



Time Links

This activity can help children understand the concept of time.

What you need:

- Colored construction paper
- Safety scissors
- White craft glue

What to do:

- Choose a special event that is group. Count how many days are left until that event. It can be a birthday, a holiday, a vacation, or any special event.
- Cut 8--inch by 1 ½-- inch strips of colored construction paper. Have the children pick their favorite colors. Make enough links to have one for each day until the event.
- Glue the strips into circles as you would to make a paper chain.
- Make a chain from the links, using one to represent each day. Keep it as a strip, not attaching links to form a circle.
- Hang them by a string or yarn or put them on a hook where the children can reach them.

- One link can be removed each day. This will give the children an idea of time that they can understand.
- You can make one for the whole group or one for each child. Share this idea with parents. They might want to make one with their child for an upcoming birthday or other event.

Stretch and Find Baby Play

Infants need to stretch their arms and legs to develop muscles. Encourage them to look for things. Here are some ways to play with infants to help them learn new skills.

- Place the baby on a clean blanket or mat in a safe area on the floor.
- Put a toy just out of reach and encourage the baby to reach for it.
- Roll a ball toward the baby. Then roll it a short distance away. Say, "Get the ball."
- While playing with the baby, place a toy nearby. Cover it with a small cloth or blanket. Then uncover it and say, "Peek-a-Boo!" Cover it again and coax the baby to try to find it.



Jingle Bells All Around

What you need:

- Ten--inch pieces of $\frac{1}{2}$ --to $\frac{3}{4}$ --inch elastic – one per child
- Jingle bells - about five per strip of elastic
- Needle and thread

What to do:

- Sew the bells to the elastic
- Stitch the ends of the elastic together, forming a circle
- The children can hold the bell bands in their hands or wear them on their arms or legs
- Play some music. The children can shake their bells while moving to the music.



Simon Says, Have Fun with Math

Here are some ways to keep kids active while learning math:

- Have the children form a line and face the middle of the room or yard.
- Play “Simon Says,” giving the children instructions such as the following:

Simon says jump in place five times.

Simon says skip across the room two times.

Simon says wave your right arm three times.

Simon says hop on one foot four times.

Simon says gallop across the room and back once.

Simon says do six jumping jacks.

The possibilities are endless. Make up ones that are right for your children. They can be skills they need to practice and ones they need to learn.

Keep on Dancing

Play some lively music. Give the children some scarves. Show the children how to wave the scarves in time to the music while dancing around.

Variations: You can also use ribbons or streamers attached to cardboard tubes for this activity.



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Supported by funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Child Development.

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