

Summer Activity Ideas for Young Children, & Children with Autism

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MOTOR-SKILLS ACTIVITIES

- Use tweezers with pom poms and put them in a jar
- Use an empty tissue box to make a "monster" and feed it numbers, shapes or letters of the alphabet
- Use bean bags and toss into a hula hoop
- Use chalk to make a path to hop, skip, jump and twirl.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR COMMUNITY HELPERS YOU MIGHT SEE THIS SUMMER

- How do they help us?
 - Lifeguards - they keep us safe when we swim
 - Construction workers - they fix the roads
 - Firefighters - they keep our buildings safe from fire
 - Nurses/Doctors - they help the sick
 - Teachers/Instructors - they help us learn at school, ABA (applied behavior analysis), or camp

VISUAL RECEPTIVE IDENTIFICATION MULTIPLE EXAMPLES

- I see grass. What else is green? What else is soft?
- I see a stop sign. What else is red? What else has 8 sides?
- I see blue water. What do we wear in the water?

SENSORY, SORTING AND OPPOSITES

- At the park you can sort rough and smooth stones or long and short sticks.
- At the beach you can compare wet and dry sand.
- At the zoo you can compare 4 legged, 2 legged and aquatic animals.
- If you are camping you can sort brown and green leaves, acorns, pinecones and twigs.
- Hard surfaces like concrete and soft surfaces like grass or sand.
- You can freeze toys in little containers of water and have them be revealed as the ice melts for cold and warm.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Try a sensory bin full of dry rice, beans, pasta, cereal, kinetic sand, or water beads
 - Add some small containers, cups, or funnels (*I like to save the tops from laundry detergent bottles for this*) and you're in for some scooping, pouring, and measuring fun!
 - Add trucks and you've got a construction site!
 - Throw in some plastic animals and see how they like their new habitat.
- Color spray fun
 - Fill squirt and spray bottles with food coloring and water, then let the kids squeeze and spray them into a bin of paper towels, ice cubes, or old t-shirts
 - Kids can experiment with mixing colors and strengthen their hand muscles, too.

WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES®

- Water play
 - You don't need a water table to have a great time playing with water – any shallow bin will do! Fill it up, add bath toys, and have fun!
- Glow bath
 - Add glow sticks to the bath and turn off the lights for an immersive sensory experience.
- Edible bath paint
 - Mix food coloring into Greek yogurt and let kids paint the tub and themselves!

ACTIVITY RESOURCES

- [KDL \(Beyond Books Collection\)](#)
 - Almost all KDL branches have great kids' zones and events. KDL also has tons of non-book activities like telescopes, metal detectors, and camping gear. Perfect spot for special interests!
- [Grand Rapids Kids](#)
 - Great for community events.
- [StorytimeGR](#)
 - There is free story time in Garfield Park June through August on Tuesdays. Every child that comes gets a free book and ice cream.