

## Home Learning 4

'Play' is young children's learning. It not only keeps children busy, but it is essential for their brain development. Young children learn best when they are being active and using their whole bodies to explore their learning. As you play alongside your child, talk about what you see your child doing.



**You will know your child's levels of concentration and language best and you need to adapt all these activities to meet their developmental stage and interests.**

### Letters and Sounds - For 3- and 4-Year olds

This **Follow the Sound** activity will help your child to learn to listen and to begin to distinguish between sounds and remember patterns of sound. This will help your child when they begin to learn the letter sounds and start to put them together to make words.



Sit together and the adult begins by producing a body percussion sound which is then 'passed' to the child to copy such as clap, clap, clap, or tap, tap on the knees or click, click, click, click with your fingers. Pass the sound back and forward, adding and changing the sounds. Talk about how the sounds change. Did the sound get faster or slower?



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Make the activity more difficult by introducing a simple sequence of sounds for your child to copy such as clap, stamp, clap. Together find words to describe the sounds, name the body parts and explore how many parts of your body you can use to make different sounds.



### Observation Walks

On your daily walk, what can you see? Talk about what is the same and what is different? How many different types of trees, plants, doors, cars, windows, cats, dogs are there? Look together on the internet to find the names of the different trees or plants. This will help your children learn important observation skills, begin to learn about early research and lots of new vocabulary.



### Mirror Maths

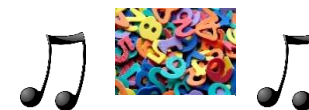
Together look at a mirror. Talk about your faces and name all the facial features. Together count how many eyes, noses, teeth, eyebrows and lips you can see. For older children, make faces together to show different feelings and talk about the changes. Make up patterns to show different feelings such as 3 smiles, 1 sulky face, 2 sad faces and 3 happy faces. As you do this with your child, you are helping them to learn the names of body parts and feelings, to recite numbers, to match a number name to a quantity and to begin to remember a sequence.

These are all very important early mathematical skills.



### Sink the Boat

Maybe at bath time or in shallow bowl on the kitchen floor, count together how many toys you need to make the boat sink. The boat might be a plastic tub or a small cardboard box. As you play together, you are helping your child to explore 'What will happen if...?' This is a very important aspect of scientific investigation. A lot of children's play is based on finding out for themselves what will happen if they try something different.



### Number Rhyme

By helping your child to learn this **Number One, Touch The Sun** rhyme, you are helping them to learn new vocabulary, new actions, numerals and explore different movements. Try changing the words and create new rhymes together.

Number one, point to the sun.  
Number two, point to your shoe.  
Number three, touch your knee.  
Number four, touch the floor.  
Number five, learn to jive.  
Number six, pick up sticks.  
Number seven, point to heaven.  
Number eight, shut the gate.  
Number nine, touch your spine.  
Number ten, do it again!