





Activities to support your child's development at home





### Parents' Information

## 36-48 Months

We have put together a set of 52 fun, stimulating activities that you can do at home with your child. We are suggesting one activity for each week of the year. It is also recommended that you repeat the activities during the week and re-visit the activities completed previously.

The cards are color coded to indicate the area of development they support. Areas of development and learning include: physical development, social and emotional development, language development and cognitive development.

On the back of each card you will find information that tells you what your child will learn from the activity.

We hope you will enjoy these activities and have fun with your child.







### 36-42 Months

#### Paper skating:

Clear a space on a tiled or marble floor. Put two pieces of A4 paper or two paper plates on the floor.

Ask your child to put one foot on each piece of paper and ask them to skate across the tiles. You may have to hold their hand until they get their balance. Invite other family members to join in.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

how to balance, transfer weight and use all of the muscles in my legs to move myself around on the floor. I may need you to hold my hand until I gain confidence.







36-42 Months

#### **Target practice:**

Make targets out of paper plates or large pieces of cardboard. Attach them to a wall or garden fence.

Ask your child to throw a bean bag or a ball at the target. Take it in turns throwing the bean bag or ball. Keep a tally of the score.

**Alternative:** Try filling balloons with water and throw those. Ensure you are on a non-slip surface when playing with water.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

to balance, use hand-eye coordination and strengthen my muscles.







### 36-42 Months

#### Hop, skip, jump:

Find a space either inside or outside.

Call out "hop", "skip" or "jump" and ask your child to carry out the action. Clap your hands or shake a tambourine as a signal to stop. Ask your child to stand still until you call out a new action. Repeat.

**Alternative:** Swap roles, ask your child to call out the action.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

how to move my body in different ways. I am also learning about spatial awareness, balance and how to coordinate my movements.







36-42 Months

#### **Sensory walking path:**

Locate a space outside and put a variety of different textures on the ground, for example, sand paper, smooth floor tile, pebbles, sand or wooden planks.

Ask your child to take off their shoes and socks and walk over the path in bare feet. Discuss how it feels.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

to balance and make adjustments to my body as I walk over different surfaces. I am also using my feet to learn about different textures.







## 36-42 Months

#### Long jump:

Set up a "long jump" using a piece of string, rope or tape to show a starting point and a "jump pit."

Ask your child to run up to the starting point and then jump as far as they can. Encourage them to land with two feet. Measure the distance they have jumped with a tape measure or by counting with your steps.

**Caution:** Use a soft surface or sand to jump into to prevent injury.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

how to balance and control the movements of my body. I am learning how to combine and sequence movements, for example, running and jumping.







## 36-42 Months

#### **Balance:**

Stick a line of tape to the floor or use a wooden plank as a balancing beam.

Ask your child to carefully walk across the balancing beam. Remind them to use their arms for balance.

Create a story, pretend that if they fall off the line they fall into water and the crocodiles or sharks will get them.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

how to concentrate on my movements. I am learning how to move my feet and balance using my arms.







## 36-42 Months

#### Threading:

Put some dried "penne" pasta into a bowl and find some string, wool or shoe laces.

Ask your child to thread the pasta onto the string, wool or shoelace to make a necklace.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning....

how to use my hand-eye coordination and the small muscles in my fingers.







36-42 Months

#### **Self-portraits:**

Collect drawing materials, for example, paper, pens, pencils or crayons.

Sit or lie in front of a mirror with your child. Ask your child to draw a picture of themselves. Encourage them to look at details, for example, eyelashes, eyebrows and facial expressions.

Talk to them about features that are similar and different between both of you "Look, we both have the same color eyes."







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

about my self-image. By looking in the mirror I can see what my face looks like when I am happy, sad or angry. I am engaging in social conversation.







36-42 Months

#### How to be kind:

Find some books or stories about behavior and conflict.

Read stories, for example, "Hands are not for hitting" or "Words are not for hurting." Talk about the messages in the book.







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

how to behave with my friends and adults. I am learning about the impact of my actions and words on others. I am learning different ways to solve problems and conflict.







36-42 Months

#### Paper plate faces:

On a table set out paper plates, pencils, pens and crayons.

Together draw different facial expressions on each paper plate, for example, happy, angry, sad or excited.

**Alternative:** Stick a straw or a chopstick to the back of the paper plate face and make puppets. Make up a story using the different puppets.







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to label feelings and emotions. I may communicate my feelings to you through my drawing if I cannot use the appropriate vocabulary.







36-42 Months

#### **Board games:**

Collect different board games.

Ask your child to choose a game to play. Set up the game and explain to your child how to play. Play the game with your child explaining the rules as you play along together.

**Alternative:** Invite other family members or friends to play the game.







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

that we can have fun together. I show my emotions while playing the game in different ways, for example, giggles, smiles, claps or maybe frowns.

I am learning important skills, for example, taking turns, waiting my turn, winning and losing.







36-42 Months

#### Ring games:

Invite other family members or friends to play ring games, for example, "Duck, Duck, Goose, Ring a Roses or Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar."

Ask your child to choose the game they would like to play. Remind everyone how to play the game and play together.







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to follow instructions, cooperate and be patient as I wait for my turn.







36-42 Months

#### Let's role play:

Make a collection of different handbags, hats, glasses, scarves and shoes. Put them in a box or basket.

Together choose different items to wear and act out different roles or scenarios.







36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to act out things that have happened in real life. This will help me to make sense of what is happening in my world.







## 36-42 Months

#### Where shall I put teddy?

Find your child's teddy or a soft toy.

Ask your child, "Where shall I put teddy?" Encourage them to say, "Put teddy under the chair." "Put teddy on top of the chair." "Put teddy behind the chair."







### 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

how to give instructions. I am extending my vocabulary and understanding how to describe where something is in relation to something else.







## 36-42 Months

#### Word games:

In the car, or at home play simple games, for example, "Word Association."

Give your child a word then ask them to give a word that has an association, for example, you say "milk" your child could reply with white, cow or chocolate.

Change the word and play the game again.

**Alternative**: Swap roles, ask your child to give the word and you give the association.







### 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to use a range of vocabulary and link words together.

I will use these links later on when I start writing.







## 36-42 Months

#### Listening walk:

Take your child outside into the garden or to a local park or beach.

Go on a walk together. Every few minutes stop and listen. Encourage your child to describe what they hear.

Engage in conversation with your child, talking about what you see.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to use my listening skills to discriminate between sounds. I will need this skill when I learn phonics and when I learn how to read and spell.







## 36-42 Months

#### Nonsense rhymes:

Read nonsense rhymes with your child, for example, "On the Ning Nang Nong."

Help your child to make up some of their own nonsense rhymes.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

that some words rhyme. I am also learning to make predictions.







### 36-42 Months

#### **Books without words:**

Give your child a range of books without words. Make up stories using the pictures.

Ask your child to make up a story or tell you what is happening in the picture.







### 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to listen to you while concentrating on the pictures. I might also use my imagination to tell a story. This is a reading skill, when I begin to read books I can use the pictures as clues to help make sense of the text.







### 36-42 Months

#### I spy:

Play "I spy with my little eye something beginning with..." for example, when I am looking at a flower I might say, "I spy with my little eye something beginning with f."

You can play this anywhere. In the car, waiting for a doctors appointment or while you wait for dinner in a restaurant.







### 36-42 Months

### I am learning...

to listen to initial sounds and make links to words and objects I see.







### 36-42 Months

#### **Record sounds:**

Provide your child with a device that can record sounds.

Together record different sounds in the environment. Play the sounds to another family member and ask them to guess what the sound is.







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

how to discriminate different sounds and practice my listening skills.







### 36-42 Months

# Cognitive Development

#### Memory games:

Show your child a range of similar objects.

Ask your child to close their eyes and remove/hide an object. Ask them to open their eyes and tell you what is missing.

**Extension:** Use a mixture of familiar and unfamiliar objects.



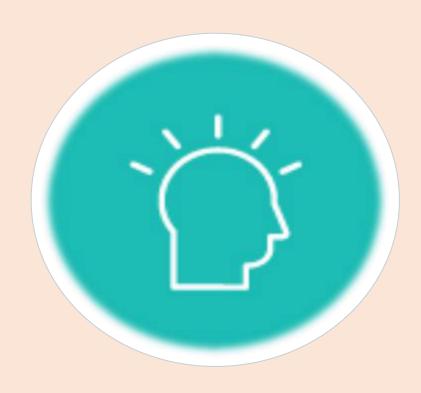




## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

how to concentrate, follow instructions and develop my memory skills.







36-42 Months

#### Jigsaw puzzles:

Provide your child with a wide range of 0-24 piece jigsaw puzzles.

Support your child to complete the jigsaw puzzles.

**Extension:** Provide jigsaws with more pieces and more complex pictures.



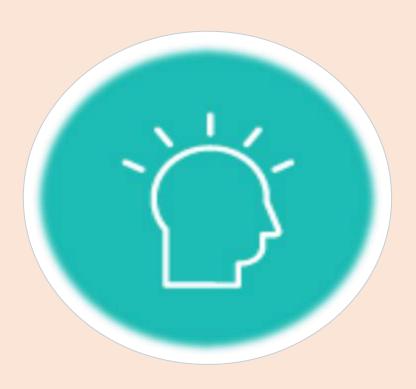




## 36-42 Months

### I am learning...

to problem solve and how to persevere at a task.







### 36-42 Months

#### Count as you go:

During everyday tasks at home use number language, for example, "Please give Mummy 2 bowls," or "Here are 5 strawberries for your snack."







## 36-42 Months

### I am learning...

that numbers represent objects and I am learning to count.







### 36-42 Months

#### Make a choice:

Give your child the opportunity to make choices, for example, "Would you like your blue shoes or your black shoes today?" or "Would you like pasta or a sandwich for lunch?"







## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

to take responsibility and use mythinking skills to make a choice.







## 36-42 Months

#### **Shape hunt:**

Take your child on a walk around your house, the park or a shopping mall. Tell them "We are looking for circles."

Encourage your child to look for circle shaped objects in the environment. You can change the shape and you can practice with 2D or 3D shapes.



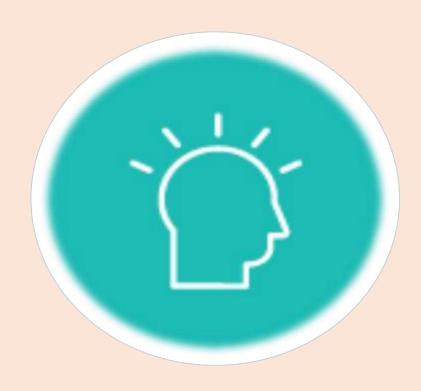




## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

about the names of shapes and how to identify them in unusual places. I am using my observation and concentration skills.







### 36-42 Months

#### **Color hunt:**

Take your child on a walk around your house, the park or a shopping mall. Tell them "We are looking for red."

Encourage your child to look for red objects in the environment. You can change the color and use different shades, for example, light blue or dark blue.



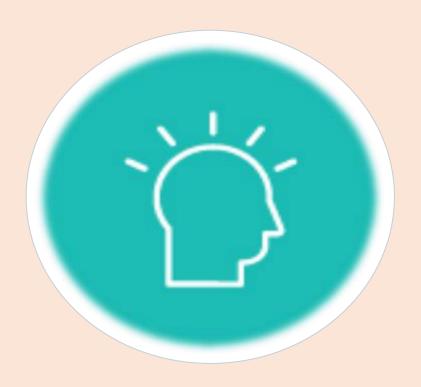




## 36-42 Months

#### I am learning...

about colors, their names and the different shades.







## 36-42 Months

#### **Box construction:**

Collect as many different sized boxes as you can safely store in your home.

Ask your child what they would like to build. If you can get very large boxes you may be able to make a boat, a train or an airplane.



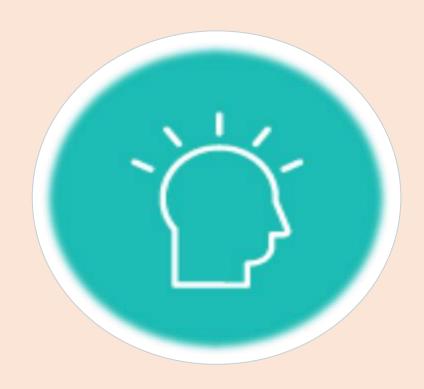




### 36-42 Months

#### I am learning:

how to use my imagination to build something. I am learning how to balance and fit different sixed boxes together to make my design.







### **42-48 Months**

#### Weaving:

Give your child ribbon, strips of paper or wool. Make a weaving frame using twigs, cardboard or paper.

Support your child to weave the materials to make a variety of things, for example, place mats or pieces of art.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning....

to coordinate the small muscles in my fingers and track my movements using my eyes.







### 42-48 Months

#### Make pompoms:

Cut out a circle of card and cut a large hole out in the middle, alternatively you can use a fork. Provide some colored wool and scissors.

Ask your child to wrap wool around the cardboard circle or the teeth of the fork. Use a piece of wool and tie it through the middle of the wrapped wool. Tie it in a knot and then cut the wool on either side of the cardboard circle or the fork. Fluff the wool and you have made a pompom.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning....

to coordinate my hands and eyes. I am strengthening the small muscles in my fingers and wrists.







### **42-48** Months

#### Whisking:

Give your child a whisk and a bowl with some water and washing up liquid.

Ask your child to whisk until there are lots of bubbles. Encourage your child to play with the bubbles.







### **42-48 Months**

#### I am learning....

to use the joints in my wrists to rotate and twist. This makes my hands and fingers more flexible and stronger.







### **42-48 Months**

#### Tong fun:

Give your child a pair of kitchen tongs, a number of small objects and a container.

Ask your child to pick up each small object, using the tongs and place them into a container.







## **42-48** Months

### I am learning....

to use my hand-eye coordination. I am developing the muscles in my hands and fingers.







### **42-48** Months

#### Marshmallow construction:

Give your child some dry spaghetti and some small marshmallows.

Ask your child to build and construct something with them.







### **42-48 Months**

#### I am learning....

to control my hands and fingers and use small movements to build something. I am developing my hand-eye coordination.







### **42-48 Months**

#### **Button tower:**

Give your child a selection of different size buttons and some playdough.

Ask your child to build a tower using the buttons. Use the playdough to stick the buttons together and create taller, more creative towers.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning....

to control the small muscles in my hand and fingers to balance the buttons on top of each other.







**42-48** Months

#### Play dates:

Invite some of your child's friends from nursery or any groups that you attend to come and play at your house.

Encourage your child to play with different children.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

how to share my toys and my space with others. I may also learn how to share your attention with my friends.

I might initially only want one friend to visit at home. With time and experience I will be able to cope with a small group of friends in my space.







### **42-48** Months

#### Yoga:

Find a local children's Yoga class to take your child to.

Encourage your child to take part and ask them to tell you how they feel about the activities.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

how to control my body and my emotions. Yoga teaches me how to breath and stay calm when I feel angry or anxious.







**42-48** Months

#### **Household chores:**

Think about simple tasks you do in the house that your child could help with.

Ask your child to set the table and help with preparing meals.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to care for myself and for my family. I am learning to be independent and confident enough to try new tasks.







**42-48** Months

#### **Growing plants:**

Give your child plant pots with some seeds or plants.

Ask your child to put the seeds or plants into the soil and water them. Encourage your child to check the plants everyday and ensure that they are watering and caring for the plant.

You could also grow things like cress or mustard seeds which grow quickly and can be eaten.

**Caution:** Be sure to tell your child that not all plants can be eaten.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to take care of something. This gives me responsibility. Gardening also calms me down and being outside is relaxing.







**42-48** Months

#### **Puppet play:**

Buy or make finger puppets, hand puppets or spoon puppets.

Ask your child to give them names, create characters and make up a story about them.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to communicate my feelings or engage in imaginative play. Role play helps me work through things that may worry me.







**42-48** Months

#### **Collage:**

Provide photographs of family members and of activities that you enjoy doing together.

Ask your child to choose the pictures to make a collage and talk about why they have chosen the items included in the collage.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to identify the things that make me happy and the importance of being part of a family.







**42-48** Months

#### Tea time:

Use a child's tea set or a tea set that you have at home.

Sit your child in a circle with their toys and have a tea party. You can use real or pretend food and drinks.







**42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to share food and drinks with my "friends," I am also learning to think about the preferences of others, for example, "teddy doesn't like tea, dolly doesn't like apples."







### **42-48** Months

#### Simon says:

Say to your child, "Simon says put your hands on your head" or other such instructions.

Ask your child to follow the instruction. You can vary the speed in which you ask. The faster the speed at which you ask, the quicker your child will have to think.







**42-48 Months** 

#### I am learning...

how to listen and follow your instructions.







### **42-48 Months**

#### **Rhyming bag:**

Fill a basket or a box with lots of objects that have the same end sound or that rhyme, for example, a cat and a mat.

Ask your child to pull out an item and then find the item that rhymes with it, for example, a bell and a shell.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

how to listen carefully and discriminate between sounds. I am learning to recognise rhymes and patterns.







### **42-48** Months

#### **Action Songs:**

Sing action songs that encourage listening skills, for example, "I Hear Thunder or This is the Way We Wash Our Hands."

Ask your child to join in the actions.







### **42-48 Months**

#### I am learning...

to listen carefully to your instructions and join in with songs that have rhyme and rhythm.





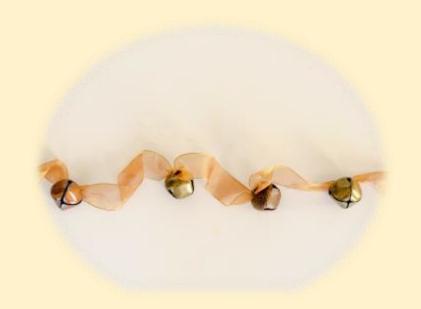


### **42-48 Months**

#### **Sound stories:**

Provide a story book and collect props to create sound effects.

Read the story. Ask your child to add sound effects by using the props provided. Re-read the story together, adding the sound effects.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to create sounds and associate different sounds to actions.







### 42-48 Months

#### What am I?

Play the game, "What am I?" with your child.

Describe something and see if your child can guess what it is, for example, "I have four legs, I have a wet nose, I say 'woof' 'woof'— what am I?" Ask your child to guess what you are describing.

Alternative: You may want to have objects in a box to describe and your child guesses the object.

**Extension:** Change roles and ask your child to describe an object and you guess what it is.







### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to listen to you and understand the vocabulary you use. I am learning to describe objects.







### **42-48** Months

#### **Sock sorting:**

Fill a box or a basket with a selection of different pairs of colored and patterned socks.

Ask your child to find the socks that match and put them together.



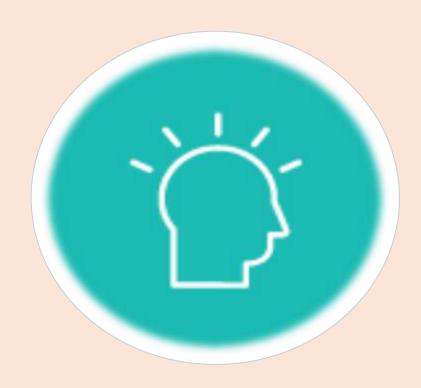




### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to match patterns and colors. I am counting and learning about pairs.







### **42-48** Months

#### **Art and craft:**

Give your child a variety of art and craft materials.

Tell your child that they can make whatever they want to. You may need to support them with some ideas.



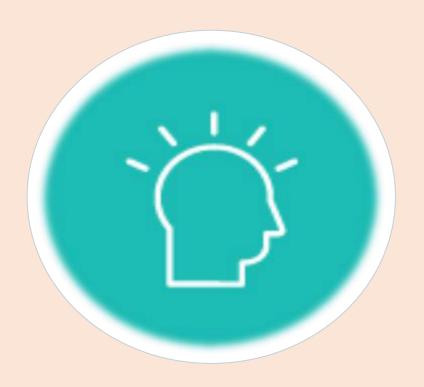




### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to think about different ways to work with a range of materials. I am using my imagination and problem solving skills as I decide what to make and what materials to use.







### **42-48 Months**

#### Feely bag:

Place a number of familiar and unfamiliar objects in a bag or in a box.

Ask your child to close their eyes and put their hand into the bag or box. Ask your child to feel the object and try and guess what it is before they open their eyes.





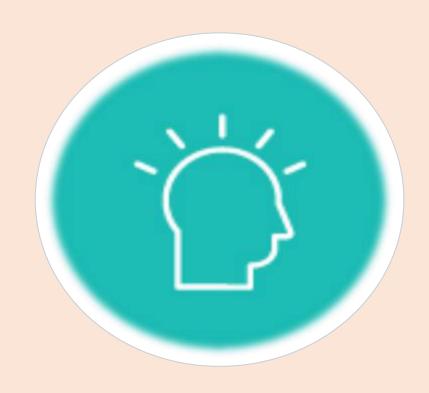


### **42-48 Months**

#### I am learning...

to use different senses to make predictions. I am developing my concentration and problem solving skills.

I might find it difficult to guess the object if it is new or unfamiliar to me.







### **42-48 Months**

#### Scrap book:

Provide a scrap book and make a book of your child's favorite things.

Ask your child to take photographs of their favorite family members or toys and print them out, or cut out pictures from a magazine to stick them into their scrap book.



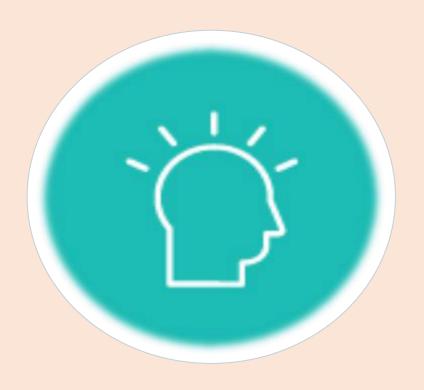




### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

to think about the things that make me happy and make choices about what I want to include in my scrap book.







### **42-48** Months

#### Recycle

Identify some bins which can be used to collect materials for recycling.

Show your child how to separate plastic, paper and other recyclable materials.





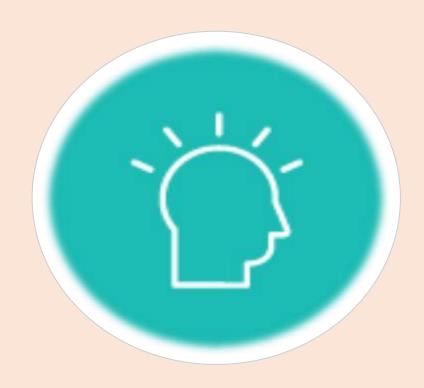


### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

how to take care of my environment.

I am becoming aware of my environment and my responsibility as a global citizen.







### **42-48 Months**

#### Make playdough

Find a recipe for playdough.

Give your child the ingredients they need to make playdough. Ask your child to measure the ingredients and mix them all together.

Add in different ingredients, for example, spices or glitter to make it more fun.

Store the playdough in airtight containers.



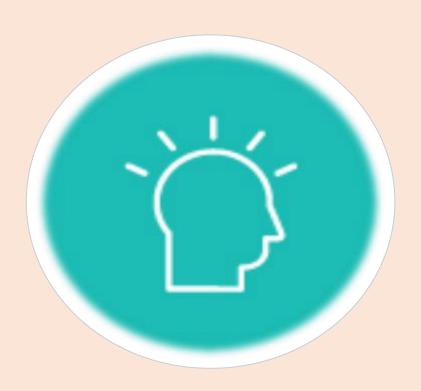




### **42-48** Months

#### I am learning...

how to follow instructions, about weighing and measuring and about how ingredients mix together.







### **42-48** Months

#### Write a shopping list

Give your child a piece of paper and a pencil.

Tell your child what you need from the shops, ask them to write a list for you. Don't worry about them being able to spell the words, this exercise is to encourage writing for a purpose.







### **42-48 Months**

#### I am learning...

to listen to different sounds and form some letters.

