THE ACTIVITY ROOM

June’s Activity Plans
for Toddlers & Preschoolers
# June Activity Plan

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**THIS MONTH'S THEME:**

**Getting to Know Your Child**
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 June.

Craft Items:
- paper or card stock
- pencil
- marker
- black Sharpie marker
- school glue
- scissors (optional)
- acrylic craft paint
- paintbrushes
- clear contact paper
- clear spray sealer (optional)
- paper clips
- pipe cleaners
- straws
- pom poms or cotton balls
- sidewalk chalk
- chalk
- paint and glitter
- string or yarn

Kitchen Items:
- bowls
- small dish
- dishes
- measuring cups and spoons
- tray or baking sheet
- wire cooling rack or other
- muffin pan
- coffee filters
- food coloring
- blue food coloring
- cupcake liner
- paper plates
- paper towels

Around the House:
- washers and nuts
- hammer
- nail
- old boards or books
- empty jug with a cap
- house paintbrushes
- painter’s tape
- bungee cord
- eye dropper

Other:
- bucket
- sand or pantry item
- smooth rocks or stones
- objects from nature
- large rock
- raised surface
- play dough
- sidewalk or pavement
- mud or dirt and water
- leaves

Pantry Items:
- water
- oil (baby, vegetable, etc)
- flour or cornflour
- tin cans
**Monday:** Make a paper clip chain! See how long you can go.

**Tuesday:** Paint smooth rocks with acrylic craft paint to completely cover them, and let dry. Write labels of the plants on the rocks with a black permanent marker. If placing these outside, spray a few coats of clear sealer over the rocks and let dry.

**Wednesday:** Add some rocks inside an empty jug and put the cap on. Decorate the jug with permanent markers, if desired. Kick the jug around like a ball!

**Thursday:** Collect various objects of nature in a muffin tin. Pour water into each section to see what absorbs water and what doesn’t.

**Friday:** Don’t let the other catch (or step on) your shadow when out on a walk.

**Over the Weekend:** Observe your child this weekend and fill out a ‘My Child’ for each of your kids. Click HERE to download the My Child sheet, or go to:


**THIS MONTH’S THEME:** **Getting to Know Your Child**
**June Activity Plan: Week Two**

**Monday:** Make beautiful flowers with coffee filters. Paint or dip them in colored water. Let dry. Twist centers to form a flower and wrap a pipe cleaner around the center for a stem.

**Tuesday:** Roll small balls out of play dough and stick a straw into a ball. Attach the straws and play dough together to build structures and shapes!

**Wednesday:** By using a bucket of water and a large rock, explore the sound of dropping the rock into the water. Watch out for the splash!

**Thursday:** Go on a spy hunt! Tape diagonally between walls down a hallway, stick pom poms to it randomly. Have the kids crawl through, over and under, to collect the pom poms.

**Friday:** Go for a drive and let your child navigate the way.

**Over the Weekend:** Get to know your child through an interview! Ask them questions and jot down their answers. Click [HERE](http://room.handsonaswegrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Interview-Child-sheet.pdf) or go to:


**THIS MONTH’S THEME:**  Getting to Know Your Child
**Monday:** Make a nature suncatcher. Cut the centers out of paper plates. Cover with clear contact paper. Fill with found objects from nature.

**Tuesday:** Write any number on a piece of paper. Trace the number with a paintbrush and glue. Play with sand on the paper and shake it off! It’ll stick to the number to create a texture!

**Wednesday:** Draw a target on the driveway or sidewalk in chalk. Make, or gather, mud to throw at the target.

**Thursday:** Give your child a bungee cord to explore around the yard. See if you can find something to drag with the bungee cord, something to pull against that won’t move, and something up high above their head.

**Friday:** Draw your family portrait with sidewalk chalk on the sidewalk or driveway.

**Over the Weekend:** Find out what your child(ren)’s favorite meal is and make it together.

**This Month’s Theme:** Getting to Know Your Child
**Monday:** Go on a hunt to find different pieces in nature. Set up a simple “I Spy” tray by placing the found nature items on a tray. Call out an object for them to find and explore.

**Tuesday:** Write numbers in a line on the sidewalk. Go on a hunt to find X number of leaves of a certain type and place by corresponding number.

**Wednesday:** Fold a cupcake liner in half and glue to the center of a piece of paper as an umbrella. Draw the handle with a marker. Add blue food coloring to a dish of water and use an eye dropper to drip rain drops on the paper around the umbrella.

**Thursday:** Mix 2 cups flour with 2/3 cup oil to make cloud dough! Play with it like wet sand, mold it any way they like!

**Friday:** Go on a family bike ride to the park to play.

**Over the Weekend:** Go on a field trip to some place where your child can do what they’re good at. (Are they good at running? Make sure they can run where you go!)

**THIS MONTH’S THEME:** Getting to Know Your Child
Monday: Set out three bowls and label them each with a paper as “sticks”, “rocks”, and “leaves”. Go on a hunt to find items in nature. Sort the nature into their corresponding bowls.

Tuesday: Make a homemade balance beam using old boards. Then walk along it! Can you do it backwards?

Wednesday: Make homemade wind chimes! Paint tin cans and punch a hole in the bottoms. Thread nuts and washers on the inside using yarn to hang them.

Thursday: Draw squiggly lines of chalk on the sidewalk, paint them with water to erase them.

Friday: Build a fort and read in it in the dark tonight!

Over the Weekend: Take a closer look at your normal schedule and fill out the ‘Finding Time’ sheet. Click HERE to download the Finding Time sheet, or go to:

Next Month’s Theme: Follow Your Child’s Interest
Paper Clip Chain

Supplies:
paper clips

1. Grab a handful of paper clips from your desk.

2. Show your child how to slide them together.

3. Continue sliding them together to make a long paper clip chain.

Tips:
Clipping paper clips together takes focus and coordination. It may not come easily to your toddler.

Can you make a paper clip bracelet or a necklace?

After you’re done putting them together, take them back apart.
Garden Rocks

Supplies:
smooth rocks or stones
acrylic craft paint
black Sharpie marker
clear spray sealer (optional)
paper towels
wire cooling rack or other raised surface

Paint smooth rocks with acrylic craft paint to completely cover them and let dry.

Write a label for each plant, or seed, on each rock with black permanent marker.

If placing these outside, spray a few coats of a clear sealer over the rocks to protect them, and let dry.

Tips:
Encourage color recognition by saying the color and then pick out the correct color to paint each rock.

Don't worry about painting the bottom of the rocks, it won't show in the garden!

Practice letter recognition by having your child “read” a label on a seed packet by telling you each letter.
Kick the Jug

**Supplies:**
- empty jug with a cap
- rocks
- permanent marker (optional)

1. Add rocks inside an empty jug and put the cap on.

2. Decorate the jug with permanent markers, if desired.

3. Kick the jug around like a ball!

**Tips:**

This activity is probably best done outside, but if it needs to be indoors, try rolling the jug back and forth on the floor instead of kicking it.

Instead of rocks, fill the jug with other objects and compare how they are to kick. Is it harder? Does it sound different?

For younger kids, leave the rocks out to make it easier to move around.
What Absorbs Experiment

**Supplies:**
- nature
- muffin pan
- water

1. Go on a hunt around the backyard and collect various objects from nature. Sort and place in a muffin tin.

2. Pour water over your nature collections in each section in the muffin tin.

3. Make a guess if each object will absorb the water, or not.

**Tips:**
- Ask your child what they see happening? They may not understand what ‘absorbs' means. But they can describe what they see.
- Nature objects that work great for this: rocks, leaves, grass, pine cones, dandelions, flowers, etc.
- Try this inside with items from the kitchen, too! Flour? Cereal? Peanuts?
Coffee Filter Flowers

1. Paint coffee filters with food coloring and water. Or just dip them into the colored water. Let dry.

2. Twist the centers of the coffee filters together to form a flower.

3. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the center (the part you twisted) of the flower as the stem.

Tips:

- Decorate the coffee filters however you want! Paint them or dip them. Whatever your child is into.

- Keep colors to two primary (or complementary) colors to prevent a brown flower.

- There's no right or wrong way to twist the coffee filter into a flower. It just bunches together.
Play Dough & Straw Structures

Supplies:
- straws
- play dough
- scissors (optional)

1. Roll small balls out of play dough.

2. Stick straws into play dough.

3. Attach straws and play dough together to make structures and shapes.

Tips:
- Instead of straws, you can use toothpicks, or craft sticks
- It can get tricky balancing a 3D structure, younger kids may want to stick to 2D shapes and letters.
- Play a game of copycat! Let your child build something and see if you can copy it. Now switch!
Sound Exploration with Rocks

Supplies:
- bucket
- water
- large rock

1. Fill a bucket with water and find a large rock.

2. Drop the rock into the bucket of water and listen to the sound it makes.

3. Repeat from higher up, or lower down. Does it sound different?

Tips:
- Find a couple different sizes of rocks and compare the sound they make.
- Ask your child if they can describe how it sounds.
- Do they notice any other differences with different size rocks, or from dropping higher up? Does the water splash more?
Go on a Spy Hunt

**Supplies:**
- painter’s tape
- pom poms or cotton balls

1. Stick several strips of painter’s tape diagonally between the walls along a hallway.

2. Stick pom poms to the tape in random places.

3. Crawl under, over, or through, the tape to collect the pom poms.

**Tips:**
- The tape may need reinforcing to stick to the walls. Tape across it with another piece of tape.
- With multiple kids, you can make it a race to see who can collect the most pom poms.
- Or only use one color per child to find their own color of pom pom as they sneak through the hallway.

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS
Nature Suncatcher

**Supplies:**
- paper plates
- clear contact paper
- objects from nature

1. Cut the center out of a paper plate. Follow along the ‘rim’ of the base of the plate.

2. Cut a piece of contact paper to cover the hole. Remove backing and stick contact paper to the back side of the paper plate (so that the sticky side is up when the plate is set on a table).

3. Cover the sticky contact paper with pieces of nature. Hang in the window to display!

**Tips:**
- If you don’t have contact paper, you can use wax paper and glue.
- Sometimes nature just doesn’t cooperate with us, so feel free to cut shapes out of paper or tissue paper (could even make your own leaves and flowers!)
- When they’re done, staple a ribbon or string to it and hang in your favorite window!

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS
Letter Sensory Art

Write a letter on a piece of paper in pencil.

Trace the letter by painting it with glue.

Play with sand and dump it over the glue. Shake it off!

**Supplies:**
- paper or card stock
- pencil
- paintbrush
- school glue
- sand or pantry item

**Tips:**
- A fun change could be to create numbers. Use that many items to glue on (for instance, 20 buttons glued onto the number 20).
- Don't put a large emphasis on the letter itself, just make it about the process. The letter is just an object you can talk about.
- What else could you use to create texture on your letter? Feathers, oatmeal, leaves...

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS

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Mud Target Practice

Supplies:
- sidewalk or pavement
- sidewalk chalk
- mud or dirt and water

1. Draw a target on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk. Write numbers in each circle, if desired.

2. Make mud! Gather some dirt and mix in some water to make a bucket of mud.

3. Scoop up a handful of mud and throw it at the target to score!

Tips:
- Yes, let the kids get dirty! Making the mud is half the fun!
- The numbers on the target can be completely random, but still fun for younger kids.
- Older kids can add up their points or ‘aim’ to get a certain number. Can they make 50 points with 5 throws?
Bungee Cord Hook

by member, Katie

**Supplies:**
- bungee cord

1. Provide a bungee cord to your kid.

2. Go on a walk around the yard, or around town, or a park.

3. See if you can find something to drag with the bungee cord, something to pull against that won’t move, and something up high.

**Tips:**

- Use with supervision, be careful not to pull the bungee cord too tight and it snap back at your child.
- Younger kids may find it fascinating to just see what they can hook it on to.
- Let your child explore on their own to see what they can do with the bungee cord. It might surprise you!
Activity: June

I Spy Nature Tray

Supplies:
- tray or baking sheet
- nature

1. Go on a hunt to find different pieces from nature.

2. Place found nature on a tray to explore.

3. Call out an object to explore it.

Tips:
- Repeat this activity with each season change to see how the pieces from nature change with the seasons.
- When calling out the nature item, try describing it with its textures, smells, or colors instead of just its name.
- Talk freely about how it feels, what it looks like, how it smells. Do any of them have similar characteristics?

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Leaf Counting Hunt

**Supplies:**
- chalk
- leaves

1. Write numbers in a line on the sidewalk.

2. Go on a hunt in the yard to find one leaf for the number one. And then two leaves for the number two, and so on.

3. Place each set of leaves by the corresponding number.

**Tips:**

- You can also make this a hunt for leaves with X number of points.
- Help younger kids count the leaves as they find them, and then again as they place them by the number.
- Older kids can work together with younger kids to tell them how many they need of a type of leaf.
Fine Motor Umbrella Water Drop

**Supplies:**
- paper
- cupcake liner
- glue
- eye dropper
- water
- blue food coloring
- small dish
- marker

1. Fold a cupcake liner in half and glue to center of a piece of paper to be an umbrella. Draw the handle of the umbrella with a marker.

2. Add blue food coloring to a small dish of water.

3. Suck the blue water into an eye dropper and drip drops of blue water onto the paper as rain!

**Tips:**

- Instead of an eye dropper, you could use a toothbrush to splatter the rain drops on the paper.
- No cupcake liners? Just cut a circle out of paper and fold it in half!
- Make it harder for older kids by having them make dots on the paper and then try to drop the blue water on their dots. How high can they drop it from and still hit their dot?
Cloud Dough Sensory

**Supplies:**
- oil (baby, vegetable, etc)
- flour or cornflour
- baking sheet or tray
- measuring cups and spoons

1. Mix together 2 cups of flour and 2/3 cups oil on a tray to make cloud dough.

2. Add measuring cups and spoons for fun!

3. Play with the cloud dough like wet sand, mold it and shape it and crumble it apart again.

**Tips:**
- Add some glitter to the mixture for added fun! You can also add tempura paint powder to make it a color!
- This sensory activity can get messy, take it outside if possible, or place it inside another larger tub.
- If you have candy molds, they would work awesome with cloud dough to make formations!

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS
Nature Seek & Sort

Supplies:
nature
paper
marker
bowls

1. Set out three bowls each with a card labeling it as “sticks”, “rocks”, and “leaves”.

2. Go on a hunt to collect sticks, rocks and leaves from nature.

3. Sort the nature into their corresponding bowls.

Tips:
- Be creative with your three bowls, they could be anything such as “green”, “brown”, or “flowers”.
- You may want to leave the labels off the bowls at first and see how your child labels their findings. They may find similarities you didn’t see. Be sure to talk about it.
- Repeat with different labels of categorization!
Balance Beam

Supplies:
old boards or books

1. Gather some spare boards, or even books you have in the house.

2. Have your child line them up, end to end to form a line.

3. Now they can walk across their newly built balance beam!

Tips:
If you don’t have boards, you can also do this with just some simple lines of tape.
Allowing your child to build the balance beam himself is a great confidence booster!
Add difficulty by walking backwards, or sliding sideways.

CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS
Tin Can Wind Chimes

**Activity: June**

**Supplies:**
- tin cans
- paint and glitter
- string or yarn
- washers and nuts
- hammer
- nail

**Tips:**
- If using acrylic or washable paint, hang these inside or under a roof, away from the elements.
- An adult will likely have to punch the hole in the tin can, but let the child try with your real tools.
- Don’t have a washer or nut? This is just used to hold the string onto the can, a button would work, or anything else with a hole to thread through.

1. Save and clean used tin cans. Tape the cut edge if sharp. Decorate tin cans to your desire.

2. Punch a hole in the bottom of each tin can using a hammer and nail.

3. Thread a string through the hole and tie a washer, or nut, onto the string, inside the tin can. Hang together.
Trace Squiggly Lines

**Supplies:**
- sidewalk chalk
- house paintbrushes
- sidewalk (pavement)
- water

1. Draw a bunch of lines on the sidewalk in sidewalk chalk. Criss-cross them, squiggle them all over!

2. Gather a tub of water and real paintbrushes.

3. Paint over the lines to trace them (and erase them)!

**Tips:**
- For multiple kids, use a different color for each child.
- Draw shorter lines for younger kids so they will finish and feel confident.
- Have an older kid help draw the lines!