

## Creative Play Ideas

Children love to explore and experience new things! Playing requires us to flex our imagination skills, get messy, get physical, and be silly. It can take some getting used to, but your children will grow so much from the experience! Remember, let your child's curiosity guide you. You do not need to entertain your child, but rather follow your child's interests.

\*For some children, they may need time to get used to a new experiences with new people or with things. Repetition and repeated opportunities to experience new things are important for learning and supporting our child.

Ideas:

- Take your child to a new park or a new playgroup.
- Borrow toys or books from the library.
- Go to the library for a story time.
- Build a fort in your living room.
- Play "horsie" where the children take a ride on daddy around the living room.
- Make a pirate ship out of a laundry basket and have a toilet paper roll as a telescope.
- Make soup with ripped up paper pieces as vegetables.
- Jump on bubble wrap
- Have a "snowball" fight indoors with cotton balls
- Roll down a hill
- Bring snow into the bathtub and scoop, dig, paint, and make "cupcakes" with it
- Play with "goop" (cornstarch and water)
- Run through a sprinkler
- Build a fort with blankets in your living room
- Go camping under your bed
- Make a snowman
- Go on a nature walk and look for animal tracks in the snow
- Play tug of war with some tied up towels
- Pop popcorn together
- Make playdough and other sensory materials
- Engage in pretend play activities appropriate to the children's levels (Little People, other figurines, kitchen set, puppets, costumes)
- Make crafts (use your imagination based on your child's interests)
- Engage in outdoor play (sandbox, park, balls, bubbles etc.)

Visit these websites for more ideas:

- [www.playfulparenting.com/](http://www.playfulparenting.com/)
- [handsonaswegrow.com/activities-vehicles-cars-trucks-trains/](http://handsonaswegrow.com/activities-vehicles-cars-trucks-trains/)
- [handsonaswegrow.com/its-playtime-get-moving-indoors/](http://handsonaswegrow.com/its-playtime-get-moving-indoors/)
- [voices.yahoo.com/5-indoor-playdate-ideas-especially-young-boys-7523516.html](http://voices.yahoo.com/5-indoor-playdate-ideas-especially-young-boys-7523516.html)
- [www.allfortheboys.com/home/2012/6/11/messy-play-date.html](http://www.allfortheboys.com/home/2012/6/11/messy-play-date.html)
- [www.two-daloo.com/2013/07/07/making-lemonade-a-toddler-language-building-activity/](http://www.two-daloo.com/2013/07/07/making-lemonade-a-toddler-language-building-activity/)
- [mynearestanddearest.com/baking-with-toddlers/](http://mynearestanddearest.com/baking-with-toddlers/)
- [www.sunscholars.com/p/100-days-of-play.html](http://www.sunscholars.com/p/100-days-of-play.html)
- [www.naeyc.org/play](http://www.naeyc.org/play)