

10 Things For Preschoolers To Do

Blank Books:

Your preschooler can create their own story book by drawing or painting on the pages, and if they'd like, you can write in the words they tell you to write. Preschoolers love to have their own stories read to them! (Also, when your tyke is a teen, they will find these books absolutely hilarious.)

City sand Box:

If you don't have a yard big enough for a sand box, you can make a front porch or balcony sand box. Fill a shallow plastic storage bin with sand from the hardware store, and add spoons, cups, and sand toys. (Make sure you close the lid when not in use so neighborhood cats don't use it as a bathroom!) If you don't have an outside spot, you can make an inside sandbox by filling the bin with cheap, bulk rice, lentils or beans. 6 inches is the ideal height of the bin but the width and length can be as small as a dishwashing basin, or as big as an under-the-bed sweater storage bin.

Drumming:

If you don't have downstairs neighbors, let your toddler pull out the kitchen pots and baking pans and make music on them with wooden spoons.

sink of Bubbles:

Fill the sink with water and enough bubble bath to create lots of foam. Your preschooler will love to stand on a stool and play in the bubbles with kitchen toys (funnel, whisk, baster, cups).

Nature Picture:

Take a walk in the neighborhood or a park and collect leaves, flowers, acorn tops etc. At home, your child can use a glue stick to glue these treasures to paper or a large piece of cardboard.

Fort:

Create a "fort" with blankets over chairs or a small table or cut windows and doors in an appliance box (appliance stores are often happy to give boxes away). Little kids love small, hidden places to play in!

Cardboard Town:

An appliance box works best, but larger Amazon boxes will work too. Flatten out the box and you or your toddler (depending on their age) can use markers or crayons to draw a town with roadways for cars, a forest with paths for stuffed animals, or any other world they can think of.



Masking Tape:

If you can't find big cardboard, you can "draw" with some 1" wide masking tape on a rug or floor. Use parallel lines to create roadways for cars, or an obstacle course for stuffed animals, or an airport for flying Duplo creations.

Wet sidewalk chalk:

Sidewalk chalk is sturdier so it doesn't break as easily in little hands. My son discovered (when he accidentally left it out in the rain) that drawing with wet chalk is really awesome. It's a lot like paint and draws on smoother surfaces. For instance, your toddler could hang out in a dry, empty bathtub and draw all over the inside of the tub with wet sidewalk chalk. It works great on paper too, or to decorate rocks in the yard or park.

Homemade Audiobook:

One great use of technology is to record yourself reading your toddler's favorite books. If you ring a bell, clap your hands or say "turn the page" when it's time to turn the page, they'll be able to listen and turn the pages themselves. Play it through a bluetooth speaker to make it totally screen free! This is great for when you're trying to cook dinner, or need some toddler entertainment in the car. Younger toddlers may need help figuring out how to turn pages on cue, but older ones will figure this out quickly. And they love repetition so they will probably want to listen to the same book over and over and over.

