Playful Learning Kit
Contents

What’s Happening? Photo Cards

Tub of Cars & Trucks

What’s Inside? Soft Feely Box

Lakeshore Counting Cones

Roll & Race! Activity Ramp

Celebrating Diversity Floor Puzzle
Staff Instructions

What’s Happening? Photo Cards

Set-up:
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item.

Clean-up:
Orient all cards the same direction and place in their holder. Count to make sure all cards are included.

What’s Inside? Soft Feely Box

Set-up:
Place item on floor. This is ideal for babies and toddlers. Bonus points if you have a blanket or mat you can place under the item.

Clean-up:
Make sure all items are inside the box but nothing else. Spot clean any items that need it with a damp cloth.

Roll & Race! Activity Ramp

Set-up:
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item. There are six items inside the box to use with the ramp including 4 cars and 2 shaker eggs. Make copies of the chart for families to write on (and cut into quarters) and provide 2 pencils for the table.

Clean-up:
Wipe down any items in need of cleaning with a damp cloth. Make sure all items are included.
Staff Instructions

Tub of Cars & Trucks

**Set-up:**
Place item on open floor space. Bonus points if you have an activity rug to place on floor or if you want to tape out roadways with masking tape.

**Clean-up:**
Place all vehicles back in tub. Wipe down anything in need of cleaning with a damp cloth.

Lakeshore Counting Cones

**Set-up:**
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item.

**Clean-up:**
Make sure all items are inside the box. Spot clean any items that need it with a damp cloth.

Celebrating Diversity Floor Puzzle

**Set-up:**
Place item on open floor space.

**Clean-up:**
Make sure all pieces are included.
What’s Happening?

Photo Cards

Objectives
Child(ren) will share ideas and experiences.
Child(ren) will develop spoken vocabulary by initiating and responding to questions.

Description
This set of 50 photographs is designed to spark conversation with young children. Featuring people, animals, and everyday life, these scenes were selected to promote language and foster creative thinking. On the back of each card there are questions designed to get the conversation started.

Instructions
- Choose a card.
- Start describing what you see and then say to your child “tell me what you see.”
  Wait until they respond.
- Then, use the questions on the back of the card to continue your conversation.
- Choose another card.
- Place all cards back into the tin when you’re finished.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 3 and up.
What’s Inside?
Soft Feely Box

Objectives
Child(ren) will explore a variety of textures.
Child(ren) will participate in safe risk-taking behavior by reaching inside the box for an unknown item.

Description
This soft, machine-washable box is packed with 10 different sensory objects for children to feel and explore. A pastel butterfly with crinkly wings, a cute lion with a corduroy coat, a shiny frog for tots to squeak, and more.

Instructions
- Demonstrate to your babe how to reach inside and pull out an item.
- Describe the item using as much descriptive vocabulary as you can.
- Encourage your child to reach in after you if they have not already started.
- Continue until the box is empty.
- Place all items back into the box when you’ve finished for the next family.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages birth to 4.
Roll and Race
Activity Ramp

Objectives
Child(ren) will explore motion, friction, and angles.
Child(ren) will understand cause and effect.

Description
This ramp is a simple, exciting way to introduce young children to friction, motion, and cause & effect. The two-lane ramp comes with six interchangeable, textured paths. As children roll objects down the paths, they analyze the motion of objects and explore how different textures affect speed and momentum.

Instructions
- Introduce the ramp and the six textured paths to your child(ren).
- Ask your child(ren) what is different about the paths, guide them in describing the textures they are observing.
- Choose two objects to roll down the ramp. They may be identical or different.
- Invite your child(ren) to predict which object will roll down its path faster.
- Test your predictions. If you used two different objects, try rolling two of the same objects next time. Compare results.
- As your child(ren) use the ramp, ask questions such as:
  - Which textured path do you think will slow objects down? Why that one?
  - Which item do you think is the fastest? Why that item?
  - How far do you think the _____ will roll? Let’s use a ruler to find out!
- Optional: complete the prediction chart with your observations as you race.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 2 to 8.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastest Path</th>
<th>Slowest Path</th>
<th>Slowest Object</th>
<th>Fastest Object</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tub of Cars & Trucks

Objectives
Child(ren) will explore how things work.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.
Child(ren) will improve their hand-eye coordination.
Child(ren) will have an opportunity for social interaction.
Child(ren) will make patterns and/or count.
Child(ren) will have an opportunity for creative play.

Description
These extra-chunky vehicles are made for adventures! This set includes 25 smooth-rolling cars, trucks, and wagons—all with rounded edges for safe play.

Instructions
• Play together, let your child(ren) lead and join in their creative play.
• Stuck?
  ○ Line up all the vehicles.
  ○ Make a pattern using the vehicles.
  ○ Group the vehicles by color, size, or type.
• Place the vehicles back into the bucket when you’re finished.

This activity is recommended for children of all ages.
Counting Cones

Objectives
Child(ren) will count.
Child(ren) will explore math concepts.
Child(ren) will improve their hand-eye coordination.
Child(ren) will strengthen their one-to-one correspondence.

Description
These hands-on counting cones engage children in early math practice. Children select a cone, identify the number, and then stack the corresponding number of scoops on top. The set comes with enough scoops to complete all 10 cones at once!

Instructions
- Introduce the ice cream cones and scoops, point out where the number is located on each cone.
- Name the number on each cone for your child(ren).
- Explain to your child(ren) that the number represents the quantity of ice cream scoops that go on the cone. Tell them to stack that many scoops on the cone.
- Model how to stack five scoops on top of the 5 cone. Explain to children that the first scoop they snap onto the cone will make the ice cream cone more stable. As you stack the scoops on the cone, count each one aloud: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- As your child(ren) becomes more familiar, watch them as they complete the task independently.
  - As children work with the ice cream cones and scoops, talk with them:
    - I see you are using the ___ cone. How many scoops should go on that cone?
    - How many scoops would you have if you took one scoop away?
    - I see you are using the ___ cone. What number comes before ___?
  - Encourage the creation of different patterns with the scoops atop the cone.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 3 and up.
Celebrating Diversity
Floor Puzzle

Objectives
Child(ren) will enhance their concentration.
Child(ren) will use problem-solving skills.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
Children can engage with our wonderful, diverse world as they put together this giant floor puzzle. Featuring children of different ethnicities, genders, and abilities, the puzzle highlights just how much fun we can have together when we celebrate our diversity. This sturdy, 48-piece puzzle features bright, inviting details to enjoy. This self-correcting, completed puzzle measure 3 feet by 2 feet.

Instructions
- Put the puzzle together, allowing your child(ren) the time they need to improve their persistence abilities.
- Put all pieces back in the box when you’re finished so it’s ready for the next family.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 3 and up.
Playful Learning Kit
Contents

Festival of Colors Storytelling Kit

Color Rings Sorting Board

Caterpillar Sorting Mat

Nuts About Sorting

My First Pegboard Kit

Ocean Animals Floor Puzzle
**Staff Instructions**

**Festival of Colors Storytelling Kit**

**Set-up:**
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item.

**Clean-up:**
Condition check book and items. Place all kit scenes and the book in the marked bag.

**Caterpillar Sorting Mat**

**Set-up:**
Place items on floor with caregiver sheet. This is ideal for babies and toddlers.

**Clean-up:**
Make sure all items are inside the box but nothing else. Spot clean any items that need it with a damp cloth.

**My First Pegboard Kit**

**Set-up:**
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item. Use included basket for pegs.

**Clean-up:**
Wipe down any items in need of cleaning with a damp cloth. Make sure all items are accounted for and place within box, foam boards on the bottom.
Staff Instructions

Color Rings Sorting Board

Set-up:
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item.
Place all rings in basket that accompanies kit.

Clean-up:
Place all rings on their pegs and put inside box.

Nuts About Sorting

Set-up:
Tape caregiver sheet on table next to item.

Clean-up:
Make sure all items are inside the box but nothing else. Spot clean any items that need it with a damp cloth.

Ocean Animals Floor Puzzle

Set-up:
Place item on open floor space with caregiver sheet.

Clean-up:
Make sure all pieces are included.
Festival of Colors
Storytelling Kit

Objectives
Child(ren) will learn the Festival of Colors story.
Child(ren) will retell a story.
Child(ren) will learn about Holi.

Description
Festival of Colors is about friendship, peace, happiness, and the holiday Holi. This kit is designed for you to work together to retell the story.

Instructions
- Show your child(ren) the book cover. Read the title and ask them what they think the story will be about.
- Read Festival of Colors to your child(ren). Read it again if they liked it.
- Review the book and remind your child(ren) that it is about Holi, the Indian festival of colors. Discuss Holi themes such as friendship, fresh starts, and forgiveness. Point out aspects of Indian culture represented in the text.
- Point out the storytelling pieces. Find the piece showing Chintoo and Mintoo whispering, “Holi, Hai.” Explain that the phrase means “festival of colors,” and ask your child(ren) what their favorite colors are.
- Place the storytelling pieces in the order of the book.
- Ask questions to engage your child(ren)’s thinking:
  - Why is Holi celebrated?
  - We celebrate ________ (name a holiday). What other holidays do we celebrate?
  - What would happen if there were only one type of flower?
  - What are some ways we are similar to the characters in the story?
- Compliment your child(ren) and encourage them to compliment you.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 4 and up.
Caterpillar Sorting Mat

Objectives
Child(ren) will identify colors and sort.
Child(ren) will sort by attribute.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
This caterpillar mat introduces little ones to colors, shapes, and more! Machine-washable with 18 sorting pieces, each section of the caterpillar features a different color. There are wooden, plastic, and soft-sewn pieces to match to their six colors. Each soft-sewn piece has a different fabric covering, to give little ones an engaging tactile experience.

Instructions
- Encourage your child to explore the materials.
- Show them how to match each piece to the same color on the mat.
- Point out the different shapes and objects represented among the manipulatives.
- When your child(ren) are familiar with the colors and pieces, ask them questions and talk about each one.
  - What color is the heart?
  - What shapes are the yellow pieces?
  - I see a bright, orange pumpkin. What else is orange here?

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 6 months and up.
My First Pegboard Set

Objectives
Child(ren) will identify colors and sort.
Child(ren) will sort by attribute.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
Chunky pegs and sturdy boards are great for little hands. This set includes 4 foam pegboards and 40 jumbo pegs.

Instructions
- Fit the pegs into their matching boards.
- Count the pegs as you place them on the boards.
- Talk about the shapes of the boards.
- Looking for more ways to play?
  - Make patterns with the pegs
  - Talk about where a fish lives.
  - Talk about where you might see a train.
  - Talk about different colors of apples.
  - Talk about your home and what it looks like.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 18 months and up.
Color Rings
Sorting Board

Objectives
Child(ren) will identify colors and sort.
Child(ren) will sort by attribute.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
This wooden sorting board with 6 pegs includes 24 rings (in 6 colors).

Instructions
- Fit the rings onto the matching pegs.
- Count the rings as you place them on the pegs.
- Say each color word printed on the board.
- Looking for more ways to play?
  - Make patterns with the rings
  - Talk about primary (red, yellow, blue) and secondary (purple, green, orange) colors.
  - Match which two primary colors make one secondary color.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 2 and up.
Nuts About Sorting

Objectives
Child(ren) will identify colors and sort.
Child(ren) will sort by attribute.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
These hands-on nuts and bolts are perfectly sized to introduce color sorting. Children simply choose one of eight colored bolts and twist on the matching nuts for sorting practice. When finished, they hold the bolts upright to quickly release the nuts. Includes 48 nuts and 8 bolts.

Instructions
- One at a time, show a corresponding nut and bolt for all eight colors in the set. Identify each color with your child(ren) as it is displayed.
- Demonstrate how to thread the nuts onto the bolts, matching colors as you go.
- After threading several identically colored nuts onto their corresponding bolt, demonstrate the “quick release” function by holding the bolt vertically.
- Talk about it:
  - I see that you are sorting the ___ nuts onto the ____ bolt. Can you find three more items in this room that are the same color?
  - I see that you are sorting the ___ nuts onto the ___ bolt. How many nuts will it take to fill the entire bolt? Count them and see if you’re correct!
  - You are sorting objects by color. But, can you sort in other ways? Let’s name some ways we can sort items.
- Build on learning
  - Talk about primary (blue, red, yellow) and secondary (green, orange, purple) colors and how color mixing works.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 3 and up.
Ocean Animals
Floor Puzzle

Objectives
Child(ren) will enhance their concentration.
Child(ren) will use problem-solving skills.
Child(ren) will strengthen their fine motor skills.

Description
Children can engage with the amazing world of ocean animals as they put together this giant floor puzzle! From sea turtles to sharks and whales, this puzzle highlights a variety of beautifully detailed creatures. This self-correcting, 48-piece puzzle measures 3 feet by 2 feet.

Instructions
- Put the puzzle together, allowing your child(ren) the time they need to improve their persistence abilities.
- Put all pieces back in the box when you’re finished so it’s ready for the next family.

This activity is recommended for children developmental ages 3 and up.