

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN)
Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

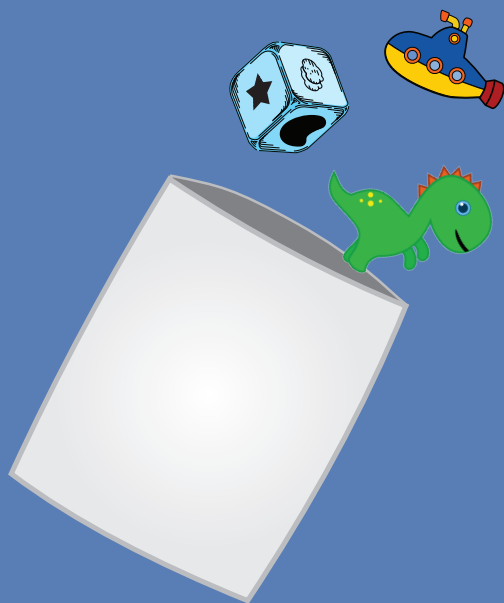
Playing with Math

The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

TODDLERS - Activity: Pillowcase Surprise

What you need:

- One pillowcase
- Six to ten adult sized athletic socks
- Six to ten small toys such as wooden blocks, plastic play food, or rattles (make sure toys are not small enough to be a choking hazard)



What to do:

- For a young toddler (one to two years old), place six toys directly in the pillowcase
- Encourage the toddler to pull out and explore each toy. You may find your toddler simply wants to dump all the toys out of a container and then put them back in. This is typical of a toddler learning about cause and effect. Once they have done this a few times, encourage them to take a closer look at the toys by picking one up and saying, "I wonder what this is"
- Describe the shape, size, color, and any other characteristics of the toy
- For an older toddler (two to three years old), place one toy in each sock and then place all the socks inside the pillowcase
- Invite your toddler to pull out a sock
- Ask questions about the sock such as, "How does it feel? What do you think is inside?"
- Allow your toddler to discover the opening of the sock and encourage her to try and remove the toy
- After all the toys have been revealed, you can ask her to help replace them and then start over
- Continue playing until she loses interest
- Try the activity again on a different day with another set of toys

What the activity does:

- Develops large and small muscles to grasp, squeeze, pull, push, and manipulate objects
- Promotes critical thinking by asking questions that lead the child to make predictions
- Supports the understanding of cause and effect
- Introduces vocabulary related to math by describing sizes, shapes, and colors