

Let's Learn at Home

Fun things to
do this week



Lancashire Early Years Consultants Team

Children under 3 years old



What do we need?

A basket of boxes

Young children are fascinated with putting objects in an out of container. Here are some simple ideas to try at home

- A shallow basket big enough to hold a collection of boxes
- Small collection of boxes
- Trinkets and interesting objects such as keys, shells, leave, petals and lids to put in the boxes

What do we do?

- Give your child plenty of time to explore the contents of the basket
- Stay close by to share the child's joy and wonder of the objects
- Look and listen to what they are saying and doing
- Model language e.g. 'I am putting the leaf in the small box', 'I am emptying the shells out of the box'
- Give the child plenty of time to play with the objects
- Role model putting them away
- Add different objects and vessels for the child to explore
- To further extend their play, let the child build different size towers with the boxes
- Remember these resources are open ended, your child will make up their own activities, therefor the learning potential is endless

What are we learning?

- Concentration
- Coordination
- Maths (positional language)
- Independence
- Fine motor skills
- Recognizing objects

Children 3 to 5 years old



What do we need?

Playing with boxes

- Large cardboard box to fit child and parent in
- Blankets and cushions
- Pegs
- Parcel tape
- Crayons, chalk and paints to decorate the box
- Enhance with story books and small world resources

What do we do?

This type of play is suitable for solitary play and playing with others.

- Let the child decide what tools and resources are needed to build the den
- Work together to build the den, role model how to fix the fabric to the box
- Use the den as a place to tell stories, the den could be Little Red Riding Hood's house, or Bob the Builders office
- Add resources to extend play, for example, dressing up clothes, story books, small world and resources for writing

What are we learning?

- Social skills
- Spatial awareness
- Being imaginative
- Communication and language
- How to listen to and tell stories
- Team working skills
- Problem solving skills



What do we need?

Cardboard box gardening

- A cardboard box (any size)
- Compost or soil
- Gardening tools or large spoons
- Plants or seeds (flowers, vegetables or herbs)
- Watering can

What do we do?

- Find a suitable box to use as a planter
- Decide with your child what they would like to plant
- Fill the box with compost
- If using plants, plant them in the compost
- If using seeds, sprinkle them on the top of the compost and then cover with a little compost
- Water
- Then watch them grow!
- Encourage your child to keep an eye on their plants and water them daily



What are we learning?

- Stimulating the senses of touch, sight, sound, taste and smell
- Independence skills using tools
- Physical development and fine motor skills
- All about the world around them
- Understanding where food comes from and life cycles of plants

