

### Mystery Bag:

Put items in a bag for children to reach into and guess what they are. As items are chosen ask questions. What letter does it begin or end with? What color is it? Where would you find this item?

### Nature Walks/Scavenger Hunt:

Make a list of things to find together or check out the scavenger hunts we included. Walk around your yard to see what plants or flowers are beginning to grow. Check them each day, measure their growth with a ruler and keep track of how much they are growing. Draw a picture depicting how they are changing. You can also use INatural (app) to investigate the creatures you find!

### Letter or Number Scavenger Hunt:

Hide different numbers or letters inside or outside. Letters/Numbers can be written on scrap pieces of paper or from puzzle pieces. Have child name each one as he/she locates the letters/number. You can give clues such as "getting warmer/colder"

### Make Volcanos:

Using a small jar or cup: let kids use a spoon to add baking soda to their jar then have them add vinegar and watch the volcano erupt! You can add food coloring to the baking soda for a little more color and fun. They will do this over and over again! Be sure you have a tray under the jar or cup for easy clean up.

### Practice Letters/Numbers:

Use trays with salt or sugar to have children draw or practice letters/numbers.

Think outside the box use whip cream, yogurt, paint anything that fingers can leave marks in on the tray. Have them create shapes, Mat Man, big lines, small curves and anything goes as long as they are having fun. 😊

### Indoor Camping Theme:

Create a tent and make props: make s'mores or other snacks - read around a "campfire"

### Build with Loose Parts

Does your child like to build with blocks or create projects using different media? Then try building with recyclables! The more items you can find and use (make sure to clean the items prior to using them), the more creative your child can be. Feel free to add tape or glue!

### Pinecone Science

Find a fully opened pinecone and put it into a clear container with a lid and fill it with water. Make predictions about what could happen to the pinecone. It will take several hours to completely change and then you can take it out of the jar and watch what happens next! Was your prediction, right?

### Celery Science

Cut several stalks of celery. In glasses or large cups, put about 1 cup of water and some liquid watercolor or a couple drops of food coloring. Each day watch how the celery changes. Discuss your findings. Have the children draw pictures of their predictions along the way or create a story map of what happened.

### Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles!

Children love to wash and clean. Using soap and water, have a "car wash" in your driveway for their bikes/trikes and other riding toys. If you have a swing set, feel free to give that a good scrub too!

### Bake Together:

Banana Bread

4 medium bananas mashed

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup melted butter/margarine

1 3/4 cup flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

Add chocolate chips if you like or blueberries

Mash bananas- mix with sugar-add melted butter

## Galaxy Slime Recipe

- 1 bottle of Elmer's Clear School Glue (5 oz) or white
- 1/2-3/4 cup Sta-Flo Liquid Starch
- Liquid watercolors or food coloring (several squirts until you get the desired color)
- Fine glitter in a variety of colors if available

Here's the skinny on slime-making...you need to take it slow. Put your glue into a bowl first. Then add your coloring (liquid watercolors or food coloring) and glitter mix well. THEN you can start adding your starch in small increments, stirring well after each one to incorporate your starch fully. After the first couple of additions you'll need to use your hands to knead the starch. Just like you are making bread dough. You may not need to add the entire amount of liquid starch. Add a little at a time and do a "stretch test" after each increment is kneaded in. Once your slime is the consistency you prefer, STOP!

## Treasure Stones:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup used coffee grounds (set them out overnight to dry)
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/4 cup sand
- 3/4 cup water
- Small prizes, such as plastic toys, dice, and marbles

### **Helpful Tip:**

Try hiding the treasure stones around the yard for a fun birthday party scavenger hunt.

### **Notes:**

Makes 4 treasure-filled stones

How to make it

1. Heat the oven to 170° F. In a medium-size bowl, combine the dry ingredients. Slowly add the water, stirring until the mixture forms a dough.
2. Roll a piece of the dough into a ball roughly the size of a baseball. Use your finger to bore a hole to the center, push in a couple of small prizes, then seal the hole with more dough. Repeat this process with the rest of the dough.
3. Place the stones on a baking sheet and cook them for 40 minutes, then allow them to cool completely before giving them to the kids to break open (easy to do by hand).

Mix the flour, baking soda, baking powder

Combine wet and dry ingredients - pour into loaf pan and bake at 350 oven for 60 min or in a 9 inch square pan for 20 min

Enjoy!

### **Make Playdough!**

#### **Play dough recipe**

4 cups flour

2 cups salt

4 cup water

4 tbsp. cream of tartar

1/4 cup veg oil

Food coloring

Mix all ingredients together

Cook on medium heat until it starts to form a ball...

Dump out and kneas as it cools

Keep in an Ziplock bag

### **BEST EVER NO-COOK PLAY DOUGH RECIPE**

- 2 cups plain flour (all purpose)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)
- gel food coloring (optional)
- few drops glycerin (my secret ingredient for stretch and shine!)

#### **Method:**

- Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl
- Add food coloring TO the boiling water then into the dry ingredients
- Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough
- Add the glycerin (optional)
- Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. \* This is the most important part of the process, so keep at it until it's the perfect consistency!
- If it remains a little sticky, then add a touch more flour until just right