

Week 3 Term 3 2019

Hello to all of our Little Explorers and their explorer guides.

I'm really looking forward to the visit from the school's Adopt-a-Cop, Senior Constable Steve Armstrong-Ravula. Steve is keen to meet you.

This week's Learning Games focus on helping children think about their actions and to make appropriate choices.

Learning Game 16 "Kanga Hopping" helps babies from birth to 6 months learn to enjoy games with a rhythm or beat. Babies learn that when you say a word, an action happens.

Learning Game 34 "Making Useful Choices" helps babies aged between 6 and 12 months learn new words and to make useful choices.

Learning Game 38 "Making Lines" helps children aged between 1 and 2 years learn early writing skills.

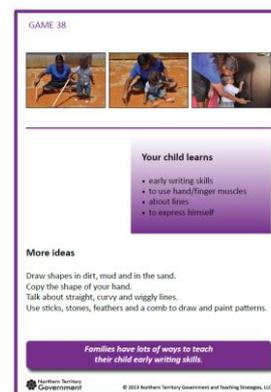
Learning Game 97 "What Would Happen If?" helps children aged between 2 and 3 years learn to think about what will happen, about the order things happen in and to understand routines. This game also provides children with opportunities to solve problem.

Learning Game 111 "Talking about More and Less" helps children aged between 3 and 4 years learn mathematical skills such as the difference between "more" and "less".

Learning Game 163 "Working Together" helps children aged between 4 and 5 years learn about working with others and to think about relationships.

If your child plays these games by themselves, they will learn. YOU can make this learning so much more, by playing the game with your child. Let's consider **Learning Game 38**, "Making Lines". This game encourages children to use their finger, or a stick, to draw lines. This will help strengthen your child's fingers and their knowledge of how they use them. These are important pre writing skills.

However, if YOU sit with your child and talk to them whilst they are doing this, and make your talk intentional you can make your child's learning greater. You can use suggestions (Nudge) to increase their vocabulary. For example, you might Notice that they draw squiggly lines. You might say "Let's draw some straight lines" (Nudge) and then you can Narrate with "Look at the straight lines that you are drawing" Then you might Nudge with "Make the lines come towards you" etc. This game can help with your child's understanding of so many maths concepts- eg, length, number, pathways. This game is suggested for children aged between 1 and 2 years of age, but I hope that you can see that there is so much learning that all age groups can benefit from doing this activity.



Did you know that all of the learning Games

- Were created by the Northern Territory Government to help parents support the language development of their children. (The government bought the copyright from America and commissioned their staff to rework the Learning Games in the Australian context.)
- Have been designed to use minimal equipment.
- Have been designed to use objects that you most likely already have at home.
- Have been designed to be incorporated into your usual family routines where possible.

I'm looking forward to see you Thursday.
Happy playing and talking.

Helen Levitt

Playgroup co-ordinator

