

50 Ways to Play

We hope you have fun using these materials to play this summer! We have 50 ideas for you below, but you can also come up with your own great ideas for playing!

1. Use chalk to draw a story or leave a message for people on the sidewalk.
2. After it rains, stomp and splash together in the puddles that the storm left behind.
3. Put on a play based on your favorite story.
4. Make a sculpture out of recycled materials.
5. Dress in fancy clothes and negotiate a business deal with someone.
6. Have a jump rope contest.
7. Draw a crazy scribble and give it to someone to make a picture out of. Or, make a bunch of doodles together and then make up stories about them.
8. Find an ordinary (or extraordinary) object and look at it closely: examine every detail, describe what it smells like, what it feels like. See what new details you notice.
9. In the car or on a walk, look for the letters A-Z on signs or license plates.
10. Go on a shape hunt! Try to find shapes in the environment around you (squares, triangles, circles).
11. For every shape you find, cut out that shape from construction paper. Use your construction paper shapes to make a picture.
12. Try a color hunt, too! Find anything red, blue, green, or another color you choose.
13. Use crayons to draw a picture of where you find each color.
14. Find random objects around the house that have at least one thing in common; see if someone can guess what connects them. Then, have the person that guessed find their own objects to challenge you with.
15. Make shadow puppets out of recycled materials, then put on a puppet show. You can pull the shade off of a lamp and use the bright light to help make shadows.
16. Play your favorite music and have a dance party! Make up a new, silly dance move to teach your family or friends. Take turns making up new moves.
17. Create a collage out of old papers from newspapers, magazines, or maps.
18. Make paper dolls and accessories.
19. Lift up a rock and see what you find underneath it.
20. Watch the clouds and talk about what (or who) they look like. Make up stories about these cloud objects, animals, and people.
21. Create your own crazy jumps, spins, and tumbles.
22. Have a parade at home with any drums or shakers you may have...or make your own instruments with pots, pans, and spoons. March around the house singing songs you love and keeping the beat with your instruments!
23. Build a pillow fort and defend it from your stuffed animals.



Note: There are small parts in this kit that could pose a choking hazard. Adult supervision required.



24. Take a song you know and make up new words.
25. Read together; change the storyline or ending of a familiar book/story to see who notices first what you changed.
26. Next time you're cooking, take a close look at what's inside fruits and vegetables you cut open. What do you notice?
27. Have a freeze dance! Put on some music and dance like crazy. When the music stops, freeze in whatever wacky position you're in.
28. Build structures using straws and pipe cleaners to connect them together.
29. Make crazy hats out of paper, paper grocery bags, or fabric.
30. Throw a bed sheet or towels over a table or some chairs to make an instant clubhouse.
31. Freeze plastic bowls of water with plastic toys in them. See how long it takes to melt and free the toys!
32. Add a cup of dish soap to a gallon of water, swirl it around and go outside to blow bubbles! Can you make a bubble with your hands?
33. Play catch! Try to move as far away from your partner as you can and still reach them with your throw.
34. Do a texture hunt in magazines or around your home. Find something that looks fuzzy, rough, slippery, slimy, bumpy, soft, etc.
35. Pick a scene from a favorite movie and try to act it out together from memory.
36. Make a big spider web out of yarn and try to untangle it.
37. Try to sing an entire conversation, instead of speaking.
38. Use books, cardboard boxes, and other stuff to make a castle.
39. Anything can be a hat. Wear something unexpected on your head.
40. Go for a walk and walk each block like a different zoo animal.
41. Make mud pies.
42. Make homemade instruments and start a band.
43. Go on a 10 minute walk around your neighborhood and find things that start with the letter "S". Then try a new letter.
44. When you're cooking guess which fruits and vegetables will float or sink. Before you use them, test your guess by putting them in a bowl of water!
45. Have a "serious contest". Stare at each other, and try not to smile or laugh.
46. Draw a picture of a creature you imagine. What would you call it?
47. See how many different sounds you hear when you are sitting outside.
48. Lie on the ground outside and see who can count the most bugs.
49. Create a drawing using only the letters in your name.
50. Make a card for a neighbor or friend you haven't seen in a while.



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