

Personal Social and Emotional Development

Agree upon and write down a set of rules about how to look after the toys in the setting.

Discuss how many children should play with the toys in the setting at a given time. For example, would it be sensible if 20 children all went to play with the train track? What could you do if a toy that you want is already being used?

During a circle time, ask the children how they might feel if a friend broke or lost their favourite toy by accident. What would they do? Ask them what they would say to a friend in this situation.

Teach a group of children to play a simple board game. Ask each child to teach a friend how to play the game.

Place two different toys on a table and ask children to place a counter next to the toy they like the most. Discuss the outcome of the vote. Can the children tell you why they voted for their toy? Discuss what would happen if everybody had exactly the same toys.

Communication and Language

Ask the children to talk to the adults in their house about the toys they played with when they were younger. Allow time for children to feedback this information to the rest of the class.

Explore the vocabulary related to toys. Help the children to learn any new words by clapping syllables, thinking of rhyming words, looking at initial sounds and the meaning of the word.

Show the children an old toy that they may not be familiar with, such as a jack-in-the-box. Write down any questions the children have and discuss how they will find out more about it.

Look at non-fiction books about toys. If possible, create a new page as a class to tell people about a modern toy which isn't included in the book. Can the children think of sentences to include?

Ask the children to think about and explain how they would improve a toy car or a doll.

Physical Development

Make bubble snakes. Cut the bottom off a plastic bottle and cover it tightly with thin fabric or a sock. Dip the fabric into bubble mixture and blow through the neck of the bottle. See how long you can make your bubble snake!

Practise road safety with your trikes and bikes outside. Set up a road and invite the children to make crossings, traffic lights and road signs.

Create a toy-themed dance sequence which might include dancing like a robot, driving like a car and bouncing like a ball.

Provide a range of thin fabrics, plastic sewing needles and thread for children to have a go at making their own doll's clothes. Show the children how to use the dolls to measure how much fabric they will need before cutting it out.

Experiment with wooden toys, such as yo-yos, spinning tops and a cup and ball.

Literacy

Plan a teddy bears' picnic. Children can write invitations, make posters and write menus for the picnic.

Pretend to lose your class teddy and create these Lost Toys Posters. Remind the children that they need to write about what your teddy looks like so that people know which teddy to look for.

Ask the children to complete a reading challenge, where they have to read a book to a different toy every day. You might like to reward them with a simple Toys-Themed Bookmark if they complete the challenge.

Provide the children with name tags for their teddy bears. Can they listen and write down the sounds they hear?



A Toy Story Spring 2



Class Stories

Traction Man Is Here
That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown
Lost in the Toy Museum: An Adventure
Kipper's Toybox
Toys Around the World
Naughty Bus
The Teddy Robber
The Toymaker
The Velveteen Rabbit
The Story of Pinocchio
Stanley's Stick
Spy Toys
Old Bear



Expressive Arts and Design

Explore songs and rhymes about toys with this lovely Toys Songs and Rhymes PowerPoints Pack.

Create a toy workshop in your junk-modelling area. Ask children to design their toy first and think carefully about the materials they will need to make their toy.

Model how to make a cup and ball using these Cup and Ball Craft Instructions. Leave the materials for children to have a go at making their own independently.

Allow children to build on the storylines in their small world play by providing them with action figures in an area where they can be left out overnight for the children to continue the next day.

Understanding the World

Sort toys from the past and modern toys. We could work on this activity with other staff. Sorting Old and New Toys Activity as a whole class then leave it out in your continuous provision for children to explore independently.

Explore how electronic toys have changed over time. Explore the sounds they make and buttons you can press. You could even take one apart to show children inside the toy.

Talk about places in your local community where children can buy toys. You might like to plan a visit here or you could find the location on a map.

Look at toys from around the world and compare them with the toys you have in your setting.

Mathematics

Provide a range of vehicles and take one each. Ask the children to look at their vehicle and find something different or similar to yours. Can they sort the vehicles into groups?

Explore subitising with small construction blocks. Start with blocks of a similar size and colour and discuss how many blocks the children can see (without counting).

Build robots in the junk-modelling area. The children will be able to explore 3D shapes to create the robot and stick 2D shapes onto its body for buttons.

Explore the size of a range of toys. Alternatively, you might like to use this lovely Toy Size Ordering resource.