



HELLO PARENTS,

The world is full of wonder and children are naturally fascinated by and curious about everything around them. They constantly wonder why things are the way they are and ask countless questions. As they grow, the magic continues to grow with them. Parents and other caring adults can provide support by creating an intriguing environment for children to explore, and share their enthusiasm and delight in everyday discoveries. In this newsletter, we will help you cultivate your child's sense of wonder, see the world through their eyes, embrace their curiosity, and explore this incredible world together.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

NATURE SENSORY BOARD

MATERIALS:

- Nature items, such as small twigs, leaves or flowers
- Poster board or a flattened cardboard box
- Glue

DIRECTIONS:

- Collect a few nature items.
- If needed, wash the collected nature items and let them air dry.
- Use a small amount of glue to attach nature items to the poster board.
- Lay the nature sensory board collage on the floor.
- Place your child on their tummy where they can easily reach and explore the sensory board.
- Observe how your child explores the items on the board and their reactions.
- Join your child in their explorations, imitate what they do, provide names describing colours, textures, etc.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

A WALK OF WONDERS

MATERIALS:

- Camera (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Take your child for a walk in the nearest nature area.
- Along the way, ask your child questions to make them wonder:
 - What do you think is hiding under the rock?
 - How do the leaves smell?
 - How does the bark from different trees feel?
 - Can you hear the grasses rustling, birds singing?
- If you have a camera with you, take photographs of what you saw.
- Later, look at the photographs together, talk about your discoveries and plan the next trip.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

TREE BARK RUBBINGS

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Tape
- Crayons

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose a tree in your backyard or park.
- Wrap a sheet of paper around the tree trunk, and secure it with some tape.
- Encourage your child to rub the surface of the paper with crayons.
- As your child is rubbing the surface, the beautiful texture of the tree bark will slowly be revealed.
- Delight with your child in this discovery and try other rubbings, such as leaves, household objects with texture, etc.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

A GIANT FINGER PRINT

MATERIALS:

- Balloon
- Ink pad

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child place the balloon on the table and flatten it.
- Ask your child to press their finger into the ink and make a fingerprint on the flat surface of the balloon.
- They can gently roll their finger to capture their entire fingerprint.
- Help your child blow up the balloon and tie it.
- Now your child can inspect their giant fingerprint enlarged on the surface of the inflated balloon.
- Ask other family members to make their fingerprints on balloons and compare them. Notice how each one is different and unique.

[Click here](#) to learn about fingerprints.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

PAPER CUP TOWER CHALLENGE

MATERIALS:

- 18 paper or plastic cups (or more)
- 2 cardboard sheets (or more if needed)

DIRECTIONS:

- What do you think will happen if you stand on a paper cup? Try it. Did it break?
- Now, space nine cups evenly (3x3) and then place a sheet of cardboard on top.
- What do you think will happen if you stand on them? Will the cups hold your weight? Try it.
- Next, place a second layer of nine cups on top of the cardboard with another cardboard sheet on top. Will this hold your weight?
- If you have more cups and cardboard sheets, you can extend your tower even higher.
- Later, ask your parent to stand on the tower and see if it will hold their weight.
- When you stepped on one cup, the weight of your body was concentrated on it and the cup got squished. When you spaced several cups with a cardboard on top and stepped on it, your weight was distributed across many cups and, as a result, they did not break.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Limit technology and replace it with interesting hands-on activities.
- Nurture everyday moments that bring small joys to your family.
- Make collections of interesting items. For example: rocks, seashells, seeds, feathers, leaves, etc.
- Provide your child with basic discovery tools: magnifying glass, magnets, digging shovel and bucket, bug catcher, balance scale, measuring tape, etc.
- Read with your child beautiful children's poetry to cultivate the love of language and metaphor.