

“Make Lemonade”

Out of Lemons Playtime Ideas!

“What Do You Hear?”

Have all the family members close their eyes for one whole minute, listen, and note all the sounds they hear. After a minute, have them open their eyes and take turns naming the sounds they heard.

“Dress-Up Race.”

For each child, prepare a sack containing items of clothing such as a scarf, a ribbon, shoes, a belt, or a wig. Each child starts from a certain point with his sack. Upon reaching a given point, each opens his sack, puts on the items of clothing, and returns to the starting point. The first one to return wins. Older children could be given more items of clothing to put on. This game will be most successful with at least six players. It is a good game to play when you invite another family to join with you for a home evening.

“Bottle Build-Up.”

Give each member of your family ten or fifteen toothpicks or matches. All should have the same number. Place a narrow-necked bottle on a table. The object is to stack the toothpicks or matches on top of the bottle across the opening. Each player in turn places one toothpick across the opening of the bottle. This continues until one of the players upsets the pile. The person who upsets the pile must take all the toothpicks that fall. The winner is the player who gets rid of all his toothpicks. If your family consists of only older children and adults, increase the number of toothpicks each has to make the game more difficult.

“Feather Volleyball.”

Tie a string or rope between two chairs for a net. One team stands on each side of the net. One team starts the game by tossing a feather (a downy one that will float) into the air and trying to blow it over the net and onto the ground on the other team’s side. The opposing team tries to keep the feather from falling on their side, and tries to blow it back over the net. When the feather falls on one side of the net, the team on the other side wins a point. Play continues until one team wins the game by gaining eleven points.

Sensory Pool

Materials

- kiddie pool or rubbermaid bins
- dry, uncooked rice or dried beans
- Measuring cups
- Play trucks & cars
- Play Utensils/Tools

Children will spend hours in the pool scooping and pouring the median. Don't stress on the mess that falls outside the pool, it can be easily swept up later!

Waste Paper Shootout

This is like the 3-point competition during NBA All-Star Weekend. Take two buckets, waste paper baskets, or large bowls and put them in front of your kids at a certain distance. Each kid has his or her own designated bucket. Give them a stack of paper. They have to take the paper, crumple it, and shoot as many sheets as they can in one minute. Play music to make it more fun.

Finger Paint Shaving Cream

Mix shaving cream and a tablespoon or so of Kool-Aid to make a tinted, scented finger paint material for small children. A cookie sheet makes a good table on which to mix paint colors and serves as a play surface for the kids to swirl the shaving cream. Use different flavors of Kool-aid to achieve different colors. This finger paint washes off very easily. Kids like to squish the cream through their fingers and move it around on their work surface.

Homemade Bubble Recipe

Ingredients

6 cups water

1 cup light corn syrup

2 cups Joy dishwashing soap (If using an ultra concentrated dishwashing liquid, use only 1 1/3 cups)

Directions

- In a large bowl (at least 3 quarts) stir water and corn syrup until combined.
- Add dishwashing liquid and stir very gently until well mixed.
- (Try not to make any bubbles.) Dip (don't stir) bubble wands into bubble liquid and blow bubbles.

Bubble Hoops can be easily fashioned from hanger wire in a variety of shapes and sizes. Clothes-hanger wire is a great material for making wands as you can bend it into a large variety of shapes and sizes. Simply unravel the hanger. Bend one end of the wire to make some sort of closed shape. Bend the handle with an angle convenient for dipping into a tray. You can use a pie tin as a dip tray. Lastly, wrap the looped part of the wand with cotton twine or cotton yarn. The string/yarn makes it much easier to make bubbles with this type of wand than if you leave the wire bare.

Homemade Playdough

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 2 Tablespoons of vegetable oil (coconut oil works too)
- Food coloring, optional
- Quart sized bags

Stir together the flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot. Next add the water and oil. If you're only making one color, add in the the color now as well. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue stirring until the dough has thickened and begins to form into a ball. Remove from heat and then place inside a gallon sized bag or onto wax

paper. Allow to cool slightly and then knead until smooth. If you're adding colors after, divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want) and then add the dough into the quart sized bags. Start with about 5 drops of color and add more to brighten it. Knead the dough, while inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands. Once it's all mixed together you're ready to PLAY.

Store the play dough inside the bags once done to keep soft. Keeps for up to 3 months.

Cereal Necklace

SUPPLIES

- 1 cup O-shaped cereal (Fruit Loops, Apple Jacks, any kind of Cheerios)
- Craft lace/shoe lace/pipe cleaner
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut a piece of craft lace/shoe lace about 2 feet long.
- Tape one end to the table.
- Thread cereal on the other end.
- Tie the ends together to make a necklace.

