



KINDERGARTEN IDEAS FOR AT HOME

We have popped together some ideas to help your children remain busy, active and to continue their learning and development during the next few weeks.

Please use any or all ideas, and please also share additional and exciting ideas you may have used as well.

You are most welcome to email your child's kindergarten teacher and share some successes from your play activities, or email other exciting activities you find and enjoy together.

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC



Grab your favourite teddy bear, and their friends, and head outdoors with bowls and cups as optional.

Collect leaves, gumnuts, pinecones, flowers, pebbles, rocks and acorns and make pretend food. Encourage a scavenger hunt at your teddy bears picnic, look for the green leaf, the brown leaf, the little leaf, the long leaf, collect 4 or 5 different shaped leaves, see already we are incorporating maths into your child's day.

Lay down on your picnic blanket, make use of any old towels, old sheets or the lovely grass as you picnic with your teddy bear, and do some cloud watching with your child.

If you are busy hanging out the washing encourage your child to lay at their picnic and describe what shapes or animals they can see in the clouds, "That cloud looks like a duck" or "That cloud looks so light and fluffy imagine curling up and sleeping there for the day"...encourage your child's imagination it is just magic at this age.

A LIST OF HANDY BITS AND BOBS TO SAVE AROUND THE HOUSE...

Empty cardboard boxes

Encourage your child to wash empty yoghurt, milk containers, ice cream containers any reusable washable containers and create masterpieces

Cardboard pieces for drawing

Bottle top lids from milk containers, sauce bottles, glass jars wash and create patterns with all the different colours, sort into size and colours ...maths; sorting, classification, colours....

Masking tape and sticky tape, glue sticks or paste to create box constructions

Children's scissors

Cutting or tearing up old magazines, newspapers for pasting and creating pictures



WASHING TOYS OR DOLLS



Warm soapy water and we're already practising great hygiene, washing hands while bathing dolls in a plastic tub, ice cream container or even a saucepan.

Instead of bathing dolls you may like to encourage your child to wash their Duplo or any hard-plastic toys for an extra clean.

If you are super keen you may like to allow your child to attempt to wash their own bowl, cup or plate.

Please ensure you never leave your child unattended when playing with water and empty containers and tubs, when finished playing tip the water on to your garden or grass.

Encourage your child wash their empty yoghurt containers and reuse these for teacups, bowls, paint and paste pots or even construction with masking tape or building towers...the list is endless.

INDOOR PLAY IDEAS

- Play dress ups – go through your wardrobe and let go of any unwanted items, children love to dress up and role play
- Make newspaper hats
- Play indoor pirate ships on the couch
- Have a pyjama day on those cold wet days
- Musical instruments using pots and pans and wooden spoons or utensils
- Arts and crafts with glue sticks, sticky tape make use of items you have lying around the house such; as empty boxes, cardboard cylinders, paper, plastic lids from bottles and jars, natural items from the garden leaves, sticks, feather and flowers
- Make an indoor obstacle course using pillows, chairs, sheets and blankets
- Sing and dance together throughout the day – children's songs, pop music, the classics whatever your fancy – morning, noon and night
- Sock puppets – find an odd sock or old pair of socks and decorate into puppets
- Mixing and making bubbles with soap and water in a tub
- Car races using toy cars
- Using cardboard cylinders from cling wrap or foil roll to create tunnels for racing cars down
- Use the opportunity to clean out unwanted toys
- Bathing dolls in an empty ice-cream container with water and soap
- Teddy bears picnic – gather and invite all the soft toys, find a blanket and your set
- Tell/make a story together – Would you rather help Father Christmas deliver presents, help a fairy grant a wish, help a wizard make a spell, or help a witch cast a spell?



- Sewing shapes using cardboard and wool – cut out a shape, pop holes around the edge and attach a piece wool or thread and sew away
- Paper bag puppets
- Self-portrait – look in a mirror and draw your face, talk to your child about what they can see eyes, mouth, nose, eyelashes, eyebrow, freckles
- Test your senses – sight, smell, taste, hear, touch and talk it through with them. What can you see? Close your eyes, what can you smell? etc
- Feely box – use an empty box, create an opening big enough for a hand and place a toy inside, ask your child to close their eyes and pop their hand in the box and guess which toy is hiding
- Guessing game – what's missing - place four or five items on the table/floor/tray and let your child see all items, encourage your child to close their eyes and remove one item, see if your child can recall what's missing
- Jumping competition who can perform the most jumps
- Share the story of your child's arrival into the world, most children love hearing stories all about themselves
- Share photographs of cherished memories and share stories about the photos
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Card games – Uno, snap, find the number using a deck of cards, memory, fish
- Play board games
- Create an indoor car track using masking tape
- On those wet days draw a hopscotch using chalk on your carpet, if you're game, it will dust off...maybe just check on small area of carpet first to be sure
- Cardboard box construction with masking tape and paste
- Scavenger hunt indoors – using pillows, blanket, teddy, picture book, photo – who can find the hidden treasure
- Favourite books – reading is a beautiful way to spend time with your child
- Drawing your favourite thing to do at kinder
- Create an indoor cubby or fort using sheets draped over chairs and tables
- Create a story book about their favourite person ...themselves...use photos or encourage your child to draw their own pictures
- Sort the socks into pairs off the washing line
- Allowing children to assist with meal preparation- set the table, cut up soft vegetables and fruits, spread margarine and toppings on bread
- Bake together – cakes, biscuits, playdough

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ... A Music Jam



Pots and pans and wooden spoons on a picnic blanket on the lounge room floor, or hopefully the sun is shining, and you can step outside and make a picnic area for your mini maestro to play.



OUTDOOR PLAY IDEAS

- Drawing with chalk on concrete
- Tracing hand and feet on the ground or paper
- Painting with water outside using a small bucket, yoghurt container, cup to hold water and a little paint brush
- Make mud pies
- Scavenger hunt of natural items outdoors- leaves, rocks, feather, birds, pinecones, acorns, tanbark
- Torch walk at night spot the wildlife or insects in the garden
- Garden walk, find mini beasts in the garden- Beetles, worms, snails and more
- Go for a bike ride
- Blowing bubbles with dishwashing liquid and water
- Create a plant using an old shoe and garden clippings
- Make a mixed potion using garden delights – flower petals, leaves, water in an empty yoghurt container
- Go fishing
- Go for a nature walk, watch the birds fly, spot a butterfly, watch the clouds - lay down and find shapes and figures in the clouds
- Play with your pets, walk your dog
- Hang out the washing together then sort and fold washing when dry

Smile, close off the world for a short time, enjoy the small things, a laugh, a cuddle, playing and spending time together

For further ideas and information please see the below Department of Education and Training link:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/preschoolers-play-based-learning.aspx>

Great link to information on how to talk to your children about coronavirus disease
<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19>