

Child Development DAP (Developmentally Appropriate) Learning activities

"We have enough color by number people. We need more people playing, experimenting, and discovering." –Bev Boss

1. Make a Puppet – Make the puppet to look like you or anything else. Make it out of common household items or not some common items.
2. Bubble Painting – Fill a cup 1/3 full with a mixture of dish soap, water, and food coloring / paint. Use a straw to blow a big pile of bubbles. Take a piece of paper and lay it on the bubbles to pop them.
3. Read a book and do actions with the book
4. Play bean bag basketball – throw backwards over your shoulder or throw facing forwards.
5. Cereal Necklace – string circle cereal on a piece of yarn.
6. Sing a song with finger actions or body actions
7. Play with puzzles
8. Play cat and mouse – tie a piece of yarn around a piece of candy. Place all candy in the center of a circle. Have 1 person hold a large saucepan lid above the "mice candy". Take turns rolling a dice. If it lands on a 1 or a 6 then the "cat" lowers the lid to try and catch "mice". If a mouse gets caught, they become the cat.
9. Cloud (It looked like spilt milk) – using white paint or cotton balls, make a cloud picture.
10. Beanie Baby – get a cotton ball damp and place small bean seed on it. Put the bean and cotton ball in a small baggie and watch it grow.
11. Shaving Cream Paint – to a small blob of shaving cream, add different colors of food coloring. Use a toothpick to gently marble the food coloring through the shaving cream. Take an index card and flatten the shaving cream until it oozes out the sides. Peel it off and use a stick to scrape off the excess shaving cream. See the paint.
12. Read a story and play instruments with the story.
13. Dominoes – play dominoes
14. Create a puppet show with your homemade puppets.
15. Cut and paste magazine pictures or newspaper pieces into a collage.
16. Worm paint - attach a clothespin to a piece of yarn. Make paint blobs on a piece of paper. Drag the yarn through the paint.
17. Finger paint – use your finger to paint with or any other item that would make a great paint brush.
18. Sing a song with instruments
19. Draw and color a picture that you created NOT one out of a coloring book.
20. Sing a song with puppets like 5 little monkeys swinging in a tree.
21. Listen to a book on Cd
22. Listen to children's music and sing or dance along.
23. Tissue paper collage – Tear pieces of tissue paper onto a paper. Squirt the tissue paper to make it wet. Let it dry. Remove the tissue paper to see the painting.
24. Play a children's board game

25. Go fishing – make a fishing pole with a magnet or clothespin on the end of the yarn. If you are using the magnet fishing pole, attach a metal paperclip to the fish.
26. Tic-Tac-Toe – Play this game on paper or make a big game board on the floor out of chalk or tape. Use a bean bags.
27. Blocks or legos – build block towers or other sculptures.
28. Butterfly filter – Color a coffee filter with magic markers. Squirt the filter so it is damp and the colors blend together. Gather the filter in the middle, wrap a pipe cleaner around the center for a body and antennas and then spread out the filter wings.
29. Tell a story using felt pictures.
30. Tell a story and draw the pictures as you tell it.
31. Marble Painting – Fold up edges of paper or place the paper in a tray with sides. Drop blobs of paint on the paper. Roll a marble or other items that roll like a screw, a nut, etc... through the paint.
32. Play rock, paper, scissors, game (gorilla, bunny, moose, and buffalo)
33. Paper plate ice skating – stand on 2 paper plates and ice skate around the carpeted room.
34. Indoor snowball fight – Wad up different colors of paper balls and have a snowball fight. Keep your opponents colored snowballs off of your side while you are trying to throw all of your snowballs onto their side.
35. Firework Picture – using glue, make lines that look like exploding fireworks. Sprinkle glitter on the glue lines or wad up pieces of tissue paper and press it into the glue.
36. Telescope – use a toilet paper tube or role up a tube of black construction paper. Poke holes with a pin all around the tube. Attach a piece to cover up one end of the toilet paper tube. Poke holes in it, too.
37. Chalk draw – draw with chalk. Variation: wet down paper or the sidewalk and draw with chalk. Variation: Wet down the chalk and draw with it on dry paper.
38. Cat in the Hat tail – take a large paper plate and cut it into a long spiral. Attach a paper clip to one end of the plate and use the paper clip to attach it to your pant waste band.
 - This can also make a great snake.
39. Play dough Pictionary – just like Pictionary, but instead of drawing, use play dough.
40. Cookie Dino Hunt – use toothpicks to dig chocolate chips out of a cookie as if they are dinosaur bones. Provide clean paint brushes to brush away the crumbs.
41. Party hat or crown – from the center of a large hat, make slits towards the outer edge, but not through it. Fold the triangular pieces that you cut upwards like a crown. Decorate the triangles.
42. Play with play dough and sculpt – use pancakes, balls, and snake shapes to sculpt anything.
43. Listen to music and draw to the beat or the dynamics.
44. Make a marshmallow tower or sculpture
45. Read a book and act out the story with puppets. You can act out the story without puppets, too.
46. Friendship art – give everyone different colored pieces of the artwork (1 of the 4 leaf clover, jack-o-lantern pieces, rainbow fish scales...) in order to make their art piece, they will need to share their pieces with others. Now they will have all different.
47. Play the game BINGO.

48. Change words to a common song like, 'If you are happy and you know it' to 'If you are lucky / scary and you know it'. Create new actions for this version.
49. Clothespin drop game – place a container on the ground and hold a clothespin next to your nose or straight out in front of you. Drop it into the container. Keep going until you make it.
50. Play the Hot potato game - variation: pass an object around the circle while a person lists off the topic (6 ice cream sundae toppings) if the ball gets back to the beginning before they are done with their list, they are done.
51. Musical chairs – variation: place the contestant's names or a color that matches their nametag... on the chairs. Play the music and when it stops, the children are to find their name or color, etc... Mix up the chairs and start over. Never remove a chair.
52. Rubbing or texture coloring.
53. Relay races
54. Chinese whisper / telephone / gossip
55. Back draw and guess what was drawn
56. Storyteller – everyone draw a picture or write a word of a noun or a verb. Place the turned over cards into the center of the group. The first person draws a card and begins to tell a 3-5 sentence story based on the picture / word. The next person draws a card and continues with the story. The last person finishes the story.
57. Alligator Pond – make a square pond with chalk or tape. Place paper plate alligators in the pond and paper plate rocks. Have the children creatively get through the pond without touching an alligator. (cartwheel, skip, summersault, swim, dance,...)
58. Sweet Art – Combine food coloring with corn syrup or sweetened condensed milk to make great paints.
59. Pipe cleaner figure – bend pipe cleaners into a figurine.
60. Make a mobile to hang from the ceiling.
61. Stained glass picture – cut out shapes or something else from black construction paper. Cover the holes with glued on tissue paper.
62. Sandpaper letter – cut letter, numbers, shapes, etc... out of sandpaper for a tactile learning experience.
63. Make homemade butter – fill a container only half full with heavy cream and shake.
64. Paint with pudding
65. Crepe paper or streamers or ribbon dance to music.
66. Scribble art – make big scribbles on paper. Fill in the empty spaces and circle like areas with different colors.
67. Hot plate coloring – Heat up an electric griddle or candle warmer. Place paper over it and color. The wax will melt.
68. Yarn picture – using a 12" piece of yarn twist and turn it to make a picture. Dip the yarn in watered down glue and then twist and turn it onto paper so it will stick.
69. Paint blots – fold a piece of paper in half. Open it up and place blobs of paint on one side. Fold the paper over again and smash. Open it to see a mirror image picture.
70. Cornmeal draw – sprinkle cornmeal on a tray and draw in it or write letters.

71. Beautiful junk – what can you make or create with junk that you might throw away (toilet paper tube, oatmeal container...)
72. Rice Dig – dump rice into a bucket and hide objects in it. Dig for the objects.
73. Sand table or water table play
74. Thumbies picture – press your thumb and other fingers into a ink pad. Press the finger onto paper and add other markings to create a picture.
75. Lacing cards – draw a picture and make hole punches all around it. Use yarn and lace around the picture.
76. Tear art – tear different colors of paper and arrange them / glue them onto paper to create a picture.
77. Freckle art – hole punch many colors of paper into a container. With glue, draw a picture, write a letter, number, etc. Sprinkle the hole punches onto the glue and shake off excess.
78. Tangram and geometric shape pictures. What pictures can you create using basic shapes?
79. Ring toss – using paper towels stuck into the bottoms of cups and pipe cleaner formed into a circle, you have a ringer game.
80. Bunny math – 20 cotton balls represent the bunnies. Roll a dice and place that many bunnies into their hole (bowl). The person who gets rid of their bunnies first, wins.
81. Magic paint – Draw with white crayon on white paper. Paint over it with water color paints to reveal the drawing.
82. Small manipulatives: Magnets, lacing beads, geo boards, lacing cards, playdough
83. Read a story together and talk about it.
84. Popsicle stick puzzle – tape about 5 popsicle sticks side by side. Draw a picture onto the sticks and then take them apart.
85. Stacking cups game
86. Paper towel dye – Fill bowls with different colors of water with food coloring. Dip paper towels into it.
87. Snack time – make a story out of your snack, do some math problems with your snack...
88. Parachute play
89. Sing a song to a well known tune but change the words: We wish you a merry Christmas = I wish you a happy love day
90. Play child learning games on the computer
91. Make an alien name – fold a paper in $\frac{1}{2}$ hot dog style. Write your first name in bubble letters along the fold. Cut out your name being careful not to cut along the fold. Open up the name to reveal an alien. Add details for eyes, limbs, ...
92. Write and illustrate your own story.
93. Shaving cream the desks or table.