

2 Year Old's Home Learning Activities!

Hide and Seek

We play this game a lot at Nursery and it is one that every child loves. It's a fun game for both adults and children to play and there are so many benefits that we can get out of it.

- First of all, it helps children in learning their numbers (counting to 10)
- Great for turn taking
- Helps with positional language for example "You were hiding *behind* the couch"

Fingerpaints

This messy activity is a favourite of children in nursery and is great for developing fine motor skills.

If you don't have any finger paints it is quite easy to make some with ingredients found at home.

Ingredients -

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp salt
- food coloring or water colors
- cold water for thinning



Instructions -

1. Combine flour, salt, and 1 cup water in sauce pan.
2. Heat flour/water while whisking. The mixture will be clumpy, then smooth, then thicken into a paste.
3. Once it has become thick and pasty, remove from heat.
4. Whisk in cold water a few tablespoons at a time until desired consistency is reached.
5. Color with food coloring or water colors.
6. Allow to cool completely, then paint!

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

An indoor scavenger hunt is a great way to keep your child busy.

I know at nursery if we have ever lost a toy, the children love to help us find it.

Start off by making a list for the scavenger hunt for example:

- Find a spoon
- Find something red
- Find a blue crayon
- Find a key
- Find a pair of glasses
- Find your favourite toy

There are so many more things that you could add to the list.

Sensory Play

We love lots of different sensory play in our 2-year-old room, even though it can get messy it is great to see the children having so much fun.

Rainbow Rice

Rainbow Rice is always a favourite and is so easy to make, all you need is a bag of rice and some food colouring. Just separate the rice into different bowls, put a drop of colouring in and mix together until the rice changes colour. The rice can be put inside a tray or a box as it can get a little messy whilst your child is playing with it. You can add a couple of spoons and bowls for your child to use when filling and pouring.



Cloud Dough

Cloud Dough is another favourite in our room and is also nice and easy to make. All you need is flour and baby oil. You're going to need two cups of flour and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of oil, pour them into a bowl and mix them together it should then start sticking together, it might be a good idea to mix it with your hands so you can feel the

dough sticking together. You may need to keep adding the ingredients as you go to find the best consistency, but once you have found then it should mould together nicely. Add spoons and cups to enhance the play.

Shaving Foam

Shaving foam is great sensory play activity, it is a little messy but is easy to clean up. If you're worried about your child putting it in their mouths then you could use Whipped Cream as a substitute. You can do lots of things with shaving foam, at nursery we like to use it for mark making and to help develop fine motor skills. We also like shaving foam as it encourages language, so whilst playing in the shaving foam with your child ask questions like "What does it feel like?", "Can you squish it?". You could also add colours to the shaving foam.

Host a Teddy Bears Picnic!

You can set out a Teddy Bear's Picnic by getting your little one's favourite toys round a table or on the carpet and then laying out plates, cups, bowls etc. You can also do this with real food and juice/water, allow your child to have their lunch during the teddy bears picnic. Encourage your child to role play and talk to the toys. You could ask them to pour out the tea for everyone and have them explain what they are doing.



Extension:

- Sing the teddy bears picnic song.
- Help your child count how many toys you have at the picnic.

Make some Binoculars!

Keep some leftover cardboard tubes and create binoculars. Simply attach the tubes side by side with some sellotape.

Then have your child look out of the window and see what they can spot through these binoculars. You can play a game of eye spy, or just follow your child's lead. The more you play, the more you can build up their vocabulary with describing words.

Ask questions like; What can you see, what colours can you see, can you see any animals?

Extension:

- Allow your child to take their binoculars on a nature walk and see what they can spot.



Painting with Tea Bags

Painting with teabags is a fun way to encourage your child to use their imagination and get creative in a different way. It is also a great way of re-using old teabags! Cold teabags make a great all-in-one paint and sponge. You can also rip the tea bag and use the leaves inside to make a unique painting. You could use regular tea bags, fruit tea bags and even herbal tea bags. Ask questions like: "What are you making?", "What does it smell like", "What does it feel like", "What colour is it?"



Printing with Cardboard Shape Tubes



Make your own shape printers using folded cardboard tubes, cut down a wrapping paper cardboard tube into similar length portions and then carefully bend and folded each one to represent 6 different shapes: circle, square, rectangle, triangle, heart and star, the star shape might lose its shape but will still print on the paper.

Rice Crispy Cakes

A nice easy baking activity to do with your child but also one they're really going to enjoy as they'll be able to eat it afterwards.

All you need is a bar of chocolate, rice crisps/cornflakes and some cupcake papers. Your child can help you to break up all the chocolate and put it into a bowl even though I'm sure they will try and eat some in the process, this is okay as long as you still have some left to melt. Once you have melted the chocolate then let your

child help you pour in the rice crispy and mix them all in together with a big spoon. The mixing will be great for your child's gross motor skills and they will love the responsibility. Once all mixed in then get a spoonful and put it into the cupcake papers, you and your child can take turns doing this and you can count the how many spoonful's go into each one.

Sensory Bottles



All you need for this activity is some small bottles and some household items. These bottles are easy to make and you can add anything you like to them. Sensory Bottles are great for helping children's curiosity and discovery. Here are some different things you could put in the bottles:

- Pasta/Rice
- Tinfoil
- Water and Glitter
- Water and Soap
- Water, Oil and Food Colouring
- Cotton Wool Balls
- Sticks