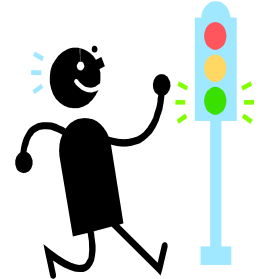


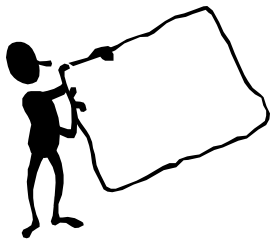
Literacy Activities

- Preschoolers love to try out different materials. **Making letters out of yarn** is a fun activity that is a great sensory experience and reinforces literacy skills. Give each child a few pieces of various-sized yarn. Children can either create a letter with the yarn and move on to another letter, or they can glue the yarn letters on to paper.
- To play **Red Light, Green Light**, you'll need a fair amount of space. If you have enough space, first have the children form a line next to one another (if space is more limited, the children can simply stand around the room). Then, explain how a traffic light works: the green light means "go" and the red light means "stop". Tell the children that in order to play the game, they need to listen very carefully. For example, when you first play, explain that when an adult calls out "green light", the children should walk slowly until the adult says "red light", which is the children's cue to stop. Though the original game is a race, this modified version isn't. The modification requires less space (so that you can play in the Playspace), can help the children focus on skills like listening and balance, and is fun without the competitiveness of winning and losing.



Once the children have mastered the game, let them make their own changes to the game. Children can take turns calling out "green light" or "red light" and can choose whether their playmates should hop, crawl, bounce, or pat their heads instead of simply walking when they get the signal to "go".

- Have a **number scavenger hunt** by looking around the Playspace for items that have numbers on them. Tell children to look closely at everything in the room, pointing out items (books, the clock, combination locks, etc.) with numbers on them. Ask the children to identify each number they find.
- **Create charts.** Take a large piece of poster board or paper and write a question at the top in clear letters. Try a question like "What is your favorite food?" or "What will you do after Playspace?" Ask each of the children to answer the question, and write his or her answer on the chart along with his/her name. The children enjoy answering questions and you can refer to the chart for the rest of the evening or even during the following week's Playspace. This activity is a good way for children to practice language by listening carefully to questions and formulating answers. They also get exposure to the written word when they see their names and answers on the chart.



- **Make books.** Have children write and illustrate their own stories, then help them bind the pages together with tape, staples, or yarn. Children who can't yet write can draw pictures and narrate the details to PALs, who can then write the words on the page.