

Keeping Toddlers/Preschoolers Busy and Engaged

- Wash the cars (make them feel like it's very important).
- Recycle boxes- cut the opening and let them drop in small things, (popsicle sticks, beads, etc) open it and do it again.
- Collect small containers in the house (spice, cream, tube, etc.) and put them in a small basket; they love to open/close these little containers. The more you have the longer they can stay engaged!
- Paint all the precious empty toilet paper rolls and tell them that they can use it for "show and tell" but it has to have a paint all over it. (Ms. Eddy would like to see it all painted)
- Paint with rocks
- Wash rocks
- Collect pine cones, gum balls, sticks etc on a walk and sort it when you get home; you can write the numbers 1-5 and they can learn quantity. For example, one pine cone on 1, two pine cones on number 2 etc.
- Let them use a lint roller on a pair of black pants (or the entire laundry basket)
- Freeze small objects overnight in a medium size container and tomorrow let them hammer in the backyard!
- Shaving cream.....they can draw shapes, letters, numbers. Add a drop of food coloring. They can mix the color. When they are done give them a small spray bottle and let them clean up.
- Stick different colored pieces of paper around the house (fridge, stove, fireplace, wall) and let them match to the same color on a chart/on the wall.
- Let them wash their precious trains, monster trucks etc. as long as they want.
- Give them a basket with soil or a designated place in the back yard where they can dirty them and a bucket where they can wash them.