



Surrey Family Information Service

Talking Time: Toddler

Set 1 of 2

These cards have been designed to help you support your child's learning. You can do this any time and most of the activities will only take a short amount of time.

Children learn best when they are playing - so have fun!



For more ideas, click on the Every Child a Talker link on the Surrey Family Information Service homepage

www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis

Quality time

Meal Times



Surrey Family Information Service

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Play dough recipe

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 1 cup of boiling water mixed with food colouring

Mix together and knead until smooth, it will keep in a sealed container in the fridge.



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Blowing bubbles

Children of all ages love bubbles, you can use shop bought bubbles or make your own.

- Encourage your child to try blowing the bubbles themselves.
- Talk about what happens as they blow.
- Ask your child to see how many bubbles they can blow with one puff.
- Count the bubbles as you blow.
- See who can blow the most bubbles.

Bubble recipe

- 600 ml of water
- 150 ml of washing up liquid
- 2 tablespoons of glycerine (available from the chemist)



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Moving to music

Everybody enjoys listening to music whether it is nursery rhymes, classical, pop or music from around the world. Moving to music is a great way for your child to express themselves.

- Let your child take the lead and join in with the way they move.
- Put actions to songs or rhymes.
- Try clapping to the rhythm of a tune together.

Make a shaker together by filling a small water bottle with rice or pasta. Let them shake it in time to the music.

Get a saucepan and a wooden spoon and let your child tap different rhythms while you sing nursery rhymes with them.



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Talking Time:

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Playing games

Playing games with your child can be fun and will help them to learn about taking turns. Choose a game that doesn't take too long.

- With your child, take turns to post objects down tubes, into a shape sorter or put pieces into a puzzle.
- Put some toys, such as cars, on a tray. Let them pick out the red ones.
- Sing as you tidy up together, to make it fun.

Other games

- Get a pack of snap cards, and encourage your child to find two the same.
- Play picture dominoes.
- Cut out pictures that go together such as a bat and ball and encourage your child to find the matching pairs.



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Fun with play dough

Children enjoy playing with play dough and it is cheap and easy to make.

- Get your child to help make play dough. They like to mix and when it's cool enough, they can help you knead the dough.
- Give your child some things so they can poke holes and make patterns in the play dough.
- You could try hiding small objects in the play dough for your child to find.
- Add rice or sand to the play dough to make it feel different.
- Put out rolling pins and cutters for children to make play dough cakes.

You'll find a play dough recipe at the front of this pack.



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Messy play

Children love to get messy and use all of their senses to explore the world around them. Let your child know it's okay to be messy. It's a good idea to try this before bath time.

- While your child plays with some mixture talk about how it feels and smells. Use words like rough, smooth or sticky.
- Talk about the patterns they make.
- Add colours using washable paint or smells such as vanilla or perfume.

Fill a washing up bowl or bucket with any of the following mixtures and let your child explore

- Jelly
- Cooked pasta
- Cooked rice
- Mashed potato
- Gloop (mix cornflour or custard powder and water until it is stiff, it will become more liquid when handled).



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Cooking

When you are cooking with your child, start by making sure they can reach the table and that all the ingredients are ready. An apron will help to keep them clean. Always watch your child if they are using a knife.

- Let your child help you cook for as long as they wish, but be prepared to lose your helper half way through.
- Children love to stir and mix and if helped, can cut up some foods.
- Let your child decorate cakes or biscuits, look in your local supermarket for things to use.

Why not make play dough, roll it out and cut out biscuit shapes?

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Washing hands

Children like to wash their hands themselves. Make sure they can reach the sink, taps, soap and towel.

- Talk about making your hands clean.
- If you're using liquid soap, show your child how to squirt it.
- Show them how to rub their hands together to make bubbles. Talk about the shapes and colour of the bubbles, the smell of the soap and if the water is hot or cold.

It often helps to let a child know what is coming up next.

- Do this by letting them know that dinner will be ready soon, so that they have enough time to wash their hands.
- Talk to them about what you are going to eat.



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Eating together

Having meals together helps children to understand how to take turns and join in the conversation. Turn off the television or radio as this will encourage everyone to talk. Children love to help and meal times are a great way to involve them.

1. While your child helps you lay the table, talk about how many people will be eating and how many knives and forks you need.
2. Let your child make placemats for the family by decorating a piece of paper or card.
3. You can cut pieces out to make a pattern, or cut pictures out to stick on, or just use crayons to draw pictures or patterns.
4. If your child has a favourite toy at the table, you could lay a place for them too.



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Washing up or stacking the dishwasher

Make washing up or stacking the dishwasher into a game for your child. Keep it fun and take the opportunity to chat. Stacking the dishwasher is also something your child can help with.

- Children enjoy helping, so let them wash things that don't break.
- Praise them for helping you, although you may need to wash the things again.

Let your child wash up toy plates and cups after a teddy bears picnic.

This is a good activity to do in the garden. First play at picnics, perhaps you could have lunch or a snack outside and then give your child a washing up bowl to do the washing up.



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