

I am sure you have all faced the scenario where you have bought your little one a toy, only to watch them play with the packaging for hours instead? With a little imagination, children can turn the simplest of objects into toys worthy of hours of attention.

1

**"Imagination is more important than knowledge"**

Einstein

Imagination can and should open the door to endless possibilities and is fundamental for your little one to gain lifelong skills such as:

2

4

Open-ended, unstructured play, with no rules, goals, or end result is the way to spark imagination in little ones. Let them take the lead and follow their interests, what is putting a fire in their belly? Remember a towel can be a superhero cape, a wooden spoon can be a magic wand, dirt and water mixed can be the next gourmet meal!

- Creativity
- Ingenuity
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Imagination
- Cognitive skills
- Decision makers
- Social skills
- Language skills
- Staying active

3

So, every now and then step away from the iPad, the mobile phone, the TV, the structured play and toys and just play, be a play partner to your little one and let them lead the fun....boy, are you going to have fun. When your little one brings you a cup of tea, ask for some milk and sugar, ask are there any biscuits? When your little one pretends to call you answer the telephone and talk to them

5



## Here is how we do it at Kindred

We work to foster all the skills above in your little ones and this is why you will often walk into our rooms and see loose parts, open ended resources, things that do not look traditionally like toys or even learning opportunities, lots of free play and child led projects. What may seem like a little chaos to you is active learning, trust us children would never, ever get this rich, embedded learning by completing a worksheet or playing with a plastic set of bricks.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

1.



Cook an imaginary meal

Throw a picnic or tea party



2.

3.



Be a superhero for the day

Turn an empty box in to something.... anything



4.

5.



Put on a puppet show

Build a city from cardboard



6.

7.



Clean the house

Set up a shop at home



8.

9.



Make a den (this can be as simple as a sheet over a dining table)

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