



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE  
PARENT SUPPORT  
SERVICES

VOLUME #204  
PROPS TO LEARNING!  
USING VISUAL AIDS TO  
SUPPORT YOUR LEARNER

**HELLO PARENTS,**

Visual aid props create meaningful connections for your child, and promote enhanced learning experiences. Abstract concepts can be challenging for your child to understand, but may be made simple with visual representations. For example, a mathematics question of one plus one equals two, can be represented with giving an apple to your child, adding another apple for you...and you and your child enjoying two delicious apples together! This newsletter will provide you with a variety of visual aid activities and examples of props to support and enrich your child's knowledge, understanding and learning.

**ACTIVITIES**

**INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)**

**STACKING BLOCKS**

**MATERIALS:**

- Blocks

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Place your infant on the floor near the blocks.
- Model stacking the blocks for your child.
- Watch as your infant begins stacking the blocks on top of each other.
- Encourage your infant to knock the blocks down and stack them over again.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Our Favourite Numbers Songs".

**TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)**

**RHYTHM STICKS**

**MATERIALS:**

- Rhythm sticks or items to use as rhythm sticks. For example: big wooden spoons.

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Sit alongside your child.
- Model using the rhythm sticks and encourage your child to follow your lead.
- Sing a song and tap your sticks to the beat and words of the song.
- Encourage your child to tap their sticks to their own rhythm.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Tap Your Sticks".

**PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)**

**TACTILE NUMBERS**

**MATERIALS:**

- Cardboard
- Textured items. For example: felt pieces, sponge, sandpaper, etc.
- Glue
- Scissors

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Measure and cut a piece of cardboard into small cards of equal shape and size. [Click here](#) for reference.
- Draw and cut numbers from any textured items of your choice.
- Glue the numbers onto the cardboard cards.
- You may add dots or other visual cues to represent the quantity of numbers on each card.
- Encourage your child to feel the different textures of numbers on the cards while identifying the numbers.

[Click here](#) to read "Spot Can Count", by Eric Hill.

**JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)**

**MAKE YOUR FELT STORY**

**MATERIALS:**

- Flannel sheet
- Felt pieces
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Decorative items (googly eyes, pom-poms, etc.)

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Help your child choose their favourite picture book, story, or song.
- Along with your child, gather some felt materials to create the character images from the story or the song.
- Help your child trace the images onto felt using markers and cut out the pieces.
- Motivate your child to decorate the felt pieces with the materials listed above or other craft supplies.
- When you are finished, lay out the felt pieces on a flannel sheet and encourage your child to share their felt story.

[Click here](#) to learn how to make "Homemade Felt Board Stories".

**SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)**

**DIY ABACUS COUNTER**

**MATERIALS:**

- 2 wide popsicle sticks
- 5 pipe cleaners
- Assorted beads
- Tape

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Tape one end of the 5 pipe cleaners to one popsicle stick, one below the other and spaced equally apart.
- Begin stringing beads to the open end of the pipe cleaner. Add 10 beads to each pipe cleaner.
- Secure the opposite ends of each pipe cleaner to the other popsicle stick with tape.
- Slide the beads of your abacus and use them as your counting markers. For example: you may use the beads to solve addition and subtraction mathematical questions.

[Click here](#) to learn how to make a "Cardboard Abacus".



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and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
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**A TIP FOR TODAY**

- Use pictures to provide visual representations for your child.
- Incorporate real objects as visual aids to extend your child's learning. For example: show your child food, such as fruit and vegetables when learning about nutritional food groups.
- Encourage your child's imagination by using puppets and costumes during dramatic play. For example, a chef's hat while "cooking" or fire fighter outfit while "putting out fires".
- Encourage your child's mathematics and literacy skills with props, such as counters for simple addition and subtraction questions, or site word flash cards with pictures for reading and visual cues.