

Learning Activities for Children

While your children are at home with you, you want to spend time with them, support their learning, and get your own work done. This guide will help you do all three. Below, you'll find at-home activities they'll enjoy. And page 2 features a fun bingo card—they can check off the items as they complete them.



Editor's note: Guidelines are changing rapidly. Make sure to follow all local, state, and federal laws and recommendations on social distancing and other practices when using these ideas.

Vocabulary art

Tap into your child's creative side while she studies her vocabulary words with these two projects.

Word collage. Ask your youngster to write a word and its definition at the top of a page. Then, let her cut out pictures from magazines that go with the word. For instance, if she's studying simple machines in science, she could find pictures of *levers* (seesaw, scissors) or *inclined planes* (wheelchair ramp, playground slide). Have her glue them on her paper and write a sentence to go with each one.



Rainbow words. Suggest that your child sort her words by writing them with different-colored pencils in the shape of a rainbow. Perhaps she could use a red pencil for nouns, a yellow one for verbs, and a blue one for adjectives.

Junk-drawer creativity

Look no further than your kitchen junk drawer to give your youngster's creative thinking a boost. Try these ideas.



Reuse

Suggest that your child come up with different uses for objects in the drawer. He could use rubber bands to make a ball or turn a cork into a pincushion, for example. Take turns thinking of ways to reuse a bottle cap, a handheld mirror, and other junk-drawer items.

Sort

Let your youngster sort items according to a secret criterion, and you try to figure out his rule. Say he puts a paper clip and a key in one group, and a coupon and a gift bag in another. You might guess that he's sorting by materials (metal, paper). Next, you sort objects into piles, and have him determine your rule.

Homemade scale

"My paperweight is heavier than my gymnastics medal!" This balance scale lets your child explore measurement by comparing weights.

Make a scale

Have your youngster tape two small paper cups to opposite ends of a ruler. Next, she should tape a toilet paper tube to a table (horizontally). Now ask her to balance the ruler on the tube.



Weigh objects













What does your child want to weigh? Suggest that she gather small items like a toothbrush, a leaf, and a pencil. She can choose two at a time, predict which is heavier, and put one in each cup to find out. The object in the cup that drops down toward the table is heavier than the one in the cup that goes up. If the scale balances, their weights are equal.

Idea: As she tests the items, she could line them up from lightest to heaviest.

continued



Instructions: Do the activities on this bingo card in any order you choose. When you get five in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally), you've earned BINGO. Keep going until you've completed the entire card—that's Super BINGO!

B	I	N	G	O
<p>Read a book and create a model of its setting in a shoe-box. Suggestions: Use blocks for buildings, foil for bodies of water, and pom-poms for trees.</p>	<p>Estimate everything! How many steps are on the staircase? Keys on a computer keyboard? Count the steps or keys to check your estimates.</p> 	<p>Start a "list journal," or a notebook full of lists. A few ideas for entries: stuffed animals in your home, songs you can sing, sports you've played.</p>	<p>Gather small toys like a rubber duck and a superhero figurine. Use a flashlight to cast their shadows on paper. Trace around the shadows, then color in the outlines.</p> 	<p>Choose several board games, and mix and match the boards and playing pieces to invent a new game. Write down the rules, and teach family members to play. Be sure to return pieces to their original boxes.</p>
<p>Engineering challenge: Build the longest bridge you can between two stacks of books. Use supplies like index cards, plastic cups, and craft sticks.</p> 	<p>Write letters to friends, relatives, and teachers. You might include drawings, jokes, or even a favorite snack recipe.</p>	<p>Use a 4-ft. piece of yarn to form various shapes (hexagon, square, triangle). Arrange playing cards inside so no cards overlap. Which shape holds the most playing cards?</p> 	<p>Cut out pictures of objects from magazines and catalogs. Glue each one on a separate sheet of paper and staple the pages together to make a picture book. Write a story to go with the pictures.</p>	<p>Study your reflection in a mirror, and draw a self-portrait. Display your portrait on the fridge, and encourage family members to add their own.</p> 
<p>Solve this math puzzle: ● + ● = 10 ● + ♥ = 8 ♥ + ★ = 4 ● + ★ = ? Now make up more puzzles like this for family members to solve.</p> <p><small>Answers: 6</small></p>	<p>There are more than 400 words in the word <i>recreation</i>. How many can you list? (Use the letters in any order.) <i>Examples: cat, trainer, race.</i></p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p> 	<p>Make an audio or video recording of yourself reading books aloud. If you use video, be sure to show your audience the pictures in the books. Share your read-alouds with friends and relatives.</p>	<p>Line up 8 water glasses. Measure 1 oz. water into the first glass, 2 oz. into the second, and so on. Now lightly tap the glasses with a spoon to play a tune. Use two spoons to make harmonies!</p> 
<p>Pitch a reading tent. Drape sheets over chairs, and get books, pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals. Then, snuggle up inside to read.</p> 	<p>Set up a chain reaction. Arrange household objects like dominoes, books, plastic bottles, and balls. Can you make the reaction last for one minute? Three minutes?</p>	<p>Write an acrostic poem for each family member. Each line begins with a letter in the person's name. So the first line of a poem for CAROL might be, "Cheerful like a sunny day."</p>	<p>Create your own museum. Choose a theme, perhaps Legos or nature. Arrange exhibits on a table, and label each one using a sticky note or an index card. Now give someone a tour.</p> 	<p>Use a "pointer" like a chopstick or ruler to read words around the house. Look on food packages, book covers, game boxes, clothing, and more.</p> 
<p>Write a joke book. Cut sheets of paper in half. On each piece, write and illustrate a joke that you know. Then, staple the pages together. After dinner, read your jokes aloud to your family.</p>	<p>Find one item in your home that starts with each letter of the alphabet—from <u>a</u>pple to <u>z</u>ipper. Make a list of the objects you found.</p> 	<p>Look out a window, and graph what you see. You might count trees, bushes, birds, squirrels, cars, and houses. Make a column for each category and draw the items in even rows. What did you see the most of?</p> 	<p>Turn empty cardboard tubes into cute critters like butterflies, elephants, and penguins. Glue on yarn for hair or fur, googly eyes, pom-pom noses, and pipe cleaners for ears or antennae.</p>	<p>Create your own bingo board! Fill it with favorite activities that you can do all by yourself or that your family can do together.</p>

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