Early Learning Activities for Babies

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Here are some sample activities for the five areas of child development: physical, social and emotional, approaches to learning, thinking, and communication and language. Activities are presented in PDF format. Produced by Best Beginnings, new activities will be added regularly. The most recent activities are listed on top for each age group.

Would you like to be notified when new activities are posted? Sign up to receive Tips and Activity alerts by email >>

Zero to 6 Months



Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Reach So High
- Exercycle
- Napkin Tent
- Floor Time

Social and emotional development

- Body Awareness
- **Sweet Dreams**
- Love and Trust Building

Approaches to learning

- Satin Streamers
- Sticky Fun
- See-Through Shake Toys

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Tasting and Touching to Play
- Repeating Action
- Find the Noise

- Talk, Talk, Talk
- I Know My Name
- Talk to Me, Baby

6 to 12 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Pull Up
- Floating Game
- Blanket Fun

Social and emotional development

- Learning to Share
- Let's Play
- Mirror, mirror on the Wall

Approaches to learning

- String Along
- Noisy Dumping
- Where Am I?

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- · Means to an End
- This Goes with That
- A Place for the Animals

Communication, language, and literacy

- Read, Read, Read
- Mama, Dada
- Where's Your Toe?

12 to 18 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

How About a Push

- Haul It
- Feed the Clown

Social and emotional development

- Cooperative Play
- Good Night, Elbow
- Transitional Photos

Approaches to learning

- Collection of Holes
- Paper Cup Nesting Toys
- Tubes Inside of Tubes

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Nesting Cups
- Advanced Peek-a-Boo
- Easy-Shape Boxes

- My Own Word Book
- Understanding
- More...All Gone

Early Learning Activities for Toddlers

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18 to 24 Months



Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Tear it Up
- Fun With Movement
- Pour and Fill

Social and emotional development

- Playing with Peers
- Early Symbolic Play
- Chair Line-Up
- Initiating My Own Play

Approaches to learning

- Fill-and-Spill Bottles
- Roll Away Game
- Changing Colors

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Matching Objects
- Quiet or Loud
- Symbol to Thing

- Picture Stowaways
- Using Words to Have Fun
- Promoting Language Through Nursery Rhymes

24 to 30 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Big Steps
- Tip Toe
- Target Practice

Social and emotional development

- Puppet Show
- Share the Box
- Care for the Animals

Approaches to learning

- Edible Snowman
- Make a Puzzle
- I'm a Ghost
- Free Like the Wind

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Matching Shapes
- Imaginative Play
- Learning the Meaning of Action Words
- Just "One"

Communication, language, and literacy

- Obstacle Course
- Who's In There?
- Action Pictures

30 to 36 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Water Squeeze
- Over the River
- Photographic Sequencing Game

Social and emotional development

- Story Hand
- Three Nice Mice
- My Little Bird

Approaches to learning

- Let's Choose
- What Do You See?
- Tower Power Game

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Colorful Steps
- Learning to Sort Shapes
- Listening and Talking

- The Story Knife
- Every Day I
- Follow the String
- Tape Walk

Early Learning Activities for Preschoolers

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36 to 42 Months



Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Jump the River
- Bowling Game
- Polka Dot Flowers

Social and emotional development

- Mad Face, Scary Face
- My Favorite Things Quilt
- My Hands Can Say

Approaches to learning

- Tissue Paper Collages
- Free Exploration
- Touchy Feely Box

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Lotto Games
- Sink or Float
- Colorful Nature Collages

- Clap a Name
- How Does It Feel?

Do You Hear What I Hear

42 to 48 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Basketball Game
- · Lacing through Swiss Cheese
- Cool Painting Tools

Social and emotional development

- · Star of the Day
- I Can Help
- Puppet Pals

Approaches to learning

- Carrot Top
- Fossil Detective
- The Nose Knows

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Greenhouse Effect
- Colorful Caterpillars
- Primary to Secondary

Communication, language, and literacy

- Tell Me About It
- Name Game
- Rhyme Detectives

48 to 54 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Balance Fishing
- String Art
- Bunny Hop Game

Social and emotional development

- · Helping with Family Chores
- Pass the Hat
- If You're Happy and You Know It

Approaches to learning

- Jack's Beanstalks
- Think Think Think
- Sink or Float
- Take a Vacation

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Animal Habitat Sorting
- · Pot of Gold
- Favorite Ice Cream Graph

Communication, language, and literacy

- Opposites
- Alpha-Bags

54 to 60 Months

Physical well-being, health, and movement skills

- Rubber Bodies
- Think Fast!
- Colored Hula Hoops

Social and emotional development

- Using Books Emotions
- Sharing Space
- Making a Train

Approaches to learning

- The Wind
- Mold Gardens
- Counting Caterpillar

Thinking abilities and general knowledge

- Board Games
- Link-by-Link Calendar
- Measure it Scavenger Hunt

- Loon's Necklace
- Book Factory
- Jumping Jack Syllables
- Word Play