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tip|sheet 

Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

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On the Home Front with Your Toddler

Toddlers are very busy exploring and learning about their world. Parents can add to their child's learning at home by providing things to explore, books and pictures to help them learn new words and ideas, open spaces for them to run, climb, jump, throw, and kick, and dramatic play items. Here are some suggested activities for home.

Bubbles

- Purpose:*
- Encourage visual tracking
 - Enhance eye-hand coordination

- Materials:*
- liquid dish soap
 - glycerin
 - water

To make bubbles, mix equal amounts of dish soap, water, and glycerin in a container and mix together. Place the liquid in a bucket or pan. Many household items can be used to blow bubbles. Plastic lids without a center, plastic six-pack rings that hold canned beverages, a coat hanger (form plastic-coated coat hangers into different shapes, making sure to bend the hook and cover it with a strong tape).

Family Book

- Purpose:*
- To become familiar with family members
 - To help children develop their identity
 - To develop gross and fine motor skills

- Materials:*
- index cards
 - pictures of family members, pets, etc.
 - ring binder
 - contact paper

Place pictures of family members on index cards and bind with ring binder. Label each picture with the person's name and cover with contact paper.

Paint with Water

- Purpose:*
- To develop gross motor skills
 - To develop creative expression

- Materials:*
- bucket
 - paint brush
 - water

Fill the bucket with water and allow the child to paint items outside such as sidewalks, walls, fences, etc.

Musical Instruments

- Purpose:*
- To develop gross motor skills
 - To differentiate between sounds

- Materials:*
- plastic bottles
 - beans
 - rice
 - bells
 - glue

Place each item in an individual bottle and glue the lid on. It is not necessary to fill the bottle to the top. Allow the child to shake and roll and talk about the different sounds they make.

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