

# Toddler Ideas

## Subjects and themes to work with-

Color Themes  
Animals Themes  
Number Themes  
Size-Small Large Themes  
Under-On Top Themes  
Shape Themes  
Weight Themes  
Stuffed animal Themes  
Sharing Themes  
Texture Themes  
Faster Slower Themes  
Senses Theme  
Time Themes  
Money Themes

## Craft ideas-

**Collage-** Get some kids magazines (no adult contents might not be suitable) give them some scissors and a small card board with stick glue to paste their creation.

**Sand in a bottle different colors/jar/-**To save money on this one I bought regular white sand then put it in small plastic bowls for the kids then added a food color to it. They had to mix it with their fingers and after awhile the sand will become that color. They then put it in their little bottles then traded sand to put another color. This was a great idea for the kids. Make sure to tell the kids not to shake them or at least fill it full, if they shake them it will become an ugly brown.

**Make puppets-** One of the easiest things to do is buy some paper bags which are really cheap they can do more then one. Crayons, markers, shapes of mouth, noses already cut out for them, use yarn for hair, then put on a puppet show!

**BINOCULARS** - *You will need :*

- \* 2 paper rolls (about 4" - 5" long)
- \* single hole punch
- \* glue
- \* yarn or string

Glue together 2 paper rolls on the sides. Punch a hole in each side of the binoculars. Tie the ribbon/yarn through the holes.

Have your toddler look through the binoculars and tell you what they see. For more enjoyment, you can bring him or her outside to look for birds.

### **Index Card Books**

*Contributed by Teresa Milligan*

Staple index cards together and cut out pictures from magazines. (food, toys, etc.) You may want to let your child pick his/her favorite pictures and help glue them in the book. Pictures of grandma, grandpa, and other relatives work well too.

Something with animal crackers

### **MAKE YOUR OWN TAMBOURINE (Did) Kids loved it**

Teach your child how to make music from this toddler craft.

*You will need :*

- \* 2 paper plates
- \* Stapler
- \* Beans or rice
- \* Paint
- \* Stickers
- \* Ribbon

Take two paper plates and staple them together putting beans or rice in the middle. Let the child paint or glue or put stickers and ribbon on the outside making their own tambourine.

### **FISH BOWL**

*You will need :*

- \* 2 paper bowls
- \* Blue see-through paper
- \* Markers
- \* Yellow fish crackers

Take two paper bowls and cut the middle out of one. Put blue see through paper to cover the hole (this is the water). Then decorate with markers and glue yellow goldfish crackers to the inside of the other bowl. Staple the two insides together. You now have your own fish tank with this toddler craft.

Art work: You'll need : a pair of scissors, roll of sticky backed plastic, stuff to stick on (kitchenfoil pieces, feathers, lentils, foam pieces, wooden shapes, glitter, beads, raffia, thread pieces, pom poms , rice, couscous, etc)

**Materials Needed:**

- Cardboard or poster board
- Scissors
- Colorations Activity Paint
- Single hole punch
- Tipped strings of yarn
- Stencils (optional)
- Laminating materials (optional)

**Craft instructions:**

Using any type of cardboard or poster board, have children cut out large designs and shapes that will act as the lacing cards. Paint with Colorations Activity Paint. Let dry. With a single hole punch, punch holes around the outside of the shape. For a stronger lacing card, laminate before punching the holes. Now the kids are ready to lace up their own cards. Use brightly colored Fun Tipped Yarn to weave in and out of the holes.

**Spaghetti art- Materials Needed:** Your Favorite Liquid Watercolors, Spaghetti, Oil, Paper Plates **Craft Instructions:**

Cook spaghetti and drain, add a little oil. Give each child a small amount of the cooked spaghetti on a paper plate. Add a small amount of Colorations Liquid Watercolorā to each child's portion, and watch the fun begin. Children love the slimy, slithery texture. To create a sculpture of art, add a small amount of clear glue to children's plates and let them shape and sculpt. Allow to dry. Not for eating!

**Make Treats to Feed the Birds: Pine Cone Bird Feeders**

You will need:

Large pine cones  
 A butter knife  
 Yarn or ribbon, cut in 12-inch lengths  
 Peanut butter  
 Bird seed or sunflower seeds

Spread the pine cone with peanut butter. Roll the pine cone in a tray of seeds. Tie yarn or ribbon around the bottom of the pine cone and hang from a tree branch

**Shaving cream-What you need:**

- Newspaper
- Waxed paper
- Shaving cream
- Your favorite colors of Colorations™ Liquid Watercolors™

**Process:**

1. Cover a table with newspaper and then again with waxed paper.
2. Dispense a generous amount of shaving cream and add several colors of Colorations™ Liquid Watercolor™.
3. Great tactile activity and makes fun pastel handprints, a terrific gift!

**Musical Maracas -Materials Needed:**

Your Favorite Activity Paint , Plastic Drink Containers with Caps, Dry Rice and Beans, Crepe Paper

**Craft Instructions:**

Cover your workspace with newspaper. Take 2 plastic drink containers (any size) and remove as much of the bottle labels as you can. Put dry rice and beans in the bottles. Put the cap back on and decorate with Colorations□ Activity Paint and Glitter Glue. Let dry. Tape crepe paper or tissue paper streamers around the bottle. Now shake'em, shake'em, shake'em!

**Ice Color Soap-**

1 ¾ Ivory Snow Powder, ¼ cup water, Food coloring –

**Instructions- Mix water and soap flakes together. Add food coloring until you get the desired color.. Put mixture into an ice cube tray. Allow to harden. Break or cut into pieces. This is a lot of fun for kids while taking a bath.**

**Painting activities****Make a Potato Picture:**

Cut a potato in half, and carve a simple shape or design into it. Let your child dip the potato into finger paint and press it on a clean piece of paper, aluminum foil, or on a paper bag. Use the finished masterpiece for a homemade card, wrapping paper, or trick or treat bag.

**Paint ceramic objects:** I found these little cute little ceramic animal pieces at Walmart for 45 cents each, using our water proof paint the kids worked on painting it. I told them about dipping into the water before getting into another color, and to take their time and

dip just the tip of their paintbrushes to get a color. You would be amazed on how many little kids don't know how to paint that well and need some instructions.

### **Paint with Ice Cubes:**

First, cover the table with plastic, for easy clean up. (Painting can be messy!) Put dry tempura paint of various colors into salt shakers for sprinkling. Let your child shake some paint on a piece of paper or on a paper plate. Put an old pair of mittens on your child's hands to keep them from getting too cold. Have them pick up an ice cube and swirl it around through the paint to make a pleasing design.

Let the paintings dry and hang them on the refrigerator or other place of honor, reserved for great works of art!

### **Make Your Own Jigsaw Puzzle-**

Have your child draw a picture, or find a nice one in a children's magazine. Glue the picture onto a piece of heavy paper or cardboard. After the glue dries, carefully cut or tear the picture into five or six large pieces, and have your child put it together again

**Fruity Cereal necklace** - Cut one piece of string about 20- 26 inches long for each child. Put a piece of transparent tape on one end of the string. This will be helpful for those nimble little fingers in stringing the cereal on. Have the kids string on the cereal into the pattern of their choice. You can attach the ends with transparent tape which if pulled would pulled apart quickly. Always monitor where and how long your child wears any thing around their neck. After making the necklace the great part is eating the cereal off the string. Not recommend for kids under the age of 2.

## **Activities-**

**The Bean Game** - all you need is a bag of dry beans and a dishpan or large bowl. Dump the beans into the bowl and then let him have at it. At first, he will probably delight in sinking his hands into the beans, picking them up and running them through his fingers. As he begins to lose interest, give him a cup, a set of nesting measuring scoops or a large wooden spoon to dig around with.

**Scissor activity-** You can either give them magazine or if you have time cut out different shapes so the kids can practice their scissor skills.

**Another activity for toddler that involves texture-** is to assemble some different items and place them in a paper bag. Some good items are cotton balls, sand paper, a rubber ball, and a feather. Use your imagination to choose items that are very different in texture

and size. Help him to pick one item out at a time, rub it against your and his face and say excitedly "feather", or whatever the name of the item is. Put the item back in the bag, shake it gently and do it again. This not only helps your child learn about texture, but it helps him develop a more extensive vocabulary. You can ask questions to help build their ability of description, for example..."Is the object smooth to touch...sharp, blunt, cold like metal, firm, soft etc."

**Playdoh**-A favorite activity for our K kids uses homemade playdoh that will last a year or more at least. Buy cookie cutters, rolling pins, another favorite is non sharp cutting objects found at most craft kids stores.

**Bubbles**-Blow bubbles and have the children pop them and catch them with their bubble catchers.

**Make Goop**- Mix 2 cups water with a little food coloring, add 6 cups of cornflour/cornstarch to make goop. A great outdoor summer activity.

**Decorate cookies**-Bake cookies the night before and have them decorate it with different color frosting.

**Jet balloons**- **Fill a balloon with air and let it go. What makes the balloon go?**

**Make a Telephone**- Poke a hole in the bottom of two Styrofoam cups. Place a piece of string in the bottom of one cup and tie a knot at the end of the string to prevent the string from coming completely out of the bottom of the cup. Then thread the string through the bottom of the other cup and tie another knot. The } is a cup on it's side and the ---- represents the string. It should look like this: }-----{ Have one child talk in one cup while another listens with the other cup. How long can the string be before the phone won't work?

**Parachute**- Grab a sheet and let the kids take ends of it. Place different things in it to see it bounce what goes higher, what is heavier.

**Play shadow tag**-Get a lamb and a blank wall and make shadows - Grab a book from the library on how to make certain objects with your hands.

**Tools** - Provide older K Children with the opportunity to use tools such as screwdrivers, small hammers with wood

**Flashlight fun** – Ask parents to bring in small flashlights and let the kids play with it in the dark-Remind them not to flash in other kids faces.

**Science Activity:**

### ***Learning about static electricity***

All you need is an inflated balloon. Have your child rub the balloon vigorously against his hair or sweater. Experiment with different objects...where the balloon will stick? The Drapes, Wall, Refrigerator...

### ***Learning about object's density***

Collect a variety of different materials, such as: wood, metal, plastic, apples, oranges, plastic bottles, toy blocks, paper, bathtub toys, plastic forks, rubber balls, soda-bottle caps, pencils, erasers, sponges etc. Put the items into a small bowl or bucket of water one by one and have your child guess whether it will sink or float.

### ***Magnet Fun***

Get a bar of magnet and a variety of different materials such as paper clip, pencil, drinking glass, thumbtack, metal and plastic spoons, piece of aluminum foil, piece of wire, pebbles etc . Have your child play and see which objects will be attracted to the magnet.

### ***What Shape Is Water?***

Collect many different sizes and shapes of clear glass or plastic containers. Pour water into the containers using a pitcher. Check it out- what shape is water?

### ***Mixing liquids***

You will need some glass jars with lids, food coloring, cooking oil, vinegar, milk, liquid dish soap, water and measuring cups. Mix different combinations of liquids together such as water and food coloring, water and cooking oil etc. Put the jars down for a few minutes after each experiment to see what happens to the liquid mixture you put in the jar. Do all the liquids mix? All liquids are not the same! Some will mix with others and some will not. Some are lighter or heavier than others.

### ***Mixing colors***

You will need red, blue and yellow food color, 1 cup of milk, dish soap and a shallow bowl. Pour a cup of milk into the bowl and add 3 drops of red food color to one edge of the bowl. 1/3 of the way away, add 3 drops of blue food color. 1/3 of the way away, add 3 drops of yellow food color. Don't mix or jiggle the bowl. Squeeze a drop of dish soap in the center of the bowl.

In this science experiment for kid, you will observe that the dish soap does not mix with the milk. Instead it floats on top and spreads over the surface. As it spreads, it grabs the food color dropped in earlier. Where the colors meet, they combine to form new colors.

### **Experiment with Rainbow Water** *Contributed by Sondra Ailingner*

Experiment with colors and water by putting drops of food coloring into the sink as it slowly fills with water (drain closed). Drop one or two drops close to (but to one side) of the stream of water. The color will stay "together" for a moment before getting caught in the current, then it will suddenly expand to fill the whole sink. Experiment with different color combinations: red + blue = purple, yellow+ blue=green, yellow+green=lime, yellow+red=orange, etc. Works best with a white sink.

### **Have a Science Experiment with Baking Soda and Vinegar**

*Contributed by Lawrence A. Spielman*

I take a small bowl and put some baking soda in it. Then I give her a child's pitcher, filled with vinegar. Finally I lay a muffin tin on the table. She takes a spoon and scoops out the baking soda, placing a small amount in each cup of the muffin tin. Then, (and this is her favorite part) she pours the vinegar from her pitcher into each cup and watches it foam up. This is a DEFINITE kitchen activity! Another tip: If you can salvage some of the vinegar (I soak it up with a rag and squeeze it back into the pitcher) you won't waste much for the repeat performances.

### **Another Science Experiment with Baking Soda and Vinegar**

*Contributed by Brenda -Centerville, PA*

Put vinegar in a small plastic bottle... a 16oz soda bottle works great. Use a small funnel to put baking soda in a balloon. Carefully put the balloon over the top of the bottle. (Be careful not to let the baking soda out until the balloon covers the top) When the balloon covers the top of the bottle, dump the baking soda into the vinegar and watch as the balloon blows up!

**Nature Walk-** Take a plastic bag with you on your next nature walk. I bought some great bug catcher containers from a dollar store once that came with magnifying glass we use this each year. Encourage your child to collect leaves and small sticks, and acorns, and put them in the bag. Ask your child about each item they choose to put in the bag. When you come back to class room look at it through magnifying glass and share each others finds.

**Fossils -** Provide the children with fossils to inspect and examine by hand

**Plant a Seed-** I bought some inexpensive cardboard small pots along with 10 cent seeds. We painted them the week before. The next week we went outside. I put enough dirt for one pot in a baggy and gave to the kids to plant. I told them to fill it up half way, then scatter the seeds, then we put the rest of the dirt inside. We discussed about taking it home and watering it and giving it sun then replanting it later when it got large. We discussed why plants need sun and water.

**Measure it-** Another part of science is measuring. Provide the children with plenty of opportunities to measure things. Provide measuring cups in your sand and water table, and containers of various sizes or one large one with different measurements on it. Beads, rice, water, sand can be used.

**Scent -** What scent is this? Gather four or different objects with different scents. Blindfold the child, then place the object close the child's nose, and ask the child to smell and try to identify what it is.

**Salt Art-** Saturate hot water with salt. Let the water cool, and have the child use the salt water to paint on black paper. Then after it dries, have the child look at the crystals of salt on the paper.

**Float or sink-** Have several different items on a tray, and a dishpan of water. Ask the children if they think an item will sink or float. Try it!

**Egg Carton Fun-** Use a plastic egg carton for this activity. Fill each hole 3/4 full with water. Add red food coloring to one hole, blue to another, and yellow to another. Give your child an eyedropper, show them how to use the eyedropper to move the colored water to clear water, notice how the color changes. Let them experiment. For older children, ask them how to make green, purple, brown, and aqua colors.