



HELLO PARENTS,

"Out-of-the box" thinking is an ability to see a situation with a fresh perspective. In order to engage these skills, children need time to actively use their hands, sight, bodies and their brains on a daily basis. Play is where many children develop the most important thinking skills. Children question, strategize, and test theories when they are playing with their favourite toys. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will help your child to think outside the box.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

PAINTING WITH PLASTIC WRAP

MATERIALS:

- Paint
- Canvas or thick cardboard
- Plastic wrap
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Squeeze paint onto canvas or thick cardboard paper (you can pick two or three colours).
- Cover the paint with plastic wrap and tape it to the canvas.
- Put the canvas in front of your child and invite them to explore.
- Observe your child as they explore. For example: they may start to press the paint with their finger tips or spread the paint over the canvas with their whole hands.
- Comment on what your child is doing.

[Click here](#) for more activities

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

CARDBOARD MAZE

MATERIALS:

- Different cardboard tubes or paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut the cardboard tubes in half so they do not roll around when placed on the floor. If you do not have cardboard tubes, you may make tubes out of paper.
- Make a variety of lengths of tubes.
- Organize the lengths into a simple maze with a clear start and finish.
- Make up a little story about a race car with a flat tire.
- Then ask your child if they would like to rescue the race car with their tow truck.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

IT IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pen and pencils

DIRECTIONS:

- Draw on the paper a dot, a short line, an arc, etc.
- Explain to your child that a **dot** could be anything they want to turn it into. For example: an eye, a nose etc.
- Let your child think outside the box and complete the pictures.
- When your child completes the picture, ask them about it. For example: **It is not a dot, what is your picture?**
- Let your child complete different pictures and enjoy this activity.

[Click here](#) to read "Not a Stick" by Antoinette Portis.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

SPACE, THE FINAL FRONTIER

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pen or pencil

DIRECTIONS:

- Imagine that NASA has just picked you to command the first expedition to Mars!
- You know this is a tough job, full of danger. But you are ready for the challenge. Before you leave, you have to do some planning.
- As the commander, you must select a crew.
- List some skills the crew will need. Explain why each skill is so important. Explain why you chose each person.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

A MILLION-AND-ONE USES

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pen
- Scissors
- Small basket

DIRECTIONS:

- This activity encourages you to take a fresh look at some familiar objects.
- Write the names of objects on slips of paper and put them in a basket. For example: a piece of paper, a sheet, a pillow, a book, a chair, a cup, a piece of string, a box etc.
- The players choose one slip from the basket. Then they will brainstorm new uses for that object. For example, if you selected "a piece of paper", the list might look something like this: fold into a fan to keep cool, fold into a cup for drinking, crumple into a ball to play catch, use as a bookmark.
- After you finish, share your lists with the other players.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Open-ended play engages the child's imagination, challenges them to see objects in new ways and experiment with their own solutions.
- Provide ample opportunity for creative play time.
- Ask open-ended questions without prompting what the answer could be.