

NICCA AT-HOME LEARNING KITS

Activities Guide

Toddler Kit B (KT17525)



Tabletop Hardwood Blocks - Master Set (BC302)



Ocean Animals Board Book Library (RE485)



Button Size-Sorting Box (AA775)



Big Knob Learning Puzzle Set (FF188)



Touch & Learn Picture Card Library (AA808)



Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals (RA368)

In partnership with Lakeshore, the National Indian Child Care Association has created this activity guide to support the use of your custom at-home learning kit!

Developed by expert educators, these activities are designed to meet the cognitive, developmental, and social-emotional needs of toddler-age learners—and to support family members and caregivers in their efforts to provide a solid foundation for future growth.

Note: These activities can be modified at your discretion to meet social distancing guidelines.

Activity #1: Build and Rebuild

Content Areas: Arts/Creativity; Critical Thinking/Problem Solving; Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Math; STEM

Explore the **Tabletop Hardwood Blocks** with your child. What shapes and colors can she identify? Invite him or her to build a tower or another structure. Model the actions of building a structure by using both hands to move and stack the blocks. Practice one-to-one correspondence as you count each block with your child as he or she builds the structure. If possible, take a photo of the structure, then see if your child can replicate a second structure based on what he or she sees in the photo. Assist your child by looking closely at the photo, asking what block comes next, and using positional words and phrases as a guide (e.g., next to, on top of, behind, under, in front of, etc.).

Impact on Development: Cooperation and sharing ideas; eye/hand coordination and coordinated movements (pinching, lifting, balancing blocks); physical attributes of the blocks (shapes, weight, balance)

Activity #2: Buttons, Buttons, and More Buttons

Content Areas: Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Math; Science; Social-Emotional

How many buttons can you add to the **Button Size-Sorting Box**? Have your child add the buttons to the slots of the box, dump them out and do it again! Can you put all the red ones in first? Can you put all the circles in first? Can you put all the large ones in first? Choose different ways to decide what button goes in next while counting them. Sort the buttons into piles before putting them in the box. Can you find matching buttons on your clothes? Are they the same size, or same shape? How many can you find?

Impact on Development: Vocabulary; eye/hand coordination; muscle strength; social interaction; concentration; counting; color recognition; shape recognition; sorting

Activity #3: It Sure Is a Puzzle!

Content Areas: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving; Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Language/Literacy/Reading; Math; Social-Emotional; STEM

Using the **Big Knob Learning Puzzle Set**, build persistence by encouraging your child to try to repeatedly find the fit for the puzzle pieces by turning them and matching shapes, images, and colors. Label each puzzle piece and the images on the puzzle. Increase your child's vocabulary by talking about the shapes and numbers as he or she tries to put the pieces on the puzzle board. Have your child repeat the labels with you. When working on the counting puzzle, use the buttons from the **Button Size-Sorting Box** to create sets with the same number of items (e.g., for a puzzle piece with 4 starfish, count 4 buttons).

Impact on Development: Coordination of small muscles (grasping); matching; spatial awareness and eye/hand coordination; persistence; vocabulary; reasoning skills; counting; critical thinking; analysis; handling frustration

Activity #4: Touch & Learn

Content Areas: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving; Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Language/Literacy/Reading; Science

Introduce the **Touch & Learn Picture Card Library** to your child. Point out that each card has an image and a matching texture. Read the cards and invite your child to touch each texture as you describe it. To build language, have him or her repeat the name of the image and its texture. Challenge your child to find similar images and textures around your home! For fun, ask your child to close his or her eyes, touch the texture on a card, and guess what it is!

Impact on Development: Pre-literacy skills; sensory exploration; matching; vocabulary

Note: If any household items are used, please ensure that they are safe and appropriate for the activity.

Activity #5: An Ocean of Animals

Content Areas: Arts/Creativity; Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Language/Literacy/Reading; Math; Science; Social-Emotional

Help your child explore the **Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals**. Does he or she know the names of any of the animals, or where the animals live? Has your child ever seen one in real life? Review and read the **Ocean Animals Board Book Library** to learn more about ocean animals. Fill a container with a small amount of water and ask your child to count the **Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals** as he or she places them into the water one at a time. Discuss whether the animals float or sink. Finally, encourage your child to draw the animals and tell a simple story about them.

Impact on Development: Sensory exploration; pre-reading skills; math; dexterity and small muscle strength and coordination; listening and sharing; drawing; creating images on paper; sink vs. float; habitats

Activity #6: Sorting and Stacking

Content Areas: Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Language/Literacy/Reading; Math; STEM; Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

Combine the buttons from the **Button Size-Sorting Box** and the blocks from the **Tabletop Hardwood Blocks** to build piles of the same color. How many do you have of each color? Can you stack the blocks and balance a button on top of each tower? Can you find other things in your home that are the same color as each pile of blocks? Build a square with the blocks and fill it with your buttons. Do all the buttons fit? Do you need to build a bigger or smaller square? Take turns adding an item to the tower or pile.

Impact on Development: Dexterity; muscle control; spatial awareness; counting; shapes; estimating; planning; engineering; building; analyzing

Activity #7: Picture This!

Content Areas: Critical Thinking/Problem Solving; Gross Motor/Fine Motor; Language/Literacy/Reading; STEM

Take the **Touch & Learn Picture Card Library** outdoors to look for items from the "In the Park" section. How many items can your child find? How are the items the same as or different from those shown in the pictures? Mix up the cards, pick one at a time, and ask him or her what item is shown. Use the item in a sentence to help guide your child. Repeat this activity with the other sections of the picture card library.

Impact on Development: Vocabulary; matching; observation skills; memory; oral language