

BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

Activity Ideas

BBC Tiny Happy People is a website packed full of **FREE** activity ideas to help you develop your little one's speech, language and communication skills at home and on the go.

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Fun Activities

On this set of cards you'll find a selection of activities for you to try at home or when you're out and about.

Each card links to a film on our website that shows you how to do the activity and explains why it can help develop your little one's speech and language skills.

These are some of the everyday items you could use to play along:

- a scarf or tea towel
- a sock
- a teddy
- a ball
- bubble mixture
- building blocks
- a cloth bag or pillow case

Have fun chatting with your little one!

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Let's build

Play 'Let's build' with your little one to help them learn about taking turns and cause and effect.

Sit face to face with your child and position some blocks between you. Make a little tower and gently knock it down.

Top tip: The whole time you play, talk to your child about what they can see and feel.

Watch our 'Let's build' video here

bit.ly/letsbuildblocks

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Peekaboo

Peekaboo is a lot of fun for your baby and great for their understanding of the world.

Position your baby in front of you and hold up a scarf to conceal your face; then move the scarf and say 'Peekaboo!'

Top tip: Get your older child involved in the activity; it will help boost their talk too.

Watch our 'Peekaboo' video here

bit.ly/THPPeekaboo

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What's in the bag?

Play 'What's in the bag?' with your little one by adding interesting everyday items to a bag or pillowcase.

Your child will love the surprise when you pull each item out and say what it is.

Top tip: Fill the bag up with baby-safe items you can find around the home so your baby can learn lots of new words.

Watch our 'What's in the bag?' video here bit.ly/THPWhatsInTheBag
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The name game

Did you know that babies learn words when adults repeat the word several times in everyday contexts?

Head outside, or tour your house with **your** baby and find things to look at together. When your baby sees something, point at it and tell them the name.

Top tip: Why not play this in the supermarket where there are lots of new items to look at?



Watch 'The name game' video here
bit.ly/THPthenamegame
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Let's make noise!

Are you ready to make some noise?

Grab some wooden spoons and place some pots and pans between you and your baby.

Tap one of the pots with the spoon and say 'bang, bang, bang.' Look at your baby and give them time to respond.

Top tip: Try different noises and textures, like tapping a mug or shaking keys.

Watch our 'Let's make noise!' video here

bit.ly/letsmakenoise

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Obstacle course

If your baby is in the mood to explore, then this is the activity for them.

Lay out a simple obstacle course, it could be a blanket to crawl over, or you could put a pillow underneath to make it a hill. If your baby isn't crawling yet, you could put them on their tummy so they can feel a new surface.

Top tip: Talk about what you're doing, try to imagine you are a TV commentator encouraging your baby!

Watch our 'Obstacle course' video here bit.ly/makeaobstaclecourse
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Teddy talking

Get your little one's favourite teddy or soft toy and make it move around near them.

You can make it do lots of different actions like kissing and cuddling your baby, eating and drinking, jumping, sitting, dancing, running and clapping.

Top tip: Use an interesting new voice to make the teddy talk and sing. Why not talk about all the different actions it's doing?

Watch our 'Teddy talking' video here

bit.ly/teddytalk

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Blowing bubbles

Blowing bubbles is a great way to engage your baby. Little ones are fascinated by the way they float and reflect all kinds of colours.

Try blowing some bubbles and seeing how your baby reacts. Wait for them to respond and then blow some more.

Top tip: Talk about what direction the bubbles are going. You can say 'up, up, up' and 'down, down, down' and then 'pop!'

Watch our 'Blowing bubbles' video here
bit.ly/THPblowingbubbles

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Playing sock puppets

Playing sock puppets can help develop your little one's language skills.

Choose two colourful socks.

Put one on each hand to create your characters.

Give them a name and use silly voices to bring them to life.

You could pretend to feed your sock puppet...
'Shall we feed them an apple or banana?'

Top tip: Wait for your child to respond and let them lead the conversation. This will build their confidence and help them to take turns.

Watch our 'Playing sock puppets' film here

tinyurl.com/playingwithsockpuppets

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Drawing fun

Drawing is a great way to start a conversation with your little one.

Let them draw and talk about their picture. Add words to describe what they've drawn. Say things like 'that's a **long** line', or 'I like the **blue** circle.'

This can help them learn new words about what they are drawing.

Top tip: For older children, ask one question at a time, this can help them speak in longer sentences. If they draw a cat, ask 'Why do you like cats?' or 'What noises do cats make?'

Watch our 'Drawing fun' video here

tinyurl.com/drawingfun

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