



- More to do** **Math:** Have the children pick up the balls with tongs and transfer them to a bucket, counting each ball as they place it in the bucket.
- Outdoors:** Roll balls on the playground with the children.

Michelle Larson, Round Rock, TX

The Flop Dance

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials CD player
lively music

- What to do**
1. Toddlers love to dance around, and they love to flop on the ground. Put these two things together and have a flop dance! Play music and invite the toddlers to dance.
 2. When the music stops, the toddlers “flop” on the ground. Demonstrate, if needed.
 3. Start the music again and repeat.
 4. Add some simple actions, such as waving, clapping, and jumping, instead of flopping.

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Monica Hay Cook, Tucson, AZ

Toddler Squeeze Painting

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials empty squeeze condiment bottles
tempera paint
paint shirts
paper

- What to do**
1. Remove the squeeze caps from several clean, empty condiment bottles, fill them with paint, and replace the caps.
 2. Dress each child in a paint shirt.
 3. Give each child a piece of paper, and encourage the children to create paintings by squeezing paint out of the bottles.



FINE AND GROSS MOTOR

More to do Use fabric paint and T-shirts in place of tempera paint and paper to create vivid T-shirt designs.

Related books *Color Zoo* by Lois Elhert
Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll
My Many Colored Days Board Book by Dr. Seuss

Erin Huffstetler, Maryville, TN

Tire Roll

OLDER TODDLERS

Materials old bike tires

- What to do**
1. Check with a bicycle repair shop and ask them to save you discarded bike tires.
 2. Using a strong detergent, clean the bike tires and dry them completely. (You may need to make a special effort to dry out the water from inside the tires.)
 3. These durable toys can be used in a variety of activities. For example:
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 - If you are playing a game and need a defined space (such as a starting and stopping point), define the space with a tire!
 - Let the children roll the tires. It is great fun to roll them up and down a hill, or along a path. This is great for getting the hands and feet moving together.
 - Suspend a tire for a tossing activity. Have children toss soft balls, sock balls, beanbags, and other soft items through the tire.

Bev Schumacher, Racine, WI