



Problem Solving

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your child can notice similarities and differences among many things. He knows about long and short, a little and a lot, and which one of your kitchen spoons is the biggest. With your help he can put three things of different sizes in order from small to large. Pretend play is still very important and fun for both of you!

What Is This? After giving your child a bath, stand or seat your child in front of a mirror. With a towel, dry different parts of her body. While drying her hair, ask (with a smile and pretend puzzlement), "What is this stuff?" While drying her shoulder ask, "What is this thing?" While drying ribs ask, "What are these bony things?" Have fun being together while tickling, cuddling, and teaching the names of body parts.

Copycat Cars Line up four to five small cars or other objects in a row. Make sure your child sees what you did. Give your child some objects to line up in a row just like you did. You can line up different things, such as blocks, spoons, or shells. Even if your child doesn't do it exactly like you, help out. Say, "See, the red one is by the yellow one." Then, praise your child for playing the game: "Wow, you're a good liner-upper!"

Big and Little Show your child two items of different sizes, such as shoes, cups, or spoons. Ask him to point to the big one, then the little one. You can play Big and Little with many things such as dogs, leaves, and cars, especially at the park. Play this game anywhere in the house or at the supermarket with vegetables, boxes, or cans. Add a medium-size item and change the game to Big, Little, and One in the Middle.

Tell Me Your Story Give your child some plain paper and a few washable crayons or felt-tip pens for drawing. When your child finishes, ask her to tell you about what she drew. Write the story on your child's paper. Print her name. Tell her, "This is your story, and this is your name." Read the story to Grandma or someone else important.

Reading the Neighborhood As you walk or drive around your neighborhood, show your child signs such as the large yellow "M" for McDonald's. Show him a stop sign and tell him what it says. Next time you go out, ask him to read signs with you.

Silly Sounds Play a silly copy game with your child while you are in the car or on the bus. For example, tell her, "Bee, zim, zop" or some other silly phrase. See if your child can copy you. Let your child make up a silly phrase and copy her.



30–36 months