



ACTIVITIES

Direct Actions

Learning to follow directions is a skill all children need to learn. Here are some fun games that involve following directions.

FOLLOW YOUR LEADER

What to do:

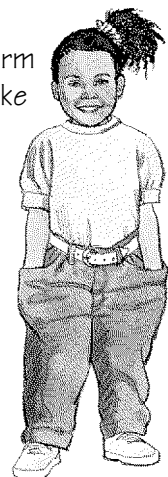
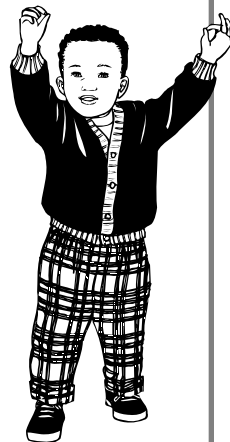
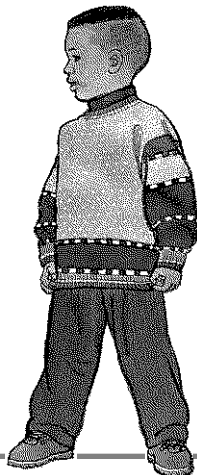
1. Choose a leader. The children can take turns being the leader.
2. The leader gives the children directions to do different things around the room. Each one gets a turn to give five directions.

Here are some examples:

- Tommy, go get three blocks and give them to Jennifer.
- Jennifer, give one block to Heidi.
- Jason, go get a ball and roll it to Rick.
- Adam, go over to Melissa and shake hands with her.
- Everyone, take three steps, then hop on one foot three times.

Then choose another leader who gets to give five other directions.

- Reach down and touch the floor.
- Stand tall, then wiggle your whole body.
- Stretch your arms and wave to your friends.
- Touch your head and then your elbow.



PICTURE HUNT

Give the children some old magazines or catalogs and some safety scissors.

Direct them to find and cut out certain pictures.

Here are some examples:

- Find and cut out a picture of a child.
- Look for a building and cut that out.
- See if you can find the picture of an animal to cut out.

Then have the children make up a story to tell about their pictures. Write down each child's story and they can glue their pictures on a piece of paper to put with the story.

WIGGLE IT OUT

Children can have fun following directions while being active during this movement activity.

What to do:

Give the children directions for the following body movements.

You can add others as you go along.

- Put your right arm up high and shake it all around.
- Let your arms fall to your sides.

What About Ice?

Do some science experiments with ice. Have the children predict what they think will happen and record their predictions. After each experiment is completed, write down their observations.

Question:

Does ice melt faster in sunlight or in the shade? Why?

What you need:

- Three ice cubes per child
- Dark construction paper, two pieces per child
- Small paper plates, two for each child
- A sunny window and a shady area.

What to do:

- Have the children place three ice cubes on each sheet of paper and put them on a paper plate.
- Put one plate in a sunny window and the other in a shady area.
- Have the children check their plates regularly to see which ice cubes melt the fastest.

Question:

Do ice cubes float in water?

What you need:

- Small plastic bowl
- Water
- Two or three ice cubes

What to do:

- Have the children place the ice cubes in the bowl.
- Pour enough water over the ice cubes to cover them.
- See what happens. Talk about why.

For more Activity ideas, visit us on the web at: betterkidcare.psu.edu or call the telephone help line: 1-800-859-8340.

I'M GROWING!



It can be fun for children to compare what they were like as babies to how they are now.

Have each child bring in a photo from when they were a baby.

Have them also bring in baby shoes or a piece of clothing that they wore as a baby.

Compare the size of their shoes or clothes.

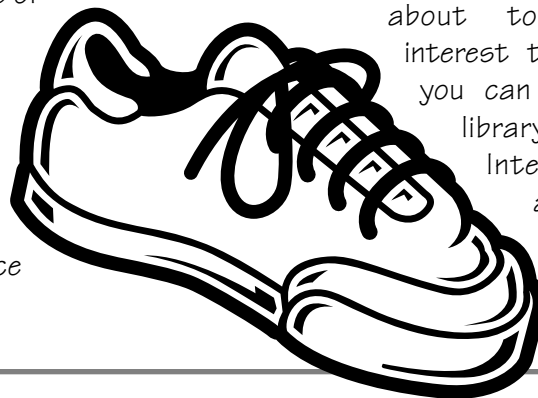
Take photos of each child so they can compare what they look like now to what they looked like as babies.

Do body tracings of each child on a large piece of paper. Hang these up around the room.

Talk about what babies can do, then ask each child to tell things she can do that a baby cannot do.

This activity can lead to many others. They may be about growing, the human body, clothing and what it is made from, and many others. It can be fun to see where the children's interests take you. To find more information

about topics that interest the children, you can go to the library, on the Internet, and ask parents.



Pennsylvania Pathways

Professional Development
for Child Caregivers

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Resources: *January and February Patterns, Projects, and Plans*, by Imogene Forte

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