

Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 19



TREASURE HUNT!



This can go on for hours, so be warned! It's a great way to burn off excess energy and to learn the names of objects. Searching for things around the house (or outdoors) develops attention and observation skills, and looking or rummaging around is great for their sense of space too

All you need is whatever is in your home or things to spot when out and about. This works very well during video calls with family/friends too – ask the callers to set the challenges!

What do I need?

Indoor version:

Make a list of simple objects your child can find around the house and bring to you. Things like spoons, toys, anything they can access safely

Outdoor version:

Make a list of the things you might see when you go out (garden, walk or from window) – take this with you, and a pencil to cross them off

What do we do?

Indoor version

Read out an item and ask your child to bring it as quick as they can. Start with easy ones!

When they come back with it, praise them and show them how to cross it off the list. Then the next one!

For an extra challenge, can they take it back again?

Video chat version

Same, but ask grandparents/partner/friend or whoever is on the call to bring a list and give the challenges to the child. Let them see each one crossed off

Outdoor version

See if your child can spot and point to the different items – show them how to cross off the list. Be careful about safety and to follow social distancing advice!

What will your child learn from this playing?

Search & attention skills

Spatial awareness & navigation

Vocabulary

Pre-writing and mark-making skills

How can you take it further?

Try using more complex descriptions. So instead of naming an object could be:

“bring me something ...” and then colour/shape/texture/what it is for etc

Give them two objects to find at a time – “bring me a spoon and an apple”

Involve your child in “writing” a list for the next challenges using their drawings and marks

Introduce a timer so they have to get it within a limited time

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it