



**6 MONTHS - 2 YEARS**

**WEEK 3 ACTIVITY GUIDES**



**Let's Explore Space**



# Galaxy Bottle Play

## #332

### AGE GROUP



### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Mix water and food colouring in a separate container
- Pour baby oil into a bottle to about halfway - it helps to use a funnel!
- Drop-in your stars then top up the bottle with your water mixture.
- Use a little super glue to fasten the lid.
- Shake and mesmerise!

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Fill 1 Voss bottle with warm water and one with cold water and a few ice cubes then let baby explore the different temperatures and sounds as they roll the bottles around.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Baby Oil
- Water
- Food Colouring
- Clean Voss water bottles (or similar)
- Silver Star confetti/table sparkles



Building My Social & Emotional Health



Exploring & using my senses



# Ribbon Explorer

## #292

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

*Curiosity Spark - What can you do with your ribbon?*

- Cut your ribbon into lengths for each child
- Encourage them to use their imagination to play with their ribbon.
- Actions and interaction will depend on the age of the children but I've seen children make shapes on the floor, use as a 'rope' to jump over, as a bridge to drive cars on, as water in the block area, to wrap around the dolls as bandages in home corner or just as a fun material to put and out of other objects. What will you see if you stand back and watch?

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Give children some large wooden craft sticks and encourage them to decorate with their pens or a little paint. Help them to tape or tie their ribbon to the end of their decorated stick then go running outside with the ribbon sticks. Fun on a windy day...and it wears them out!

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- A few rolls of ribbon or crepe paper streamers (I like to give each child half -1 metre of ribbon so they can really get creative)



Exploring & using my senses



Challenging my fine motor muscles



# Marvellous Mashing

## #328

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Put a spoon of potato or pumpkin onto a tray for each child.
- Give them a masher and show how to use their hands to push down and mash the soft vegetables.
- It can get a bit messy so you might want to do this one up at a table or on a plastic sheet on the floor.
- Give the children a spoon each and encourage them to feed themselves from their mash.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Use the potato mashers as a paint stamping activity. Press mashers into a paint sponge then onto paper.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Cooked and cooled sweet potato, potato or pumpkin chunks
- Potato mashers
- Shallow trays



Challenging My  
Gross Motor  
Muscles



Exploring &  
using  
my senses



# Squelchy Bowl

## #339

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Is it soft or hard?*

- Pour the cold water into mixing bowl.
- Sprinkle 3 tablespoons of gelatine over the cold water. Let it absorb for one minute.
- Now add the hot water to the bowl and whisk until the gelatine dissolves.
- Mix a few drops of food colouring or ¼ teaspoon of edicol powder into the gelatine mix.
- Spray the ice cream container or mould with oil - this will help the gelatine slide out later.
- Pour the gelatin mixture into the mould then place in the fridge for 3-4 hours or until it sets (it should still wobble like jelly).
- Place a few spoonfuls of the gelatine mix into a bowl and break it up a little bit.
- Give to baby on the floor or highchair and show them how to squelch and squeeze the gelatine. Let them explore the texture with their senses and don't worry if they want to taste as well as it is safe to eat!

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- After pouring the gelatine mix into the mould place a few favourite small toys into the mould for children to excavate after set.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- One cup of cold water
- Gelatine (find it in the cooking section at the supermarket)
- 3 cups hot water
- Food colouring or edicol powder dyes
- Cooking spray
- Large mixing bowl
- Empty ice cream container or similar to use as a mould



Exploring & using my senses



Building My Language & Literacy Skills



# Circle & Star Sponge Tray

## #329

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Wet the shape sponges so they absorb the water
- Pour a little extra water into each tray or tub then show baby and toddler how to pick up and squeeze the sponges.
- Younger babies will enjoy reaching toward the sponges and trying to pick them up or just moving their fingers around in the water.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Tape a length of butcher's paper to the floor, add some watered down cornflour paint to a tray and let the toddlers stamp the shapes into the paint then onto the paper.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Shallow tub, tray or dish
- Shapes cut out from kitchen and/or bath sponges
- A little water in the bottom of the tray.



Exploring Simple Math Concepts



Exploring & using my senses



# Asteroid Crawl

## #330

### AGE GROUP



Baby & Toddler



3-5 years



Multiage

### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

**Curiosity Spark - Can we go IN and OUT? Can we crawl THROUGH?**

- Lay box on the side and open cardboard flaps at each end. If setting up for younger toddlers and new crawlers I suggest cutting the cardboard flaps off as they can be too heavy to push through.
- If using space pictures stick to the inside - walls, roof and floor!
- If using rope lights secure inside the roof of the box or on top of the box and just punch a few holes so the light filters in.
- Add balls or sock balls to the inside of the box - not too many though as they are just meant to be a slight obstacle challenge for infants and toddlers to crawl through - in one end and out the other.
- Hang a sheet or towel down over the entrance to make a 'door' or you can also tape some ribbons or paper streamers on the top of the box so they hang down in front of the opening/close.

### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Add a basket to the other side of the box so toddlers can have fun throwing any 'asteroids' they collect in.
- Cut holes in the top of a few smaller boxes and show children how to post balls THROUGH the opening so the balls go INSIDE the box. Can they get them back OUT?

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Large cardboard box (or a few smaller ones big enough to crawl through)
- Coloured Balls, sensory balls or rolled up socks to form 'balls'.
- Rope Lights (optional)
- Photos or pictures of stars, planets etc if you want to stay with a space theme (optional).
- Sheet or lightweight blanket



Challenging My  
Gross  
Motor Muscles



Exploring & using  
my senses



# Little Things Lunch

## #331

### AGE GROUP



### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

#### *Curiosity Spark - Can they pick up the object?*

- Set out a few of baby/toddler's favourite finger foods from your list onto the table or highchair tray in front of them at morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea (whenever they are least tired!)
- Fasten the bowl to the tray or table then encourage the child to pick up the little pieces of food using their fingers.
- They will also naturally try to put them in and out of the bowl as this age group loves experiment with filling and tipping.
- Try not to take over but instead observe their problem solving and the grasp they use.
- Around 6 months a baby might display the action of sliding an object toward the hand, covering it with the palm and squeezing it into the fist to bring it closer.
- The next progression is to a more effective pincer grip and greater dexterity - the use of forefinger and thumb.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Small pieces of finger food like cheese cubes, soft carrot cubes, cubed melon, grated carrot, chopped avocado, soft pasta shells - modify for the age and developmental stage of the child you are doing this activity with.
- Highchair tray or seat at the table
- Toddler size bowl that you can fasten to the table/tray surface.



Building My Social & Emotional Health



Challenging my fine motor muscles



# Little Things Lunch

## #331

### AGE GROUP



### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Put some colourful stickers, dots or shapes onto the black cardboard underneath the gel bag. Encourage older children to see if they can move the stars and gel around until they 'find' the pictures and they can be seen through the plastic.
- Place a photo of a family member or familiar face into the bag next time instead of stars and mix the gel with a few drops of red food colouring. Children will need to press and push the gel out of the way to see the photo face.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- Small pieces of finger food like cheese cubes, soft carrot cubes, cubed melon, grated carrot, chopped avocado, soft pasta shells - modify for the age and developmental stage of the child you are doing this activity with.
- Highchair tray or seat at the table
- Toddler size bowl that you can fasten to the table/tray surface.



Building My Social & Emotional Health



Challenging my fine motor muscles