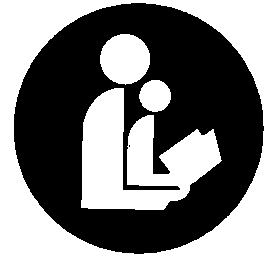


Picture It, Dads!



Home Activities For *Where's Spot?*



Home Activities
Where's Spot?

Activity #1: Nursery Rhyme

You may remember this enjoyable counting action song from your childhood. The reason it is so memorable is the combination of a catchy tune, repeated parts, and hand actions. This is likely to become a family favourite!



This Old Man

Verse 1

This old man, he played one, He played nick-nack on my thumb;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 2

This old man, he played two, He played nick-nack on my shoe;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 3

This old man, he played three, He played nick-nack on my on my knee;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 4

This old man, he played four, He played nick-nack on my door;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 5

This old man, he played five, He played nick-nack on my hive;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 6

This old man, he played six, He played nick-nack on my sticks;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 7

This old man, he played seven, He played nick-nack up in heaven;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 8

This old man, he played eight, He played nick-nack on my gate;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 9

This old man, he played nine, He played nick-nack on my spine;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.

Verse 10

This old man, he played ten, He played nick-nack over again;
with a nick-nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone. This old man came rolling home.





Activity #2 Recipe: Spot's Pita Surprise

Your child will enjoy using an assortment of veggies to make this tasty lunch surprise.

Ingredients

- pita pocket bread cut in halves
- assorted cut raw vegetable pieces (carrots, tomatoes, celery, cucumber, etc.)
- grated cheese
- your child's favourite sandwich filling: tuna, egg salad, diced chicken or salad

Cut the pita bread in half so two "pockets" are formed. Help your child stuff some of the sandwich filling in each pita pocket. Ask him/her to "hide" the filling using the cheese, veggies and lettuce.

Vary this recipe by substituting spinach for lettuce and changing the veggies. You can also add olives and pickles depending on your child's tastes.

Tips and Suggestions

Enjoy meals with your child. Try to remain calm when your child does not want to eat. Do not force it. It is best to offer your child a variety of foods at a specific time and place. Then, let your child decide how much they are going to eat. Never force your child to eat, because everybody gets upset and angry.

"Finger foods" can be fun for your child to eat and are nutritious, too. When you offer foods in small, bite-sized portions that can be eaten with his/her hands, it will not seem as overwhelming as an entire plate-full of food.

If you involve your child in preparing the food for both of you, he/she will likely want to eat it too!



Activity #3: You're Getting Warmer - A Hide and Seek Game

You're Getting Warmer is a hide and seek game that involves your child in a search for a small toy or prize that you have hidden somewhere in the house. (This game can also be played outdoors in your yard.) Young children usually have little difficulty understanding the game's main idea that when they get closer to the object they are getting *warmer* and when they get further away from the object they are getting *colder*. Any object or toy can be hidden.



Materials

A small toy or object for hiding

How to play

Explain the rules. "I am going to hide a _____ somewhere in the _____ (Living room, playroom, bedroom, etc.). I will give you clues to help you find it. When I say 'You're getting hotter', it means you are getting nearer to the toy. When I say 'You're getting colder', it means you are getting further away." The further away your child gets, the colder he/she becomes. Use words like cool, cold, frosty and freezing. The closer your child gets, the warmer he/she becomes. Use words like warm, warmer, hot, burning. Keep adjusting the temperature to help guide your child to the prize.

Have your child close his/her eyes and turn their back to you while you hide the object. (Or you can hide the object when he/she is doing something else.)

Tips and Suggestions:

Choose a safe location in which to hide the object. If doing this in the kitchen some places should be out-of-bounds (knife drawer, etc.) and clearly identified to your child before playing.

Another way to play: Once your child knows how to play, change roles. Ask your child to hide an object and have him/her give you temperature clues until you find it.

Activity #4: Concentration Card Game

This is an excellent game to develop your child's matching, pairing, and memorizing ability. It can also be played with any number of people.

Materials: A standard 52-card pack



How to Play Any player shuffles the deck and spreads all the cards out, face down all over the table, one at a time, so that no two cards touch or overlap at the corners. The entire surface of the table is usually needed to make room for all the cards. The goal is to collect pairs of cards (such as two sixes or two queens, etc.).

The first player turns up any two cards on the table, leaving the first card face up until he/she has turned the second. If the two cards are a pair, the player takes them and puts them face down in front of him/her in a pile, and then he/she turns up two more cards.

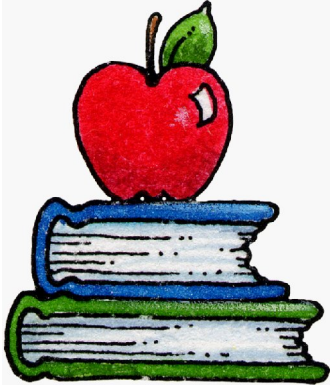
Whenever the two cards turned up do not form a pair, the player turns both cards face down again, leaving them in exactly the same position on the table. It is then the next player's turn (the player to the left) to turn over two cards to make a match. The player who takes in the greatest number of pairs is the winner. With young children this game can be played cooperatively with the players helping each other to remember the location of cards to make a match.

Tips and Suggestions

When you first begin this game start with the face cards (which is 12 cards) and lay them out in rows (3x4 or 4x3). If you find this is too easy for your child, use the Aces and the number cards up to five. When this gets too easy use all the number cards without the face cards and finally, for the ultimate challenge, all 52 cards in the deck.

As each stage gets easier, try laying the cards randomly on the table, not in rows.

About Lift-A-Flap Books



A quick look around your library or any children's bookshop will usually result in finding a variety of what is called "novelty" books. These are books with flaps, split pages, holes, pop-ups and even, in a few cases, wheels. All of them are designed to make the books more interesting for children but some do it better than others. As with any other children's book, look for quality.

Beware of those that are so complicated that they completely swamp the words and produce a toy rather than a book.

Watch out for those that work well but are poorly written. No amount of novelty will turn a bad story into a good one.

In the very best ones, the words, pictures and novelty elements blend to produce a book which children will want to have read again and again.

Lift-A-Flap, pop-up and other novelty books come in an assortment of sizes and on a variety of topics. They are very appealing for young children as they are highly interactive, usually with something to open or move on each page and are particularly interesting to busy or active children.

Ask your librarian or bookseller for help finding some of the books listed below or for others that will appeal to your child.

More Lift the Flap Books

Open the Barn Door, Find a Cow By Christopher Santoro

Peek a Moo By Maria Cimarusti

Dear Zoo By Rod Campbell

Usborne Lift-the-Flap Science Series (e.g. Animal Homes, On the Beach)

More Books By Eric Hill

Spot Can Count

Spot on the Farm

Good Night Spot

Spot Bakes a Cake

Spot Loves His Daddy

