



KIT 24: TODDLER GAMES

WELCOME TO
LEND & LEARN

LEARNING
OUTCOMES

EXTENDED
LEARNING

NEED HELP?

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Why are games such a great tool? Because they're so much fun. The Toddler Games Kit is full of material that will engage your little one and develop their learning skills. Let the games begin!

Through games, toddlers can learn concepts like letters, numbers and colours, while also developing their fine- and gross-motor skills... and building creativity along the way.

When toddlers are engaged in art activities, the process is more important than the product. Discover this for yourself through "The Everything Toddler Activities Book" – a great resource for parents.

When children draw, paint, scribble, cut and glue they learn how to use small muscles while developing writing skills, creativity through self-expression, cause and effect, patience and so much more.

Songs can be a game too. Try simple songs like 5 Little Ducks, 10 Little Snowflakes and The Ants Go Marching. This will encourage your children to count and practice the fine-motor skills of using their fingers while following along to the actions.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Discover the Khan Academy Kids app filled with activities
- Check out the EduKitty ABC app from Cubic Frog (cubicfrog.com)
- Visit cbckids.ca/play for online games

An OPCC Educator can answer your questions and assist you in your at-home learning journey. Call 905-849-6366 or email info@op-cc.ca



KIT 25: LETTERS & READING

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Here you'll find tools and ideas to help children develop pre-writing and pre-reading skills through play. Introducing this equipment when playing games and activities with your child will foster their problem-solving skills, creativity and imagination.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

When children are being creative with letters, they're developing many learning skills that will continue to grow when activities are repeated in different ways, and when new activities are introduced and expanded on.

There are so many fun activities that involve letters to do with your child, including arts and crafts, playdough, sensory play, search and find games, reading books, listening to a story, pretending to read, turning pages, talking about pictures, requesting regular books.

Children learn language and vocabulary, express ideas, interpret pictures and what they mean, cause and effect and reading and writing skills.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Helpful websites include abcdoes.com, simplerealmoms.com, abcmouse.com, wehavekids.com
- The "Endless Reader" app – includes a free trial!

EXTENDED LEARNING

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KIT 26: DINOSAURS

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

When children play they build skills and confidence along the way. The puzzles in this kit provide lots of interactive learning opportunities for you and your little ones. And what better way to spark learning and imagination than with dinosaurs – it's a roaring good time!

Use the materials and ideas in this kit to help build:

- Problem-solving and logic: Find, sort and fit the pieces.
- Language skills: Talk about the puzzle with your child.
- Social skills: Share with others, take turns and interact.
- Hand-eye coordination: Handle and fit the pieces together.
- Self-confidence: Ask how working on the puzzle makes them feel.
- Mastery over environment: Practice how each puzzle works.
- Pretend play: Imagine the dinosaurs are roaring and walking.

EXTENDED LEARNING

Fun Ideas to enhance learning:

- Look for great "Dinosaur Theme" activities on pre-kpages.com
- Search for "40+ Awesome Dinosaur Activities for Toddlers" on happytoddlerplaytime.com

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KIT 27: FARM ANIMALS

WELCOME TO
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Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

When children play they build skills along the way. This kit is filled with materials that will keep little ones engaged as they learn about animals and the farmyard. By identifying the animals and discovering new things about them, they'll strengthen their knowledge – while having fun!

Use the materials and ideas in this kit to help build:

- Problem solving and logic: Play the "Missing Game" by hiding one piece of the puzzle, and then asking what's missing.
- Language and literacy: Singing songs strengthens language and literacy through repetition and memorization. Try favourites like Old MacDonald, BINGO and 5 Little Ducks.
- Pretend play: Let their imagination run wild as you take turns pretending to be animals using the masks provided and any other items you have at home.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Play "Animal Freeze Dance" from "The Kiboomers" YouTube channel
- Look for "Family Friendly Farms" to visit on southeasternontario.ca
- Search for a "Sensory Play Farm" on besttoys4toddlers.com
- Books: Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle, One Windy Wednesday by Phyllis Root

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KIT 28: MUSIC

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

LEARNING OUTCOMES

EXTENDED LEARNING

NEED HELP?

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Bring out the musical creativity in your children as they learn more about the wonderful world of songs and instruments. Together, you'll explore familiar instruments and discover new ones. The benefits of music are endless, let's start singing!

- Let your children explore and learn about different sounds (loud vs soft, low pitch vs high pitch, fast vs slow).
- Singing songs and rhymes help children develop early literacy skills.
- Singing involves repeating words and phrases, and learning new ones, aiding in language development.
- Exploring and holding different instruments helps develop fine-motor skills and hand-eye coordination.
- Music and movement enhances self-expression and imagination.
- Music promotes social skills and helps children bond with others (encourage them to play an instrument with a sibling/friend or form a family band to get everyone involved).

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Read *The Very Noisy Bear* by Nick Bland or listen to it read aloud on YouTube.
- Subscribe to the "Kiboomers Kids Music" channel on YouTube for amazing singalongs.
- Search for "Easy Make Musical Instruments" on kinderart.com.

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KIT 29: MINDFULNESS

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Enjoy the many benefits of mindfulness with your family as you practice meditation, relaxation and the art of being gentle. Not only for kids, this kit includes ways for everyone in the family to participate. A little mindfulness goes a long way.

Use the materials and ideas in this kit to practice:

- **Breathing techniques:** After an intense activity at home or outside, practice the calming effect of taking deep breaths in and out.
- **Yoga:** A simple exercise you can practice at home. Use the dice in this kit to create different yoga poses with your family.
- **Reflection:** Let your child close their eyes and reflect on the past day. For example, what they liked, didn't like, how they feel. Before bedtime is a quiet opportunity to try this mindful technique.
- **Gratitude journal:** Start slowly by writing one thing they are thankful for a day. Dinner is a great time for each family member to share one thing they are grateful for aloud.
- **Affirmation letters:** Write affirmation notes and place throughout your house, such as "I am strong. I am smart. I am enough." These words will echo and sink in to empower your child.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- **Yoga:** "Cosmic Kids Yoga" YouTube channel
- **Essential oils:** Use safely to promote relaxation and well-being
- **Books:** I am Enough by Grace Byers, I Believe I Can by Keturah Bobo and Grace Myers

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KIT 30: SCIENCE

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

This kit is sure to grow your child's love of experiments, teach them how to problem solve and open their eyes to innovate and discover new ways to learn. The variety of materials provide practical, hands-on experiences to strengthen their skills in science and math.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Cooking: Cook up an interesting recipe together online. Follow the recipe, letting your child help measure and mix. The best part is being able to make and enjoy it together!

Experiments: Use simple items you can find at home, like baking soda and vinegar and marvel in the excitement it may bring to your child.

Predictions and questions: Ask what, where, when and how and see how your children respond to things they are interested in. Try the weather! Let them check what it's like outside (observation) and guess the forecast by describing what they see and hear (prediction).

Nature: Go for a nature hunt, find leaves and twigs, insects or animals and research it together when you get home.

EXTENDED LEARNING

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Visit thestemlaboratory.com to find "Preschool STEM Activities"
- Subscribe to the "TheDadLab" channel on YouTube
- Books by Andrea Beaty: Ada Twist, Scientist and Iggy Peck, Architect
- Find top STEM toy recommendations online

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KIT 31: SHAPES

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

LEARNING OUTCOMES

EXTENDED LEARNING

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Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Shapes are everywhere. The ability to recognize and describe shapes is a fundamental skill that provides a foundation for more advanced skills and helps children prepare for schooling and life. Shapes help children with a range of important skills including:

- **Sorting skills:** Children can use a sorting toy to help with shape identification. This improves eye-hand coordination, fine-motor development, problem-solving and logical thinking skills.
- **Pre-reading and writing skills:** Learning to recognize shapes is an important beginning step for children to learn letter recognition.
- **Drawing skills:** Drawing shapes provide children with a foundation for learning to write letters, as they contain many different shapes.
- **Language skills:** The ability to use shapes to describe objects will greatly enhance a child's ability to verbally communicate. For example, being able to use descriptive words such as 'round cookie'
- **Geometry:** Through play your child will learn some shapes are good for rolling while others are good for stacking or building towers.
- **Greater creative skills:** Drawing or creating shapes will help your child transition from simple figure drawings to more detailed drawings.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Find "Shapes Activities" on giftofcuriosity.com (a great website resource for parents)
- Watch "The Shapes Song" on the "KidsTV123" YouTube channel
- Other YouTube channels to check out: "Super Simple Songs - Kids Songs" and "Busy Beavers - Kids Learn ABCs 123s & More"

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KIT 32: MAGNETS

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Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Magnets provide scientific fun for kids of all ages. This kit contains materials and activities to engage and ignite curiosity, including:

- **Experiments:** Put magnetic and non-magnetic items in a basket and use the magnet wand to discover what is and isn't metal. Turn it into a fishing experience with classification and sorting.
- **Magnet hunt:** Hide magnets around your house and give your child a basket to collect them. A great Hide and Seek game!
- **Math lessons:** Use the shapes to discuss concepts like shape recognition, size, value, space and counting.
- **Patterns:** Make a pattern with the magnets and ask your child to copy it. It could be a colour, sequence, shapes, size – anything!

Use the materials and ideas in this kit to help build:

- **Fine-motor skills and hand-eye coordination:** They'll develop these skills and learn about spatial awareness as they handle the magnets.
- **Language skills:** Talk to your child while you're playing. What colour are you holding? What shape is that? Which one is bigger or smaller?
- **Cognitive skills and problem solving:** Build a structure to learn cause and effect. Is this piece too heavy? Trial and error facilitates learning.
- **Creativity:** Magnets encourage creativity and imaginative play. The circle could be a planet, a bouncing ball – the possibilities are endless!

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- **YouTube videos:** "Fun with Magnets!" from SciShow Kids, "Fun magnet science to do at home with the kids" from Science World
- **Search for "Magnets for Kids: 5 Activities to Try at Home" on [parents.com](https://www.parents.com)**

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KIT 33: LOGICAL ORDERING

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Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Logical ordering, or sequencing, is the ability to logically order events, thoughts and actions. Sequencing helps children communicate, learn routines, follow instructions, complete multi-step tasks and develop key academic skills, like reading comprehension and scientific inquiry.

In this kit, you'll find a set of puzzles to understand the process of peeling a banana, making a sandwich and a pizza. A game to master sequencing skills through colour-coded cards, and a "Before and After" game to learn about the logical relationship between cause and effect. By using the materials and ideas in this kit, you'll help your child:

- Recognize patterns and make predictions.
- Put a series of objects or events in a logical order.
- Understand transition words: first, next and last.
- Know the elements of a story: beginning, middle and end.
- Comprehend and retell stories, as well as past events.
- Put words and sounds together in the correct order.
- Follow daily routines at home and school.
- Approach an unfamiliar task in a logical order.
- Know when a task is completed – all done!

Fun ideas to enhance your child's learning:

- Look for "Helping Children Develop Logic Reasoning Skills" on scholastic.com
- Search for "Matching, Sorting & Logic Games and Activities" on the "Kids Academy" YouTube channel

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KIT 34: TRANSPORTATION

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Why do little ones love cars, trains, buses and planes? Because they love to play with things that are part of their everyday lives. This kit is filled with fun transportation activities for your children to explore. All aboard!

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Sorting cars:** Sorting is a great foundational skill for learning. Using a cardboard box or piece of paper, make a garage with colour-coded parking spots, then encourage your child to match the car to the parking spot.
- **Train car sort:** Make or draw coloured train cars and have your child sort objects by colour into the cars.
- **Shape collage:** Make cut-outs of truck parts and tires to assemble.
- **Ramps:** Tilt flat cardboard on a piece of furniture to race cars down. Put a tower of blocks at the bottom for the cars to crash into.
- **Pop cars:** Tape bubble wrap to a table for your child to drive a toy car or truck over. They'll build strength as they push down to hear the fun pop!
- **Roadway:** Make roads or train tracks on the floor with masking tape, wide enough for your child to crawl along pretending to be a vehicle. Add cardboard boxes for tunnels, garages and more!

Fun Ideas to enhance learning:

- Play "Transportation! Learn Different Types of Transportation" from the "Kids Learning Videos" YouTube channel
- Books: The Boy on the Bus by Penny Dale, The Wheels on the Bus by Annie Kuble

EXTENDED LEARNING

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NEED HELP?



KIT 35: SCHOOL AGE GAMES

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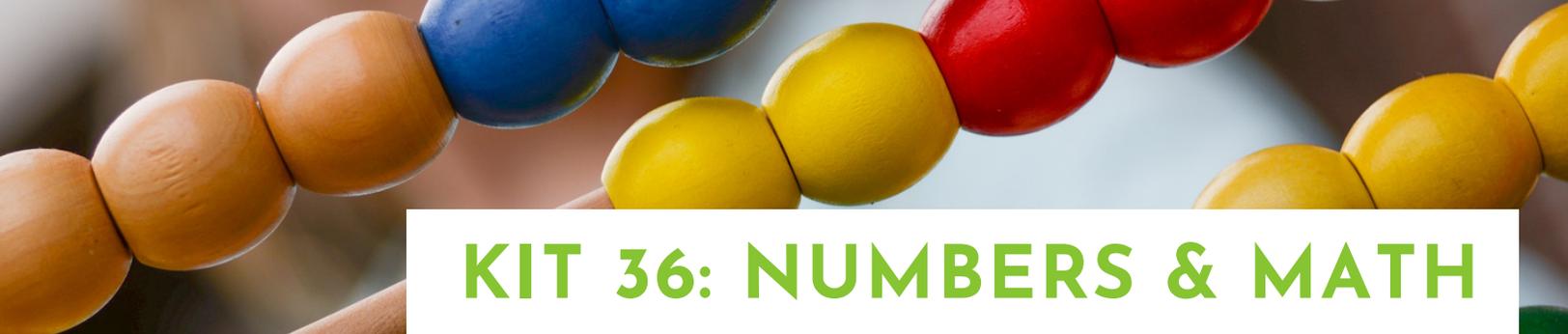
Our School Age Kit is designed for the whole family to enjoy. Many parents have such busy schedules, finding the time to enjoy an evening playing together as a family is difficult. Getting out the board games and sitting around the table for some quality family time can help you:

- Relax and enjoy just being a family, creating happy memories.
- Laugh together, leaving you all feeling closer as a family unit.
- Increase communication with no other distractions, like phones or TV.
- Improve listening and following directions. Even the smallest family members can feel involved and improve communication skills.
- Practice teamwork skills, learning about healthy competition as they play. Children practice the lifeskill of being a "good sport" when the game goes against them and they face defeat.
- Older children can give their brains a good workout with games that make them think.
- Have older children play with a younger sibling to build connections. They'll can bond over the lows of losing and the highs of beating their parents!

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- "Why Children Should Play Board Games" on goodplayguide.com
- "Benefits from Playing Board Games" on scholastic.com
- "Benefits of Family Game Night" on mommyuniversitynj.com
- "Benefits of Board Games for Kids" on theschoolrun.com
- "Educational Board Game" on lumaworld.in

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KIT 36: NUMBERS & MATH

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

This kit is filled with ways to encourage numeracy and math skills for toddlers, preschoolers and kindergarteners. With simple activities like dominoes, magnetic numbers and puzzles, they can learn while playing!

In addition to the materials in this kit, your child's everyday experiences are full of learning opportunities that lay the foundations for numeracy:

- Count fingers, toes, toys, pieces of food – anything!
- Recognize numbers and shapes on objects, like clocks and phones.
- Sort items gathered outside (leaves, sticks, pebbles) by size, colour, shape.
- Play simple boardgames, card games, dominoes and puzzles with shapes and numbers (try Snap!).
- Play games like I Spy, Hopscotch, Skittles and What Time Is It Mr. Wolf?
- Play music or sing songs at different speeds, so your child can dance, jump or shake musical instruments following your tempo.
- Race toy cars and talk about which came first, second and third.
- Help arrange their favourite toys in order from smallest to biggest.

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Look for "Counting Songs" on allnurseryrhymes.com
- Find "Preschool Themes" math activities at first-school.ws
- Visit child-encyclopedia.com/numeracy for helpful resources
- Books: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *We All Sleep* by Ezekiel Kwaymullina, *At the Beach I See* by Kamsani Bin Salleh, *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr Seuss, *Counting Kisses* by Karen Katz, *One Woolly Wombat* by Kerry Argent

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

EXTENDED LEARNING

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KIT 37: GARDENING

WELCOME TO LEND & LEARN

Here you'll find everything you need to have a fun and meaningful learning experience at home.

Gardening is fun, educational and sensory-rich, so dig in let your children's development skills grow! Choose an activity that suits their age: watering, digging, planting seasonal vegetables, fruits and flowers, picking and harvesting, preparing meals from grown produce, composting, recycling and mulching, gathering seeds and plants for crafts, making a birdhouse – the possibilities are truly endless.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Use the materials and ideas in this kit to help build:

- Responsibility: Caring for plants by watering, pruning etc.
- Understanding: Cause and effect, for example how water effects plants.
- Self-confidence: Achieving their goals and enjoying the harvest.
- Love of nature: Discovering the outdoors as a fun, safe place.
- Reasoning and discovery: The science of plants, animals, weather, nutrition, the environment and simple construction.
- Physical activity: A fun and productive use of time.
- Cooperation: Shared play activities and teamwork.
- Creativity: New and exciting ways to grow food.
- Nutrition: Learning about where fresh food comes from.

EXTENDED LEARNING

Fun ideas to enhance learning:

- Search for "Gardening With Kids" on planetnatural.com
- Watch "How to Teach Basics of Gardening to Kids" from "TheDadLab" YouTube channel
- Search for "Gardening Projects for Kids" on gardenersworld.com
- Visit kidsgardening.org for articles and ideas

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