

In and Out

INFANTS

Materials medium-size dishpan or other container
several easy-to-grasp infant toys

- What to do**
1. Give the child a small plastic dishpan or other container and a few infant toys.
 2. Show the child how to put all the toys in the pan and take them out again.
 3. Say the name of each item as the child puts the toys in and takes them out of the dishpan.

Virginia Jean Herrod, Columbia, SC

Eye Follow-Ups

INFANTS

Materials bright-colored objects

- What to do**
1. Place a brightly colored object, such as a yellow block, in front of an infant's eyes.
 2. Slowly move it to the left, then to the right, to let the infant's eyes follow it. Do it for only a few seconds.

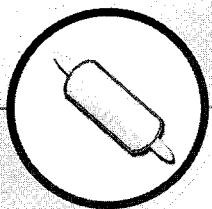
Jean Potter, Charleston, WV

Find the Toy

INFANTS

Materials infant toy

- What to do**
1. Sit the infant in a comfortable position. This activity is for children who can sit unassisted.
 2. Show the infant a favorite toy and place it next to him. Encourage him to turn to the side to find and get the toy.
 3. Now place the toy on the other side of the baby. Encourage him to turn to that side to find and get the toy.



Walking Fingers

YOUNGER TODDLERS

Materials books

- What to do**
1. When reading to a child, ask him to help you turn the pages of the book.
 2. At first, you may need to guide his fingers.
 3. This is a fun way to help develop fine motor skills.

Jean Potter, Charleston, WV

Walking the Shapes

YOUNGER TODDLERS

Materials masking tape

- What to do**
1. Affix tape to the floor or carpet in large shapes, such as a circle, square, and triangle.
 2. Hold the child or take his hand and walk him around the shapes chanting:

We are walking, walking, walking.

We are walking around the (square, circle, triangle).

- More to do** Exaggerate each walking step, taking giant steps, baby steps, or sliding steps.

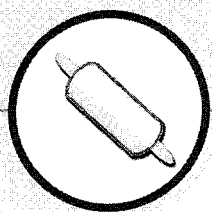
Margery Kranyik Fermino, Hyde Park, MA

Beanbag Fun

YOUNGER TODDLERS

Materials animal-shaped beanbags

- What to do**
1. Sit on the floor opposite a child. Toss the beanbag to the child and encourage the child to toss it back to you. If necessary, retrieve it yourself.



Color Walk

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials colored masking tape

- What to do**
1. Select one color of tape and make a line on the floor leading to a learning center or area of the room.
 2. Select another color of tape and make dotted lines leading to a different area of the room.
 3. Give a child directions using the colored lines. For example, "Follow the dotted green line to the door."
 4. Add as many colors as desired.

Jean Potter, Charleston, WV

Alligator Swamp

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials pieces of green fabric in a variety of colors and designs (prints, plaids)
alligator pattern
markers
glue
child-safe scissors
beanbag

- What to do** Prepare the "swamp" before the children arrive.
1. Trace the alligator pattern on 20-30 pieces of fabric and cut out.
 2. Draw eyes on the alligators' heads.
 3. Lay the fabric alligators around the floor in a random fashion, making a pathway around the room.
 4. Toss the beanbag in the center of the pathway.

Activity

1. Ask a child to tiptoe through the "alligator-infested path" to retrieve the beanbag.
2. Continue until all the children have had a turn.
3. You can make this more challenging by having children hop, slither, and move in other ways through the "swamp."

Jean Potter, Charleston, WV