



Imaginative Play Ideas for Toddlers

Information Sheet

Inside Play Ideas:

- Read books and tell stories together about wonderful places and creatures. Talk about the stories with your toddler or ask him what he thinks might happen next.
- Make some sounds and rhythms with homemade or bought musical instruments.
- Draw and scribble with crayons and paper and let your toddler draw from his imagination. Talk about the drawings.
- Visit and explore favourite or new places in your home, like the saucepan drawer or container cupboard.
- Set up a special play space in your home. This can be as simple as draping a cloth over two chairs or using a large cardboard box. Add some dress-up clothes or a pile of blocks to encourage your toddler to come up with stories and games.

Outside Play Ideas:

- Go for a nature walk in the park, at the playground, at the beach – anywhere with new sights and sounds.
- Make a treasure box for your toddler, full of natural objects (make sure to supervise for mouthing of small items/choking hazards!)
- Try messy play using sand, mud, clay, playdough or paints. Just make sure these materials are non-toxic, because your toddler's fingers are likely to end up in her mouth at some stage.
- Set up water play.
- Make up and go on an expedition to find an item/toy.

N.B It's always important when engaging in imaginative play with your child to try and follow their lead.