



# Bags of Fun for

March & April  
Program Resources  
2020



## Paper Bag Activities

Sensory/Art  
Literacy  
Science  
Construction/Block  
Quiet Activities  
Active Physical Play Indoor/Outdoor

**Enjoy!**  
Program Resource Team



# Paper Bag Activities

From puppets to cities, invite the children to transform an ordinary brown paper bag into something magical! It can be simple and easy for kindergarten children to complex for older children. Paper bags are an open-ended and versatile material. Children can stuff, paint and colour them, build and best of all, they can be scrunched and twisted into just about any shape.

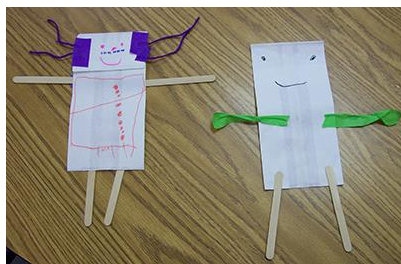


To help inspire you, we've rounded up activities that include Art/Sensory, Construction/Block, Games, Drama and Literacy ideas.

## Art/Sensory

Exploring and creating with various materials provides children an outlet for emotions, expressing creativity and self expression, while also engaging in socio-dramatic play.

### Paper Bag Puppets



## Paper Bag Easter Ideas



## Other Fun Ideas!





# Construction/Block

Invite the children to build a paper bag city. Include cars, people, animals, blocks etc.  
With this extended project children will:

- Problem solve
- Explore different neighbourhood settings
- Engage in architectural elements and designs
- Use spatial relations and directions
- Use imagination, creativity and self expression
- Develop social/emotional growth and self esteem



## Other Construction Ideas





*Promote critical thinking and problem solving while students collaborate to solve a challenge.*

## STEAM Brown Bag Art Challenge

Creative thinking, problem solving, mathematics and collaboration all in one! Children will work together in small groups to solve an art challenge. Each group will use the materials provided in the brown bag and co-operate together to exchange ideas and materials to create a masterpiece!!

- Materials that can be used: foil, cellophane, tissue paper, gift wrap paper, feathers, buttons, fabric, sequins, yarn, pom poms, pipe cleaners, dollies, Styrofoam balls, toothpicks, construction paper (variety of colours), markers etc.
- When each group has finished creating their artwork, ask them to write about how they turned a blank canvas into a masterpiece!

OR

## Mystery Bag STEM Design Challenge

Provide each group of children recyclables and other basic materials for a mystery bag STEM building challenge accompanied by a STEM challenge card! Children will cooperatively share ideas and materials, problem solve and come up with solutions to complete a design challenge. See examples below. Provide a time limit to make it more challenging.



### Challenge One: The Pom Pom Launcher

#### **POM POM LAUNCHER**

**The Challenge:** Invent a device that launches a pom pom into the air. The further it travels the better!

##### **Tips:**

- Think about devices that launch things into the air. How do they work?
- Will your launcher be hand held or sit on the floor or table?

##### **Materials:**

The contents of the bag should be used to make your pom pom launcher but you do not have to use them all.

You may also use any of the following items to help you with your challenge:

- Scissors
- Stapler and staples



## Challenge Two: Free Standing Marble Run



Use other materials such as: paper cups, plates, elastics, popsicle sticks, unused paper towel rolls, straws, gift wrap rolls, plastic containers, lids, string/yarn etc.

Provide the children with blank cards and let them come up with their own challenges.

### MARBLE RUN

**The Challenge:** Create a 3 dimensional, free standing marble run. The marble must travel at least 40 centimetres.

**Tips:**

- Experiment with the height of the starting point – how does the height impact upon the distance your marble will travel

**Materials:**

The contents of the bag should be used to make your marble run but you do not have to use them all.

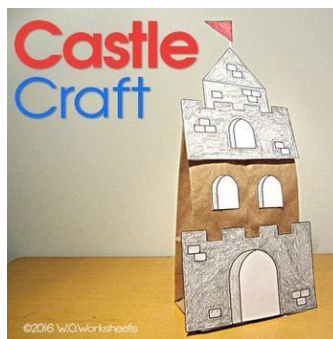
You may also use any of the following items to help you with your challenge,

- Scissors
- Stapler and staples
- Sticky tape

**Additional challenge:** Can you include at least 3 turns and/or 2 changes in level to your track and still have the marble travel 40 centimetres?

## Drama/Literacy

### Story Bag and Book with Props



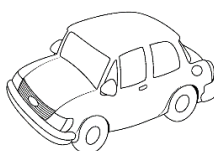
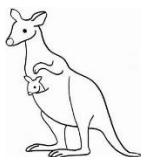
Children can build a story bag around a new story or an old favourite. Props and puppets can be created to represent and correspond to scenes, and stimulate imagination by re-creating story roles, and real life and imaginary experiences through dramatic play, and story telling. This is a fun interactive activity that also builds on writing, vocabulary and expressive language.

## Paper Bag Story



Supply children with numerous magazines, grocery flyers or newspapers. Have them cut out various items such as: vehicles, food, objects, locations, animals, and people. Put 5 or so varied pictures in enough paper bags for the entire group. Read the following story and when there is a blank, children in turn take one picture out and say what it is. Each time you do this story, it is different. This is lots of fun!

Now is your chance to enter the \_\_\_\_ contest. Anyone can enter this \_\_\_\_ contest as long as they have a \_\_\_\_\_. Many prizes will be drawn for the best \_\_\_\_ in the city. First prize will be awarded to the \_\_\_\_ with the most unique ability. Second prize will be given to the \_\_\_\_ with the happiest disposition. Third prize will be presented to the \_\_\_\_ with the best hairstyle. Subsequent prizes will be awarded to the \_\_\_\_ with the most handsome clothing. Something to think about when preparing for the \_\_\_\_ contest is how well the application letter is written. Write down in 100 words what you think your \_\_\_\_ should win. Please remember the judges need to know everything you can think of about your \_\_\_\_\_. Be sure to inform them of the time for eating a bowl of jello. Also, how long it takes your \_\_\_\_ to get from one \_\_\_\_ to another. If your \_\_\_\_ is going to school, be sure to include the age of your \_\_\_\_ and what grade your \_\_\_\_ is in. You might want to describe your \_\_\_\_ fully. The length of your \_\_\_\_, the width of your \_\_\_\_, and its height is important to inform it all to the judges. What colour hair does your \_\_\_\_ have? Can your \_\_\_\_ hop, skip or bounce a ball? Can your \_\_\_\_ play Simon says? Additional prizes that will be included are a years' supply of \_\_\_\_ for your \_\_\_\_\_. Also a 21 meter \_\_\_\_ will be awarded. Each entry explaining your \_\_\_\_ fully must be accompanied by a large picture of your \_\_\_\_\_. If you have any unusual stories about your \_\_\_\_ especially funny ones, don't forget to include them. I once had a \_\_\_\_ that was able to swim from Toronto to Niagara Falls. Another \_\_\_\_ won the race from Brampton to Mississauga on a tricycle. There was also the story of the \_\_\_\_ that could do magic tricks. I also heard of a \_\_\_\_ that could hold their breath under water for 3 minutes and another \_\_\_\_ that could throw a ball a total of 100 meters. Can your \_\_\_\_ water ski? Can your \_\_\_\_ ride a bicycle? Can your \_\_\_\_ play soccer? Can your \_\_\_\_ play dodge ball? Whatever specialty your \_\_\_\_ has, be sure to explain it enthusiastically in your application for the contest. All \_\_\_\_ will be considered. Good luck with this \_\_\_\_ contest!



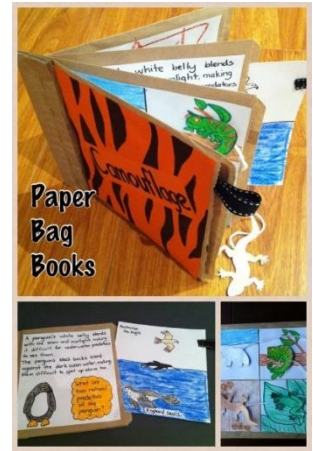


# Literacy

## Paper Bag Book

### Directions:

Stack the paper bags on top of each other, fold them in half, and staple the closed off ends of the bags together. Children can write, draw, and decorate on the paper bag pages. They can also record information on writing or drawing paper then glue the paper onto the pages. The open ends of the bags can be used as pockets to insert photos, cut-outs, postcards, or other flat items that help them tell their story.



## Word Games

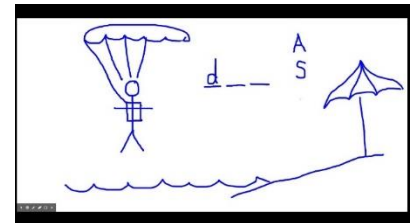
Word game activities increase vocabulary, spelling, reading, problem solving and logic skills, while having fun!

### Parachute Man (a friendly version of “Hangman”)

This game can be played with two players or as a team game.

### Materials Needed:

- paper and pencil
- blackboard and chalk/or white board with dry erase markers/or a plastic plate and dry erase markers



### Directions:

- Draw a scene which includes an ocean and an island
- Player 1 thinks of a word and player 2 has to guess
- Player 1 writes spaces for how many letters are needed for the word
- Player 2 proceeds to choose a letter they think may be in the word. If it is incorrect, player 1 draws part of the parachute man and writes the letter in an empty space.
- When letter is correct, player 1 writes the letter down where it belongs in space.
- If the drawing is complete by the time player 2 guesses, then player 1 wins.



# Brain “Tune Up”

## Word Scrambler

Invite the children to create scrambled word puzzles. Choose themes, like the examples below, or just random words.

### Sports

alaelsbb - basketball  
stbaelklab – basketball  
obllyllaev – volleyball  
ntiens – tennis  
yochek – hockey  
ltofblao – football  
flog – golf  
ugcinrl – curling  
eacsslor – lacrosse

### Super Hero’s

meSnraup - Superman  
ieapSnmdr –Spiderman  
nmtaaB – Batman  
iAartmCeiacanp – Captain America  
hTro – Thor  
roanIMn – Iron Man  
WormWeoannd – Wonder Woman  
elGpiruS – Super Girl  
MnladPatis – Plastic Man

## 5-Day Brain Game Challenge



### Brain Teasers and Riddles of the Day

Take a few minutes of program time and encourage the children to work together on a “**5 Day Brain Game Challenge**”. On a chalk or white board write a brain teaser or riddle of the day. Invite the children to teach and take lead in this activity. They will have riddles that they would love to share.

This activity helps with memory, thinking, comprehension and problem solving, while expanding their vocabulary and reading skills.

Here’s 5 riddles, (one for each day of the week) to get you started:

1. You can break me easily without even touching me or seeing me. What am I?  
**Answer:** Silence or a promise.
2. What has a single eye but cannot see?  
**Answer:** A needle
3. I’m as light as a feather, yet the strongest man can’t hold me for more than 5 minutes. What am I?  
**Answer:** Breath
4. What can you catch, but never throw?  
**Answer:** A cold
5. What animal is best at baseball?  
**Answer:** A bat



# Fun Literacy Games

## Trash Ball

### Materials Needed:

- a container or box
- paper and pencil
- words written separately on pieces of paper, crumpled up into balls



### How to play:

- Place all crumpled balls on a table
- Prior to playing decide whether players will spell the word or just say it
- Players take turns choosing a ball and can quickly look at the word, crumple it back up and then spell it or say the word out loud
- If answered correctly then they will try to “shoot a basket” by trying to get it in the container. You could keep score as to how many baskets are attained

## Roll It

### Materials Needed:

- a set of cards with a printed word on each card
- one or two dice
- sheet of paper to keep score



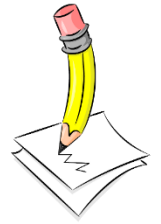
### How to play:

- To begin, place cards faced down in a stack
- Choose if words will be read aloud or spelled
- Players take turns picking up a card from the stack, reading the word or covering it up and spelling the word.
- If the answer is correct, the player rolls the dice for a score. The number rolled is recorded on the score sheet as the player’s score for that turn.



## Mystery Bag

- In a paper bag place various pieces of paper with a category written on it. Example: chocolate, vegetables, card games, board games, movies etc.
- Arrange players in teams (of no more than 5 people)
- In turn have each team draw a category
- Players from that team take turns saying 1 thing that could be that. Example: chocolate was the category picked. Chocolate bar, chocolate cake, chocolate granola bar, chocolate ice cream, chocolate fondue, chocolate cookies, chocolate fudge
- You could set a timer or when the team cannot come up with any more their turn is complete
- As each item is stated, count so you have a total at the end of their turn
- Teams can compete against each other



## Post-It Memory Game

This is a fun activity that will build on memory, vocabulary, reading, problem solving and critical thinking skills as well as visual perception.

There are a few ways to do this activity: By creating a memory board on paper, on a white board or on a chalkboard.

### Post – it!

Invite the children to create a grid of matching words. Place different coloured post-it notes to make it more fun!

The rules are the same as any memory game, except instead of turning over a card, players flip up a post-it note. If the player does not make a match, the player sticks the post-it notes back on. If the player makes a match, the player keeps the post-it notes.

### Different Learning Goals:

This activity can be modified to meet almost any learning goal. Post-It Note Memory Game can be played by using letters, numbers, pictures or even shapes. Difficulty level can also vary, depending on age group.





# Quiet Games



## Not Just Uno Cards

Uno cards are good for more than just for playing Uno. They can be used for:

- **Colour recognition:** Younger children can turn over the cards and name the colour that they see.
- **Number recognition:** Children turn over two cards, place them side by side and they say what number both of the cards make up. For example: a 2 card and a 3 card make up number 23.
- **Sorting activities:** Children sort cards into piles of colours, sets of numbers or both to make simple patterns.
- **Building a card structure:** Challenge children to build a structure with the cards.
- **Play a simple memory game:** Lay cards on a table face down. Players flip cards to try and make matches.



## Flip Ten

This fun math game is also played with Uno cards.

Children line up cards in four rows of five. First player flips two cards over. If the sum of the two cards equals 10, they keep the cards and replace the cards with two more from the deck. The game ends when there are no more matches left. A match includes 6 and 4, 7 and 3, 8 and 2, 5 and 5.

**Note:** Change up the sum each time the game is played. For example: Flip 5 – Children have to match a 0 and 5, 1 and 4, or 2 and 3.



## Battle

- Divide playing cards (or even Uno cards) amongst players evenly
- Each plays a card simultaneously
- If the same card is played by both players, then they each put 3 face down and then flip the next one up. Whoever has the highest card wins the battle
- Play continues until one player has most of the cards

## Active Physical Play-Indoor & Outdoor



(LO could be physical, social, emotional, numeracy)

### Ready Set Roll



**Equipment:** 1 pair of dice, paper, pencil, timer

Set Up – write 5 fun get-moving activities on a piece of paper numbered 1 to 5. Add a number 6 and write Free Pass. Try these or make up your own:

- For 5 seconds, stand on 1 foot and flap your arms like a chicken
- Rock out on an air guitar for 10 seconds
- Do a karate kick (ensure lots of room is in between each participant)
- Hop across the room
- Stick your legs in the air and pump them as if you're riding a bike while saying the alphabet

To play: take turns rolling a dice to see which activity each person will perform then roll a second die to discover how many times it must be completed. Alternatively, the entire group could do the activity.

### Thunder and Rain



- Players are in a double circle all facing inward
- IT is in the centre of the circle
- When IT calls out, "it's raining", the players in the outer ring run around the outside of the circle, while the players in the inner ring clap their hands and stamp their feet (thunder and rain.)
- When IT calls out "take cover", the players in the inner ring stand still and make an umbrella by stretching their both arms forward
- The players in the outer circle have to crouch under an umbrella
- IT also tries to find an umbrella under which to take cover
- The person left out in the rain, becomes the next IT

### Elephants, Giraffes and Palm Trees



- Players are in a circle
- Explain the following movements:  
Elephant, shoulder on nose with arm dangling to form a trunk  
Giraffe: right hand up in a fist over your head, with your head down  
Palm tree: both arms over your head swaying back and forth
- 1 person is in the centre of the circle. They point to 1 person and say Elephant, Giraffe or Palm Tree. That player assumes the position. If they make a mistake, they run around the circle and back to their spot and switch places with the person in the centre

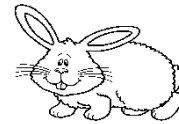
## Space Race



**Equipment:** 1 large ball per team

- Divide players into teams of no more than 5. It is ok if they aren't even
- Teams line up single file at one end of the gym, facing the opposite end
- Hand the 1<sup>st</sup> member of each team a large ball and tell them it's a rocket ship
- When you say "blast off", the 1<sup>st</sup> player in each line passes the ball overhead to the player behind them, who then passes the ball under their legs to the player behind
- Ball continues to be passed over and under to the back of the line
- The last player in line then runs to the end of the playing area and back to the **front** of the line with the ball and starts the process all over again
- Play continues until every player on every team has been to the front of the line and the team is back in its original lineup

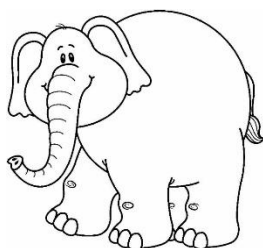
## Bunny Hop



- Divide players into team of no more than 5
- Teams line up in relay fashion at 1 end of the room
- On a given signal, the 1<sup>st</sup> one in each team hops to the other end of the room and back again to the end of their teams line
- This can be done either on 1 foot or both (leave this up to the player)
- Then the 2<sup>nd</sup> etc. until all have hopped
- Remember to wait until all members from all teams have completed the task

## Animal Chase

- This is a touch tag game
- As a group decide on 2 animals such as lion and elephant
- Players are then in pairs (they could choose or you can)
- 1 person is the lion and the other is the elephant (they decide)
- When you call out lion, the player who is the lion must chase the elephant
- When you call out elephant, the chases reverses
- If they are caught prior to you saying the next animal, they stand where they are





# Science

## Paper Bag Lungs

Invite the children to look at pictures and information on the structure and shape of the parts of the respiratory system. Children will learn about the human body and how the lungs work!

### Making a model of lungs:

#### Materials:

- 2 paper bags
- Two straws
- Markers/tape

#### Directions:

- 1) Print left and right lung on each bag
- 2) Attach a straw to each bag
- 3) Twist the open end of each bag around the straws and securely tape
- 4) Cross and tape the top ends of the straws together

### Test it Out:

Now have the children blow in and out through the straws.

What happens to the bags?

Discuss how the model is similar to how our lungs breathe. Explain that what is happening with the paper bag lungs is the exact opposite of what is happening with the lungs in our bodies. As they exhale the paper lungs fill up with air, and their own lungs “deflate.”

### Right and Left Lungs

