, or just use yourselves as characters.

Ask your child questions about the story and go from there. Asking what happened in the story, with "props" at hand, start explaining the story to each other.

See where this leads, don't worry if it strays from the book storyline. Maybe you could create an alternative ending.



Sticky Spider Web

Supplies:
painter's tape
newspaper

1

Criss-cross tape across an open doorway to make a spider web.

2

Scrunch up newspaper into balls.

3

Throw the newspaper balls into the spider web to stick to it.



Tips:

Not all painter's tapes are created equal and it won't all stick the best. Masking tape sticks better, just be careful of your woodwork.

Instead of newspaper, try cotton balls or pom poms, or even yarn!

For younger kids, tape the spider web low enough so they can touch it to stick the newspaper to it instead of throwing it.



Number Card Slap

Supplies:

deck of cards

tape

1

Sort through a deck of cards and group them all by number.

2

Tape one of each number on the wall. Put tape on the back of the rest of the cards.

3

Pick up a card and find its match on the wall. Slap it on there to stick it on top of it.



Tips:

I roll the tape on the back of the card. You can also just tape it on the front to hang it in place.

You can do this on the table too. The wall just makes it fun. Especially if you hang the cards just slightly high enough that they have to jump a tad to reach them.

Not quite ready to match numbers? Just sort them by colors, red and black!



Tongs Pickup

Supplies:

- kitchen tongs*
- blocks*

1

Dump out the tub of blocks and play with the blocks as normal.

2

When done playing, use kitchen tongs to make picking up the blocks fun!

3

Squeeze one block at a time in the tongs and drop it back into the tub.



Tips:

Be aware that kitchen tongs are notorious for pinching.

Too simple? Pick up only one color at a time.

Can they grab two blocks with the tongs at one time?



Craft Sticks Art

Supplies:

- colored craft sticks*
- school glue*

1

Set out colored craft sticks and glue for your child.

2

Add dabs of glue on the end of the craft sticks to attach to another. Keep adding to your desire.

3

Let dry completely and find a place to proudly display it!



Tips:

This is all about the child's creativity. Let them create what they want.

When your child is done, you may need to go back and add glue to spots to make sure everything stays together.

A hot glue gun works awesome for this. Kids can do this with supervision. Just be sure to point out the hot parts not to touch.