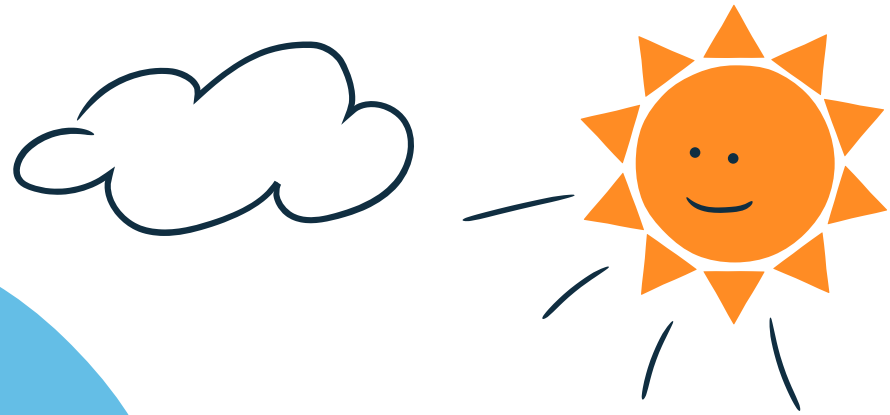


At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

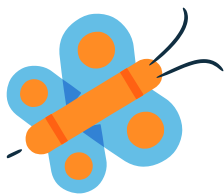
(0–2 years old)

Week of August 31, 2020



This week we begin exploring a new theme that's sure to be a crowd pleaser for even the youngest learners. With a little creativity and a lot of imagination, the **everyday places and spaces** you explore with your little one will become fascinating sites of fun, discovery, and learning.

Whether your family tends to stay indoors or you're comfortable venturing around the neighborhood, there's no shortage of fascinating spaces and interesting places to explore around you. This week's activities contain lots of opportunities for you and your little one to make the most of the spaces around you through **movement, conversation, and imagination.**



This Week's Theme:

Spaces and Places

What you'll find in this guide...

Your home and neighborhood become a magical playground of fun and discovery when you see them through your child's eyes! This guide contains activities for infants and toddlers, with suggestions on how to make the same activity fun and educational, whether you have a cuddly baby or a rambunctious toddler! Click on the icons below to discover more...



GET THE WHEELS TURNING

A Space of My Own

With a little imagination, a box can become any place or space!



GET THE WIGGLES OUT

Crawling Through Tunnels

Your little one will have lots of fun exploring in, out, through, and around!



GET THE WIGGLES OUT

Places in Your Neighborhood

Check out the places and spaces in your neighborhood!



BABY BOOK CLUB

Books Can Take You Anywhere

Swim through the ocean, soar through space, or explore a jungle through the pages of a good book.



GET THE WHEELS TURNING

Where Are We Going?

Zoom your favorite wheeled toy anywhere your child wants!

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020

Getting Ready for the Week: Materials to Gather

A Space of My Own:

- A large box—big enough for your child to sit in

Crawling Through Tunnels:

- A large box—you can use the box from the “A Space of My Own” activity

Places in Your Neighborhood:

- Stroller or baby carrier (optional)

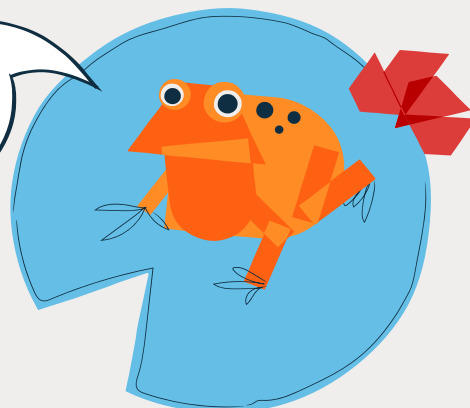
Books Can Take You Anywhere:

- Your favorite book set in an interesting place like outer space, in a castle, or under the sea

Where Are We Going:

- Any toy on wheels

Tip: At the beginning of your week, gather materials and place them in a container so you're ready to go!



At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020



Get the Wheels Turning: A Space of My Own

With a little imagination, a box can become any place or space!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- A large box—big enough for your child to sit in

About the Activity:

Open ended objects like boxes contain countless opportunities for exploration for all ages, including babies! In fact, you can use the box from this activity later in the week when you do the “crawling through tunnels” activity. In this activity, you’ll introduce your child to a large box and give them the opportunity to explore it in creative ways.

For Your Infant:

Sit down with your baby and talk with them about the box: count the sides, tip it over, open and close the flaps, or put a toy in and then take it out again. Pay attention to how your baby responds. If your baby isn't mobile yet, you can help them explore the box by tipping it over or asking them if they'd like to sit inside of it. For mobile babies, you can hold it steady and encourage them to pull to stand or climb inside. Talk with them about what you see them doing with the box, using descriptive language and positional words like side, corner, in, or out to help build a foundation for mathematical thinking.

For Your Toddler:

Show your toddler the box and talk with them about it: count the sides, tip it over, open and close the flaps, or put a toy in and then take it out again. Pay attention to how your child responds. Hold the box steady and encourage them to try and climb inside. Talk with them about what you see them doing with the box, using descriptive language and positional words like side, corner, in, or out to help build a foundation for mathematical thinking. Pay attention to what they are telling and showing you. Do they pretend it's something else, like a boat or a house? If they do, play along!

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020



Get the Wiggles Out: Crawling Through Tunnels

Your little one will have lots of fun exploring in, out, through, and around!



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- A large box—you can use the box from the “A Space of My Own” activity

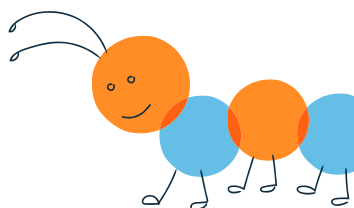
About the Activity: Open both ends of the box, creating a tunnel that your child can peek or crawl through. Sit on the floor next to them and one end of the open box. Model how to look all the way through the box and encourage them to open and close the flaps on the end of the box.

For Your Infant:

If your baby's not crawling yet, place them on their belly at one end of the box, and lay on your belly at the other end of box, and play a game of peek-a-boo! If your baby is mobile, encourage them to crawl through the box and meet them on the other side with a big hug! Whether your baby is ready to crawl through the box yet or is still in the peek-a-boo stage, this activity will help your little one see the world in different ways.

For Your Toddler:

Show your toddler the tunnel you've made from the box and encourage them to explore! Pay attention to what they do with it and talk with them about what you see. Do they try and go around it, over it, or through it? Peek through the box at them from the other end and encourage them to crawl through to give you a high five!



At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020



Get the Wiggles Out: Places in Your Neighborhood

Check out the places and spaces in your neighborhood!



Length of activity:
30 minutes*

*Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** High



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Stroller or baby carrier (optional)

About the Activity:

Head out for a walk around your neighborhood and talk with your child about the places and spaces you see! You can do this in whichever way works best for your child, whether that means pushing them in a stroller, throwing them up on your shoulders, or letting them walk themselves! Prefer to stay closer to home? No problem. You can adapt this activity to your level of comfort, whether that means walking around the outside of your home or even taking an “indoor stroll”—it’s up to you!

For Your Infant:

As you and your baby venture outdoors, pay attention to what captures your child’s interest. Do they notice the house where a friend lives, your local fire station, or a hole in a tree? Talk with them about the different places and spaces you see in your neighborhood, what they’re used for and who uses them.

For Your Toddler:

As you and your baby venture outdoors, pay attention to what captures your child’s interest. Do they notice the house where a friend lives, your local fire station, or a hole in a tree? Talk with them about the different places and spaces you see in your neighborhood, what they’re used for and who uses them. You can also point out things you see to them and encourage them to name them. “What’s across the street? That’s right, it’s the park! We love to play there!” If your toddler is walking or even being worn or carried, encourage them to engage all their senses in exploring places and spaces. Together, check out the holes in trees, peek in shop windows, and name local landmarks like libraries, stores, and post offices. Use descriptive language to name places and spaces to help your child build their vocabulary.

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020



Baby Book Club: Books Can Take You Anywhere

Swim through the ocean, soar through space, or explore a jungle through the pages of a good book.



Length of activity:
15 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult: High**



Level of Prep Required: Low



What you need:

- Your favorite book set in an interesting place like outer space, in a castle, or under the sea

About the Activity: Sit down with your child to read the book. As you read, point out each of the different places and spaces you see pictured, whether it's a sleepy bunny in a little green room or a baby in its mother's arms. Pay attention to what attracts their interest and comment on it, focusing on the elements of different places. Talk with your baby about the characters you see in different places and spaces and what you see them doing there.

For Your Infant:

Point to each space or character as you describe it to your baby. Follow their lead by noticing what they're paying attention to and pausing to describe the space and what's happening in it. Use repetition as much as possible and read the book a couple of times in a row to build up your little one's familiarity with the words and pictures in the story.

For Your Toddler:

Point to each space or character as you describe it to your child. Can they name the places or characters or mimic what's happening in the story? Follow their lead by noticing what they're paying attention to and pausing to describe the space and what's happening in it. If the story contains familiar spaces or characters, like swimming pools or puppies, talk to your child about their experiences with those things. Or, if the story is a bit more on the imaginative side, pretend together to explore what it might be like to be in such a fascinating new place!

At-Home Summer Guide for Infants and Toddlers

Week of August 31, 2020



Get the Wheels Turning: Where Are We Going?

Zoom your favorite wheeled toy anywhere your child wants!



Length of activity:
10 minutes*

* Duration will vary depending on your child's interest.

**Level of Engagement
Required by Adult:** Medium



Level of Prep Required: N/A



What you need:

- Any toy on wheels

About the Activity:

Bust out your child's favorite car, train, or pushcart and use it to explore familiar and unfamiliar places and spaces. Start by showing your little one the wheels on the toy and talking about how they help it move. Work together to give the toy a little push and watch it go! Try experimenting to make it go fast or slow, near or far, encouraging your child to make it move as much as they can. You can even take the show on the road and explore a few different spaces to compare what happens in each!

For Your Infant:

Help your baby explore the wheels on the toy with their hands and show them how the wheels move. As you zoom the toy around the space, use facial expressions and tone of voice to show some excitement! If your baby is crawling, encourage them to go after the toy as it moves around. For babies who aren't crawling yet, watch the object zoom around together and then carry them over to it to make it move again! Make it a game of chase by hurrying after the toy each time it zooms away, then sending it off again with joy.

For Your Toddler:

Help your child explore the wheels on the toy with their hands and show them how the wheels move. Encourage them to give the object a push and talk about how it moves. As you zoom the toy around the space, use facial expressions and tone of voice to show some excitement! Ask your child where the toy went and encourage them to go after it! Make it a game of chase by hurrying after the toy each time it zooms away, then sending it off again with joy.