

The 10-Minute Hands-On Learning Toolkit

Simple ideas for creative and exploratory play



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A simple guide to creating a learning box that encourages creativity, curiosity, and exploration.

You don't need expensive equipment to create meaningful learning opportunities at home. A small collection of versatile supplies can inspire dozens of hands-on activities for children.

Use the checklist below to build a simple learning box.

Creative Materials

- ✓ Coloured paper or cardstock
- ✓ Glue sticks
- ✓ Child-safe scissors
- ✓ Crayons or markers
- ✓ Sticky tape

Building Materials

- ✓ Wooden blocks
- ✓ Craft sticks
- ✓ Cardboard tubes
- ✓ Small recycled boxes
- ✓ String or elastic bands

Simple Science Tools

- ✓ Magnifying glass
- ✓ Magnets
- ✓ Measuring tape or ruler
- ✓ Kitchen measuring cups
- ✓ Small containers or jars

Nature Items

- ✓ Pinecones
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Small stones
- ✓ Shells
- ✓ Twigs

Tip: Store these items in a small box or basket so they are always ready for spontaneous learning activities.

Create a Simple Classroom Corner

A dedicated learning space helps children focus, explore ideas, and develop independence.

You don't need a full classroom to support hands-on learning at home. A small corner with a few organised supplies can encourage creativity, curiosity, and problem solving.

Choose a Small Learning Space

- ✓ A small table or desk
- ✓ A floor mat for building activities
- ✓ A shelf or basket for learning supplies
- ✓ Good lighting

Organise Your Supplies

- ✓ Store art materials in a simple tray or container
- ✓ Keep the learning box nearby for easy access
- ✓ Use small baskets or jars to sort materials
- ✓ Rotate materials occasionally to maintain interest

Encourage Exploration

1. Invite your child to choose materials from the learning box.
2. Ask open-ended questions such as "What could we build?" or "What might happen if we try this?"
3. Allow time for experimentation and creative problem solving.
4. Display finished creations to celebrate effort and ideas.

A simple learning corner helps children see learning as something they can explore independently and creatively.

10 Quick Hands-On Learning Activities

Simple ideas you can try anytime using the supplies in your learning box.

Hands-on learning works best when children are free to explore, test ideas, and experiment. These activities require very little preparation and encourage curiosity and creativity.

1. **Sink or Float Test** – Use a bowl of water and test which objects float or sink.
2. **Build a Bridge Challenge** – Use craft sticks or cardboard to build a bridge that can hold a small toy.
3. **Nature Sorting** – Collect leaves, stones, or pinecones and sort them by size, colour, or texture.
4. **Shadow Tracing** – Place an object in sunlight and trace the shadow on paper.
5. **Magnet Treasure Hunt** – Use magnets to find objects around the house that attract metal.
6. **Measure and Compare** – Use a ruler or tape measure to compare the length of different objects.
7. **Design a Marble Run** – Use cardboard tubes or boxes to create a simple track.
8. **Recycled Building Challenge** – Build a structure using only recycled materials.
9. **Texture Rubbings** – Place paper over textured surfaces and rub with crayons.
10. **Create a Mini Invention** – Challenge your child to invent something useful using items from the learning box.

Hands-on activities encourage children to experiment, ask questions, and discover new ideas through play.