



## Activity Ideas for Toddlers

Sara Gable, State Extension Specialist, with help from:

Dombro, Amy Laura, Colker, Laura J., & Dodge, Diane Trister. (1999). *The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers*. Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, Inc.

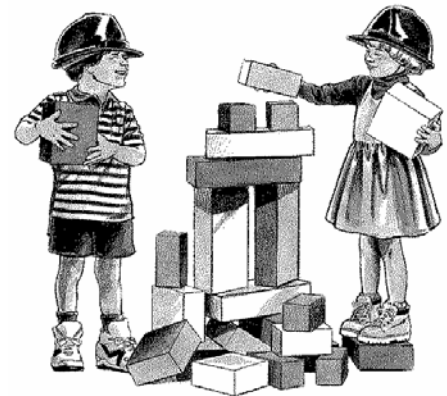
Marzollo, Jean. (1977). *Supertot*. New York, NY: Harper & Row Publishers.

### *Creative Activities:* Keep them simple!

- ✓ Deodorant bottle painting on different kinds of paper, like newspaper, grocery sacks, or construction paper.
- ✓ Handprint painting – use paint-soaked sponges in meat trays to keep down the mess.
- ✓ Tissue paper shapes dipped in liquid starch and arranged on paper plates.
- ✓ Junk mail return address labels and old envelopes or pieces of mail.
- ✓ Painting with thick-handled, short bristle brushes at a table-top easel.

### *Motor Activities:* Toddlers love to keep busy.

- Playdough and simple kitchen equipment
- Dropping game and carrying game
- Simple puzzles
- Bean bags and buckets
- Blow bubbles against a mirror
- Appliance boxes for crawling in and out
- Felt shapes, felt body parts, and a felt board
- Cardboard building blocks
- Cloth tunnel for crawling
- Push/pull toys, shape sorters, and nesting cups
- Cobblers bench



### *Sensory Activities:* Provide opportunities for clean "messy" play!

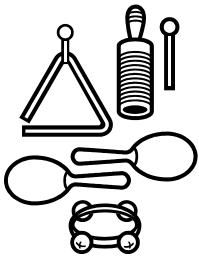
- ✓ Bathtub blocks in tubs of water
- ✓ Piles of shredded paper with farm animals
- ✓ Outdoor painting with water
- ✓ Tubs of water with measuring cups and spoons
- ✓ Bathing baby dolls
- ✓ Rubber ducks in tubs of water
- ✓ Lots of little pieces of masking tape

*Pretend Play:* Toddlers enjoy the chance to pretend.



- Hats and glasses
- Baby dolls with beds and blankets
- Wild animals and a circus train
- Little people and cars, boats, or trucks
- Simple kitchen equipment
- Toy telephones
- A card table tent
- Puppets and other soft stuffed animals
- Combs, brushes, washcloths, and a mirror
- Mail carrier play with bags, boxes and 'mail'
- A tea party set

*Music and Singing:* Toddlers love to sing and chant, especially when you sing the same song over and over.



Chants: "Who gets sleepy?" "Who eats apples?"

Fingerplays: "Where is Thumbkin?" "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider."

*Two-Little Blackbirds*



Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill, (place hands on shoulders)

One named Jack.

One named Jill.

Fly away, Jack. (fly hand behind back)

Fly away, Jill. (fly hand behind back)

Come back, Jack. (return hand to shoulder)

Come back, Jill. (return hand to shoulder)

### Book Ideas for Toddlers

- *My Very First Mother Goose* (Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells)
- Board Books by Helen Oxenbury (*Tickle, Tickle; Clap Hands; Say Good Night; All Fall Down; I See; I Touch; I Hear*)
- Richard Scarry's *Best Word Book Ever!* and *Cars and Trucks and Things that Go*
- *Where is Baby's Belly Button? Counting Kisses* (Karen Katz)
- *Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you see?* (Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle)
- *Polar Bear Polar Bear What do you hear?* (Eric Carle)
- *Moo Baa La La La* and *Going to Bed Book* (Sandra Boynton)
- *Teeth are not for Biting* (Elizabeth Verdick and Marieka Heinlen)
- *Touch and Feel Books* (Dorling Kindersley Publishing)



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