

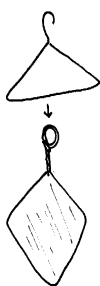
# Home made toys

## Children 3 - 5 years

Home-made toys are fun, easy to make, have minimal cost, and develop creativity in your child. You can make them for your child's special interests and needs. Children have a wonderful imagination. Let them use it when making toys. Help your child when required, but let them learn by doing as much for themselves as they can. Involve them in choosing colours, designs, and materials.

### ACTIVE PLAY

#### BAT AND BALL



To make a bat, re-shape a wire coat hanger and make the hook into a safe circle. Thread stocking over the top and secure around the handle with insulation tape. For the ball, stuff the toe of a stocking with plastic bags, newspaper or a tennis ball. Secure with a knot and tie on extra stockings to give length to hang from clothesline or under patio rafter.



#### STILTS

Use 2 identical strong tins (eg coffee, large milo or powdered milk). Thread strong string through holes made near the bottom of the tin. The string should form a loop and be taut when the child is standing upright with arms held straight against their body.

### FUN ACTIVITIES

#### PUPPETS

- Decorate a wooden spoon by drawing faces on both sides (eg happy or sad). Glue wool on top for hair and tie material around spoon as a cape or dress.
- Decorate a cardboard tube by drawing a face on it, glue on wool hair, and use material or crepe paper for clothes.
- Decorate a paper plate to make a mask or puppet. Glue or staple wool or coloured paper for hair and draw on face as needed. Cut out eye-shapes to use as a mask.



- Decorate a child's sock. Sew on buttons or felt for eyes, wool for hair, and felt or material for tongue and nose.

#### DRESS-UPS

- Hats can be made from icecream containers with shade on front made from a cut-out lid.
- Plaits made from 3 lengths of stocking plaited together (and secured to hat or beanie). Capes made from material with a stocking threaded through the hem and gathered to loosely tie around the child's neck.
- Have a box or suitcase of old clothing (eg hats, scarves, dresses, handbags, shorts, etc) for dress ups.

#### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- Drums can be made from icecream containers, large tubes, saucepans, tins, etc.
- Guitars from cardboard, with rubber bands, string or wool tied to make "strings".
- Shakers can be made from cardboard rolls that are sealed at each end, and filled with rice, lentils or similar.

#### JIGSAWS

Calendar pictures or photos glued onto firm cardboard, and cut into shapes. Vary the number of shapes to enable your child to succeed, but also to learn new skills.

PLAY  
IDEAS 22

ABOUT  
CHILD  
TOYS



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# MORE FUN ACTIVITIES

PLAY  
IDEAS 22



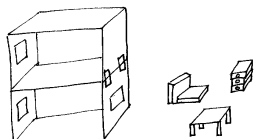
## THREADING

- Cut out a shape from cardboard (eg tree, boat). Punch holes in it and thread shoe-laces, wool or plastic drinking straws.
- Thread wooden beads, plastic beads or cotton reels onto shoe-laces or plastic tubing.

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## PRETEND PLAY

### DOLL HOUSE

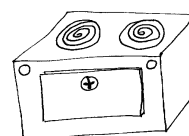


Tape several shoe boxes together. Cut windows/doors in side of boxes. Decorate with contact or paint. Make furniture out of matchboxes taped together to make chairs, chest of drawers. Milk cartons can be cut down to make beds and tables. Small cosmetic boxes can be used to make fridges, stoves, kitchen sinks etc. Use scraps of material to make bedding, tablecloths, curtains, etc.

### CUBBY HOUSE

Use a very large box that your child can sit in (eg. fridge box). Cut holes for windows and doors. Decorate with paint or textas. Add rooms by attaching other boxes. Have a tea-party or snacks while in the cubby. Put in pillows for beds and small boxes for tables etc. A great inside toy for wet days!

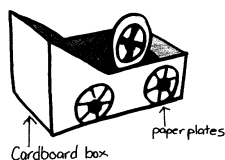
### KITCHEN CORNER



Use cardboard boxes to make stoves, fridges, cupboards, tables, etc. Cut doors as needed and attach plastic bottle lids with plastic string to make door knobs and control knobs. To encourage pretend play, use playdough and empty food packets and containers.

### CAR, BUS, FIRE-ENGINE

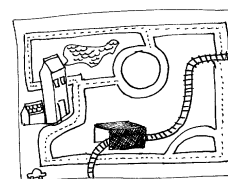
Use a strong fruit box that is large enough for your child to sit in. Attach plastic lids or paper plates with plastic string to act as wheels. Attach smaller plastic lids as head and tail lights. Use plastic bottle lids as control knobs.



Attach a larger lid or paper plate to act as a steering wheel. Paint and decorate as needed. Attach another box on the back with pegs for teddy or dolly.

### ROAD CITY/AIRPORT MAT

Draw a road map/airport map on a large piece of cardboard (disassemble a large box). Draw roads wide enough for small cars, trains or planes.



Paint areas green to resemble grass. Make houses, garages, and other buildings from cardboard milk/juice containers. Make bridges and tunnels with blocks or boxes.

### TV / VCR

Use a large box and place pictures on front of box. Use cardboard as "pretend" videos or DVDs and post them into a slot in a smaller box.

### COMPUTER

Use a cardboard box, with a hole cut out and covered with plastic for the screen. An up-turned egg carton can be the keyboard. Make pretend CDs and discs from cardboard to post into a slot in a tall thin box.

### BOXES

are also great for robots, castles, cameras, letterboxes, dolls' beds, boats, trains etc. You can stack them into a tower, or make a long tunnel.



## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Supervise children closely while making toys, especially if using knives and scissors, or glue, paint, staplers etc. Be aware of choking hazards and toxic materials.



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