

Household Items Turned Toys

Do you want to maximize the items you may have on hand to support your child's physical, emotional, social and language skills? Here's some ideas of household items you may already have lying around that can be used for a variety of functions:

- Cups of various sizes – these are good for stacking and nesting, scooping, too – even for banging together as a musical instrument or matching.
- Mismatched socks – use these for making hand puppets, playing flag tag, teaching concepts such as big and little.
- Empty, sturdy food or shoe boxes of various sizes – use to build towers, make a parking garage for toys, beds for dolls, the list goes on.
- Empty wipes container – children can learn about open and shut, in and out and work on their fine motor (small muscle) skills.
- Laundry basket – makes for a great pull or push toy, or a place to hide or to make a basketball goal.
- Old clothes – make a dress up box with old hats, costume jewelry, purse, old t-shirts and shoes to allow them to mix/match outfits.



References: Elliot, L.K., & Flanagan, K. (2015). *Growing Great Kids® Parenting, Attachment, Child Development & Family Strengthening Curriculum* (all volumes). GKI®; Stavish, M. (n.d.). *15 Household items that are also toys toddlers love*. EverydayFamily. <https://www.everydayfamily.com/slideshow/15-household-items-also-toys-toddlers-love/>; TipHero. (n.d.). *5 Common Household Items That Make Awesome Toys*. <https://tiphero.com/5-common-household-items-that-make-awesome-toys>