










Stockton House School guide to entertaining young minds while 'home learning' Part 1

Title	Example	What resources do I need	The activity	What they learn
<p style="text-align: center;">Threading</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Straws; ● Pencils; ● Cardboard tubes. 	<p>Pierce holes into the cardboard tube and encourage children to post straws through the holes.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, colours, shapes, space, balance, patience, concentration, push and pull in and out, top and bottom.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sorting</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drinks bottle tops; ● Tweezers/ training chopsticks; ● Any small objects that will fit through the lid. <p style="color: red;">*please be aware small objects can be choking hazards</p>	<p>Cut the tops off of drinks bottles and stand on a flat surface, add small objects and show children how to post the objects through the top opening of the bottle and how to retrieve them at the end (children can use hands to pick up and post objects if you do not have tweezers).</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, fine motor movements, colours, shape, space, concentration, trial and error, patience, filling and emptying, big and small, and in and out.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Discovery Basket</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laundry basket with holes or ● cardboard box (create holes in the top to tie string); ● String; ● Any household object or toy. 	<p>Place several objects into the basket/box. Tie the string across the top of the basket/box making a web like effect (for older children make this several layers deep and more complex). Show children how to navigate the string to retrieve objects or allow them to work this out for themselves.</p>	<p>Patience, concentration, hand-eye coordination, fine and gross motor movements, exploration, determination, problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, challenging themselves, spatial awareness.</p>



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<p>Percussion play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pots/ pans/ tins/ boxes; ● Spoons/ pencils/ hairbrush. 	<p>Place resources in front of children and allow them to experiment with sounds. Demonstrate rhythms (fast/slow) and sequence to children along with how to use the resources to make sounds.</p>	<p>Coordination, rhythm, self-expression, how to create different noises, listening skills, paying attention.</p>
<p>Bottle shakers</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rice/ lentils/ buttons; ● Drinks bottles. 	<p>Add small resources (rice, etc) to bottles to create children's own musical shakers (discourage children from opening lids as small parts can be a choking hazard) *if you do not want to retrieve the small objects you can glue the lid onto the bottle.</p>	<p>Distinguishing sounds, self-expression, gross motor movements, filling, pouring, listening skills, paying attention.</p>
<p>Ice Play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ice cube tray/ cup/ yogurt pots; ● Toys/ natural objects/ paint; ● Spoons/ hammers. 	<p>Place your natural objects/paint into a container (yogurt pot etc) add water and place in the freezer. Once frozen, place in a tray and allow children to play with the ice (melt/break it up using spoons etc) to retrieve the object. *children can use the frozen paint water on paper to create marks</p>	<p>Hot and cold, textures, how things change(melting), hard and soft, wet and dry, patience, exploring resources frozen inside and how to get them out. Gross motor skills to break ice. Provide warm water to show them how the hot melts the cold. Use salt to increase the melting temperature.</p>




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<p>Rice Play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rice/ lentils/ pasta; ● Add spoons/ cups to vary the experience; ● Paint brush for mark making. 	<p>Place rice into a tray, add cups, spoons and paint brushes. Allow children to pour, mix, crush, shake, fill and empty. Model making marks in the rice. Role play cooking.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, control with gross and fine motor movements, exploring volume, movement and textures of resources, use of objects.</p>
<p>Water Play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water; ● Add jugs/ paint/ ice cubes/ whisk and bubbles to vary the experience. 	<p>Place water into a tray, add resources to allow children to explore the movement. Fill and empty containers. Use different size containers so they can explore size, shape, measurement and volume.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, control with gross and fine motor movements, exploring volume, movement and textures of resources, use of objects, hot and cold, understanding why some things float and others sink, discovering the effects of displacement, finding out about the effect of upthrust.</p>
<p>Flour Play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flour play; ● Add cars/ paintbrushes/ animals to vary the experience. 	<p>Place flour into a tray and any resources you think your child might like. You can be creative and add toys or natural resources from the garden or park. Give them small amounts of oil, water or milk to add in.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, control with gross and fine motor movements, exploring volume, movement and textures of resources, use of objects, mark making. Allow them to explore mixing and combining different ingredients. Expand imagination.</p>



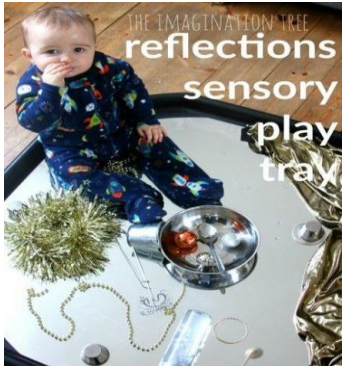
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<p>Painting</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Art for Kids: Homemade Paint Brushes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint; • If you don't have paint you can use cooled tea bags, cold coffee, yoghurt and food colouring and shaving foam and food colouring; • Paint Brushes, fingers, sponge, cotton wool ball. • Pegs; • Different sensory resources: pom-pom, leaf, sponge, paper, etc. 	<p>Place paper onto table/ floor/ garden and weigh/ tape it down. Allow children to choose ways of painting. Give them opportunities to be free with mixing colours, switching between mark making materials and how they use them.</p> <p>You can use this idea to help if you don't have paint brushes. Use pegs and attach different resources to the end.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, self-expression, mark making, decision making, being imaginative, developing hand grip, sensory experience, colours, mixing colours, experimenting with ideas.</p>
<p>Obstacle Course</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use pillows as obstacles, boxes to crawl through, scarves to step over, cloth stepping stones; • Use anything they can crawl under, climb over, go through or walk across. 	<p>Create an obstacle course by placing pillows on the floor as stepping stones, roll up towels to make a path, attach scarves to the sides of boxes for them to crawl under or step over.</p>	<p>Gross-motor movement, balance, decision making, problem solving, coordination, critical thinking, testing their ideas, team work, confidence, resilience, keep on trying, motivation, having a go at a challenging activity.</p>



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<p>Stacking</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old cereal boxes; ● Tupperware boxes; ● Lego or Duplo; ● Cups. 	<p>Provide children with resources to stack and model how to use. Create different spaces and shapes to spark interest and imagination.</p>	<p>Balance, patience, fine-motor skills, concentration, creativity, testing ideas, trial and error, how things work, numbers, size, shapes, space, resilience, being motivated, keep on trying, self-confidence.</p>
<p>Sensory box</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fairy lights; ● Box; ● Fabrics; ● Pillows; ● Music. 	<p>Poke holes into the top of a large box, push bulbs through each hole. Put pillows, fabrics and textured items into the box for the child to explore.</p>	<p>Sensory, relaxation, exploring light/ space/ sounds/ textures/ colours, distinguishing sounds, exploring how things work, allow them to change the light sequence, let them pick with sounds to listen to. Gives them a range of experiences, it prompts language, gross and fine motor skills, investigative skills, cognitive growth and problem solving.</p>
<p>Think inside the box</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Box; ● Pens; ● Pencils; ● Crayons. 	<p>Place resources into a box and allow the child to experiment.</p>	<p>Imagination, creativity, gripping a pencil, testing ideas, colours, mark making, hand-eye coordination, patience, concentration. It prompts different thoughts, fine and gross motor skills, language and understanding. It can be beneficial for children to escape and be allowed to be creative in their own way.</p>

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<p>Sensory socks</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old socks; ● Rice; ● Paper; ● Herbs; ● Perfume/essential oils; ● Coins; ● Buttons; ● Marbles. 	<p>Fill old socks with things that make noise, feel funny or smell nice to create a sensory experience. Just fill and knot the top. Ensure it is secure.</p>	<p>Sensory experience, distinguishing sound, smell and texture.</p>
<p>Sensory bags</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sandwich bags; ● Water & food colouring/soap; ● Paint; ● Water & oil & food colouring; ● Leaves; ● Sequins; ● Buttons. 	<p>Place water, food colouring/soap and any buttons/leaves/sequins into a bag, mix and seal. Tape to a window or a door for the child to play with.</p>	<p>Sensory experience, fine motor movements, creativity, exploring colour, textures and movement of liquids.</p>
<p>Mirror Play</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mirrors; ● Tin foil; ● Old jewellery; ● Bowls; ● Shiny objects. <p>Add toys to see reflections/mirror image:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blocks; ● Animals; ● Stuffed animals; ● Cups. 	<p>Allow children to look into different reflective objects. Model different expressions and talk about them.</p>	<p>Emotions, identifying themselves, finding their nose, mouth, eyes and ears. Practicing expressions. Creativity, curiosity, exploration and discovery. Developing social skills, giving them focus, encouraging language.</p>

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<p>Posting</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old coffee pot; ● Shoe box; ● Milk tops/ coins; ● Wooden blocks; ● Knife/ scissors. 	<p>Cut a hole or multiple holes in the top of the coffee pot/shoe box lid the size and shape of your biggest milk top/coin/block. Let your child experiment with ways of slotting them in.</p>	<p>Hand-eye coordination, shapes, size, patience, concentration. Numbers, colours and filling and emptying.</p>
<p>Ball drop</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Box; ● Scissors; ● Balls; ● Coloured pens. 	<p>Cut holes into a box lid, colour the edges to allocate them a colour. Allow your child to experiment with posting them and trying to match the colour. To extend this try with balls of different sizes.</p>	<p>Shape, space, colours, looking for dropped objects, understanding, hand-eye coordination, gross motor skills, concentration, patience, problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, trial and error, testing ideas. Developing a dominant hand.</p>