



# EXTRA ACTIVITY IDEAS

## QUICK REFERENCE SHEET



### Babies



Nanny 'n me  
growing together

#### Playdough fun with bottle tops and popsicle sticks:

Allow your baby to explore the items individually first and then see if they can incorporate the items into the play dough. Ask your baby to put the popsicle sticks into the play dough and using the bottle tops you can encourage them to press them down as cookie cutters to make some yummy pretend cookies.

#### Bottle Lids, muffin trays and old pots and pans:

It's time to head into the kitchen. We will be cooking with bottle lids and stirring the pots with popsicle sticks. Allow your baby to have free play and watch them take the lead in this activity. You can encourage your baby to place one bottle lid into each muffin tray hole, this is great for fine motor development. Observe your baby being creative.



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#### Handprint flower garden:

Four materials are all you need to make a beautiful flower art piece: paint, paper, glue and popsicle sticks. Start off by allowing your baby to feel and explore the popsicle sticks. See if they can dip the popsicle sticks in paint and then allow them to dry. The flowers are made from their handprints, so start by dipping your baby's hand in paint and then placing their hand on a piece of paper. Once your popsicle sticks are dry stick them underneath your hand, so it forms the stem of the flower.

#### Posting tin with popsicle sticks:

Such a fun activity that is quick to make and enjoyed by your baby. All you will need is a formula tin/ice cream container or any container with a lid. Cut a hole in the lid to fit the size of a popsicle stick. Then let your baby try and post the popsicle sticks. For an extra activity you can see if your baby will help you decorate your container, you could paint, stick stickers on or wrap your container in wrapping paper.



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### Toddlers



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#### Painting with pom poms and pegs:

For this fun activity all you need is pegs, paint, a tray, pom poms or cotton wool and the first letter of your toddlers name drawn onto a piece of paper. Make a blob of each colour paint on your paint tray. You will need one pom pom and one peg per a colour. Pick up the pom pom using your peg, dip it into the paint and start painting inside your letter. If you want to change colours, you pick up a clean pom pom using a new peg, dip it into the paint and continue painting inside your letter. Pegs are great for encouraging fine motor skills and act as a handle for holding the paint soaked pom poms.

#### Colourful pegs and peg racers:

Toddlers love to paint and get messy! Give your toddler a few blobs of paint and using their little fingers let them paint their pegs all different colours, you want roughly 10-15 pegs. Once your pegs are dried it's time to race. Race your toddler to see who can put the most pegs on a piece of rope in a period of time, or who can place the pegs on the fastest. This is a great activity to get the entire family involved. The more people that join the game the more pegs you will need.



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#### Bottle top fishing:

For this fun activity you will need a slotted spoon, milk bottle lids and a bucket or large basin of water. Place all your bottle lids into the bucket of water, hand your toddler the slotted spoon and see how many bottle fish they can fish out. Children should always be monitored when there is large amounts of water around.

#### Tree ornaments using popsicle sticks.:

Before you start make sure you have everything ready. You will need popsicle sticks, glue, a piece of ribbon for hanging and then glitter or paint to decorate. Allow your toddler to be creative and allow them to first play around with the popsicle sticks, see what they can make using the sticks. You will need to guide and help them with this activity. Some ideas of things one can make is a star, house, sun or even a tree. There are some great ideas on the internet.



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### Big kids



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#### Popsicle stick & peg construction:

Try your hand at a little engineering using only popsicle sticks and pegs. Try building the tallest tower, or perhaps a bridge, or even a standing 'stick man'! You can also make animals by drawing on eyes and whiskers with a khoki.

#### Popsicle stick reading practice:

- Using as many sticks as necessary build capital letters. See if you can build your own name and the names of all the people in your family.
- Write sight words onto popsicle sticks. Sound out the letters and cover them with pegs. Make this a bit harder by writing the letters into the pegs as well and match the letters together.
- Write sight words over two sticks so that the top and bottom half of the letters are split over 2 sticks. Practice sight words by matching the sticks like a puzzle.
- Decorate a stick as a pointer to help beginner readers follow the words.
- Decorate sticks as bookmarks for fun!

#### Bottle top board games:

- Naughts and Crosses: Draw 'o's and 'x's on the inside of milk bottle tops and challenge the family to a game of naughts and crosses.
- Checkers: Gather 24 tops and divide them into 2 sets of 12 pieces each. Assign each set a colour let your child decorate the tops. Create a checkers board by drawing a grid of 8x8 squares. Colour in every other square the colour of your choice (leave the alternating squares plain.) Pieces may only move diagonally on the coloured squares. They may also only move forward. If you jump over an opponent's piece, you may remove the piece from the board. The last player with pieces on the board is the winner!



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#### Craft stick catapult:

You will need:

- Craft sticks
- Elastic bands
- A milk bottle top
- A few catapults (e.g. pompoms, mini marshmallows)

Tie a stick of about 6-8 sticks together with an elastic band on both ends. Tie 2 more sticks at one end. Glue a bottle top to the top of the 2 sticks. Open the 2 sticks and slide the bottom one between the 2nd and 3rd sticks of the 8-stick pile,, making sure the 2nd stick (with the bottle cap on) is over the top of the stack.

Making sure everything is secure, let the catapults fly!

Take guesses as to whose catapults will fly furthest then measure the distances to see who the winner is!

#### Bottle top maths:

- Bottle tops make excellent counters!
- Use bottle tops for grouping.
- Write numbers on the inside of the tops and let your child place them in order. Remove some numbers (e.g odd numbers) to practice skip counting.
- Thread 10 bottle tops into a string. Tie the string onto a frame for a homemade abacus!
- For a bit of pretend play fun create a store at home. Let your little ones shop and use bottle tops as money. For younger children, use the same size caps and pay 1 cap per unit. For older children, use different size caps and assign a value according to the size. Help them work out how much change each shopper must get. Have fun!!