



More Fun With...

Hands

Ideas to keep the story alive in your child's heart!

Talk to your child about the size of his/her hands in comparison to mommy's and daddy's hands. Big, Medium, Small.

Painted Hand Prints: Use scrapbook or border paper to make family keepsakes, or to give as gifts. Decorate with decorative paper, stickers, cut-outs, or the child's artwork. Don't forget to add the child's name and date.

Vegetables Prints: Slice any vegetable that has a large flat surface. Dip the flat surface in paint and press onto paper.

Construct a house from gingerbread or graham crackers. Use ready made frosting to "glue" the house together, and decorate with candies, pretzels, sprinkles, etc.

Build With Blocks Together. You can use any boxes that you have around the house to build with. It's fun to use different shaped boxes, like a pizza box, shoe box, American cheese box, etc., to construct a building. If your child really enjoys this activity, you can wrap the boxes using wrapping paper.

Giant Rainbow Crayons: Here's a good use for broken crayons. Spray a muffin tin with non-stick spray, peel the paper wrapping off the crayon bits, and place them in the tin. Heat in the oven at 200-250 degrees until they have completely melted. Let cool overnight; then remove from the muffin tin. Happy coloring!

Button Match: Gather old buttons in a small container. Offer the container of buttons to your child under your guidance since buttons are a choking hazard. As your child examines the buttons, talk to him/her about the size, shape and color of the buttons. Look together to find buttons with similar characteristics.

Using a Styrofoam cup, some potting soil, and a few grass seeds, make a grass head. Be sure to draw a face on the Styrofoam cup. You and your child can watch it as it grows and trim his/her "hair."

Using a 3-inch to 4-inch thick piece of Styrofoam and some golf tees, create your own hammering station. Your child will enjoy pounding the tees into the Styrofoam using a plastic hammer, wooden spoon, etc.

Sewing Pictures: Cut shapes from cardboard. Punch holes around the edges. Use yarn to sew.

Build edible houses, faces, and other objects from food. Sugar cookies or bagels can be used as the base for faces. Bread, crackers, tortillas or luncheon meat can be used as the base for houses. Use your imagination for the rest!

Create a flower garden! Cut out flower heads from construction paper and glue them on popsicle sticks. Paint the stick and flowers if you like. Glue playdough into egg carton cups and push the flower stick into the playdough.

Hand Print Paper Weight: Roll clay into a ball. Flatten to about 1-inch thick. Press hand down into clay. Use a toothpick to record the date of the hand print in the clay. Let dry.

Tool Matching Game. Trace the outline of common household objects (wooden spoon, small hammer, ruler, scissors, etc.) onto construction paper or a manila file folder. Color the traced items black (to appear as a shadow) and cut out. Hold up the traced object and ask your child what he/she thinks it might be. If your child cannot guess, offer two objects that they can lay on the picture to see if they can match the shadow to the object.