Baby & Toddler Room Ideas for staying at home.

Everything is learning for a baby & Toddler.

Please use your own judgement, supervision and safety precautions.

**Happy & busy baby and toddler**

**Language and Literacy**

* Cuddle up together with books, enjoy making noises together from the story and talking about what is happening.
* Have a sing song, learn a simple poem or rhyme.
* Just spending time talking with your baby and toddler to increase their language, in your home language/ English.

**Physical**

* Create a mountain of cushions to climb on and over/ roll down and have fun.
* Climbing in and out of cardboard boxes/ laundry basket
* Create an obstacle course, under the table, over the cushions, around the chair etc.
* Roll a ball to your child and encourage them to crawl after it and/ or roll it back to you.
* Have a dance, put the music on and feel the beat. If you have ribbons/ scarves wave them around too.
* Play chase in an open space or garden
* For toddlers: are they/ you ready for potty training? Whilst at home have a relaxed go at potty time. Have a small box of books & toys to play whilst they sit at regular intervals throughout the day on the potty. Have a reward chart for every time they sit on the potty. Its best to go away from nappies if they are willing to have potty time. Wet / dirty pants are normal and need a calm approach. (never mind we will try again next time……) It takes a lot of practice to get this right and needs lots of encouragement. (we are still around to help if more advise is required)

**Emotional**

* Make contact with other family members via skype or facetime to continue their relationships.
* Make a den to play, have a teddy bears picnic or……….
* Spend time doing jobs together, emptying the washing machine, finding the socks, my duster your duster etc

**Exploring and Creative**

* Sensory - place as many spoons/ shiny things/ fluffy items as you can find in a basket or box for exploring.
* Lava lamps- fill empty bottles with water and items that float or sink. Give them a shake and watch them move. Add a few drops or oil or colouring to give another effect.
* Pat mats – ½ fill sandwich bags with water and add non sharp items to feel then seal with tape.
* Using an empty mug tree and place on any rings eg curtain rings/ bangles. (good for co-ordination)
* Playdough ; see attached recipe
* Finger painting/ any painting
* Crayons and paper/ cardboard
* Chalks outside on the path
* Paint brushes and a bucket of water in an outside space, to paint anything.
* Play hide and seek with the soft toys, could be a part of tidying up.

No Cook Play Dough

* 2 cups of plain flour
* 2 tablespoons vegetable oil/baby oil
* ½ cup of salt
* 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
* 1- 1 ½ cups of boiling water
* Food colouring to give colour
* Any spices / herbs to add smell (optional)

Add flour, salt, cream of tartar in a large bowl

Add colouring to boiling water

Stir until forms dough

Allow to cool

Knead vigorously until not sticky

If it remains sticky add a little flour