



OMO cares about the development of children and wants to help them develop through play. We believe that every stain represents an important experience – mud stains are the stamp of adventure, grass stains are the sign of exploration and fruit stains are the aftermath of discovery. Learning and playing when you are small is very important. Before the age of 8, your brain and body grow quickly, and you learn social and thinking skills that help you for the rest of your life.

Encourage your child to get messy with our fun activities for a happy, healthy and confident youngster. We'll be there to sort out the dirty clothes afterwards.

Let's get started!

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CALL ME MUDDY Physical development I'M GRASSY Socio-emotional development	01 11

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Call me Muddy

I'm here to help your child develop physical skills. I'll encourage your child to do more physical activities including motor coordination and balance to help them grow strong.





A fun-filled hopping relay race with a 'home' theme, for body and teamwork development.



Find a sandy patch of ground with enough space to draw four lanes, each about 5m long and about 2m wide. At the end of each lane, either write the name of a room in the house in the sand, or put a picture of that room. Put the pictures of household objects in a pile at the other end of the lanes.

Ask your child to choose one picture, decide which room it belongs in, then hop, skip or jump along the correct lane and put it into the right 'room'. Do this for each of the pictures in turn.

Change it Up

Make it easier: Talk about each object and which room it belongs in then help your child find the right lane for that room. Make the length of the lanes shorter.

Make it a challenge: Have more pictures of objects and choose some objects that might be found in two or more rooms. Give your child more complicated movements to do, like walking backwards down the lane or going head-over-heels.

Group work: This activity can easily be made into a race. Use a separate pile of objects for each group of children and give each team a lane. The object is to pick a picture, call out the name of the room it is from, then hop, skip or jump along the lane and drop the picture off at the other side. When they've dropped off the picture, the child must hop, skip or jump back to the start to 'tag' their next team-mate.

Development Areas

- Values
- Body control and Endurance
- Teamwork
- Planning
- Self-control

Being responsible; teamwork; respect.





Safety is the important theme of this fun traffic light activity. It develops fine motor skills and understanding how to move between spaces.

Alternative materials: What you need: -Paper A round object to Glue Coloured Cereal Crayons Marker Sticky tape trace around stick boxes pens paper scraps in red, green, yellow & orange What to do:

First, take a piece of paper and draw a rectangle on it. Find a round lid or another object that will fit inside the rectangle. Give your child the piece of paper and have them trace around the object three times inside the rectangle to create a traffic light outline.

Paper

plates

Next, help your child to tear or cut the coloured paper into smaller scraps. Have them glue the coloured scraps onto the circles to complete their traffic light with red at the top, orange/yellow in the middle, and green at the bottom.

While they are gluing down the coloured paper, talk to your child about what each colour means and what they should do when they see a red, orange or yellow traffic light.

Now you can take your child outside to play a traffic game. Ask them pretend they are driving a car, then call out the traffic light colours in different orders. They must stop when you say red, slow down when you say orange and run when you say green.

You can discuss traffic light safety and how important it is to respect the rules of the road.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Draw the circles for your child.

Make it a challenge: Don't tell your child what order the traffic light colours go in, ask them if they remember it themselves. Ask your child to explain to you what each colour means.

For a group of children: The first part of the activity stays the same. Children can work individually or as small groups to make their traffic light pictures. Outdoors, children can all move in the same direction or they can take intersecting paths and see if they can safely pass and move around each other by using the rules of the road and the traffic light instructions you call out. If you have enough children, some can help by acting as traffic lights.

Development Areas

- Leg muscle strength
- Identifying object using sense of touch
- Using both sides of the body at the same time
- Following instructions
- Knowing where you are

Values

Safety and caring for others; obedience, knowing and following rules; taking responsibility; respect for each other.





An energetic, family-themed game of guessing and doing the exercises done by different family members. This will develop strong bodies and body awareness.

What you need:



An open space to do the activity in, preferably outdoors

What to do:

Tell your child that they need to remember the exercise that each family member does, because they will be showing it to you. Give them a list of family members and exercises. You can repeat this a few times until your child can remember it.

Here are some ideas (you can use your own): Father = push up Mother = crab walk Son = donkey kick Daughter = leg lift Baby = crawling Granny = balancing on one leg

If you're fit enough and want to make it more exciting, you can demonstrate each exercise. When your child can remember all the exercise names and actions, you can take them outside to practise. Get them to try each exercise for around 20 seconds. Talk with them about how different people have different strengths and it's okay to not be the same as someone else. Talk about the importance of taking care of your body.

If you are not able to go outside, limit the exercises to smaller movements. You could do this activity regularly to encourage your child to get exercise.

Change it up

Make it easy: Remind your child of which exercises each family member does and perhaps demonstrate for them. Get them to repeat the exercise for only 10 seconds each time.

Make it a challenge: Ask your child to remember what exercise each family member does without help. Get them to do each exercise for a little longer. Ask them to combine two different exercises (for example, they need to do a push up then stand and touch their toes, then another push up and so on).

Development Areas

- Body awareness
- Balance and stability
- Controlling your body
- Planning movement
- Knowing how to use both sides of your body



Staying healthy; keeping active; be understanding of others.





This sensory activity develops thinking skills and strong bodies with a fun-filled, barefoot obstacle course.



What to do:

Create your obstacle course. Some ideas: lay planks on logs or bricks (make sure it's sturdy) for your child to walk along or jump over; make mud puddles for your child to slosh through; use rope to create a spiral or squiggly line that they must follow; use various chairs, logs or buckets to create jumps; a ladder laid on the ground makes a good hopping or even stepping obstacle. You can involve your child in creating the obstacle course and discuss with them different ways that they could move around it.

When you're ready to start the activity, talk to your child about the five senses. Explain each sense and ask your child which senses they think they'll use while doing the obstacle course.

Let your child start the course. Every now and then, call out 'Stop'. Your child may have to balance or hang from a pole; as long as they are safe this adds to the fun. Call out a situation and ask your child to name the sense being used (for example: eating cake, watching TV, admiring roses). When they've named the sense/s, they move on. Many situations will use a few different senses. For example, eating a chocolate cake is about taste, but it's also sight, smell and touch. Picking flowers is about smell, but also touch and sight. Some things, like listening to music, only use one sense.

Change it up

Make it easier: Keep the obstacle course simple. Call out situations that only use one sense at a time, or accept just one sense even if more could be used.

Make it a challenge: Make more obstacles and/or make the obstacles more difficult. Hide pictures that relate to different senses, around the obstacle course for the child to find and have them call out the sense when they find it.

Group work: Two or more children can do the course in rotation and you can time them to see who does it the fastest. Put children in pairs or teams, blindfold one child and have their team-mate/s lead them safely around the obstacle course.

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Development Areas

- Body awareness
- Knowing where you are
- Specific movement
- Balance
- Thinking skills

Values

Teamwork; helping others; patience.





Teach your child about the seasons and how they change the way trees look by collecting leaves, flowers and sticks to stick onto paper. This is an exciting way to develop fine motor skills and creativity.



What to do:

Make some mud in the 2L bottle.

Divide each sheet of newspaper/card into 4 sections and ask your child to draw 4 tree trunks, leaving space at the top for sticking on leaves, twigs and flowers.

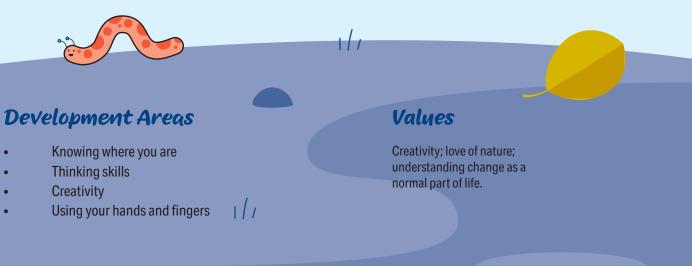
Now you can go for a walk outdoors to collect natural objects. You could collect these objects in advance to make the activity go quicker or in case you're not able to go outdoors. Help your child to use glue or mud to stick down the twigs and leaves. Discuss the four seasons and how trees look every season. Talk about summer having green leaves, autumn with brown, orange or yellow leaves, winter with no leaves on many trees and spring with new green leaves and small flowers. Encourage your child to talk about what differences they might have noticed at different seasons.

Change it up

Make it easy: Draw the tree trunk outline for your child.

Make it a challenge: Decorate the tree trunk as well using bark or sprinkling on sand.

Group work: Divide the children into groups of four and have each group do a set of four trees with one child working on each tree.





My name is Smudge

I'm here to help develop your child's cognitive skills. I'll help with creative development as well as broaden their intellectual thinking.





A creative activity that encourages your child to explore shape and pattern and to talk about what home means to them.



Go for a walk in the garden or park with your child and gather materials like twigs, grass stalks, flower petals, small (light) stones, bark and so on. At home, give your child a piece of paper and crayons or pens and ask them to draw the house or building you live in. You may need to help either by drawing with them or reminding them of some details of the building, like a chimney, a flat roof or a window near the front door, for example.

Now let your child decorate their drawing with the natural objects. While they're working, chat about what things they like best about your home, and explain that homes come in many different shapes and sizes.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Draw the outline for your child to work with so they can just enjoy decorating.

Make it a challenge: Ask your child to add extra details to their drawing, like a slide or a chimney. When you talk about different sizes and styles of houses, talk to them about houses in nature, like bird nests, spider webs and so on. You can also mention 'moving houses' like snail and tortoise shells.







This find-a-match game develops memory and problem solving while teaching your your child about important safety signs.



First, make some safety signs. You can make these signs yourself or draw and cut them out with your child. You can use signs like: stop, no entry, go this way, slippery floor, zebra crossing.

Chat to your child about what each sign means and where they might see them.

Take each cut-out sign and cut it in half. Take the signs out to your garden and hide them in grass, bushes or in the sandpit. Let your child hunt for the signs. When they find a half, they must leave it where it is until they find the other half. When they have both halves of a sign, they can bring them to you or put them in a basket. Encourage them to keep going until they have found all the signs.

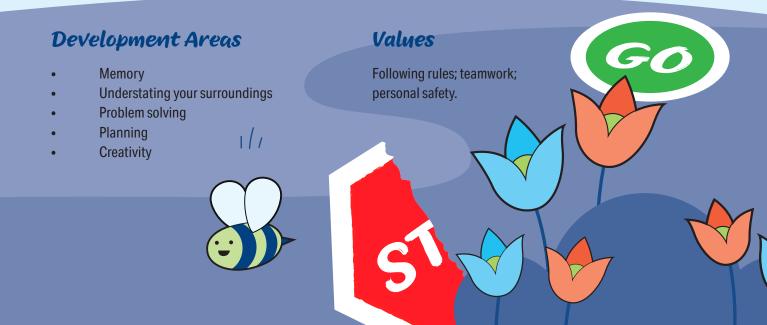
You can do this activity indoors by filling a container with sand and burying the signs in it.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Use fewer signs. Make two of each sign so your child finds two of the same instead of two halves.

Make it a challenge: Use more signs and signs that are more difficult, like biohazard signs or electrical danger signs.

For a group of children: Children can work in teams to find the signs. The first team to find all their signs are the winners. You can have each group create a different set of signs and then find signs made by another group so that they are less familiar with the signs they are hunting for.







Make family pictures while learning about sign language. Develops social awareness, memory and listening skills.



What to do:

First, get your child to draw pictures of various family members on different pieces of card or paper and decorate them with the natural objects or recycled paper, sweet wrappers etc.

While they are creating their pictures, talk to your child about sign language, and how it is used by people who are hearing impaired. Explain how sign language is a lot like any other language, like English, Zulu or Xhosa, and that hearing impaired people are just like other people, but they use a different language. You can also talk about family and how family members are different from each other but all care for each other.

When your child has finished a few drawings of family members, assign each family member a sign. You can use South African Sign Language signs or use ones you decide on appropriate to your child's ability. Go through the signs a few times until your child can remember them.

When your child has memorised the signs, you can test them by holding up a picture of a family member and getting them to make the sign for that person.

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Change it Up

Make it easy: Ask for just one sign at a time.

Make it a challenge: Ask for two or three signs quickly in a row. Add body language or a movement along with hand signs.

Find easy guides to South African Sign Language at https://www.realsasl.com/

Development Areas

- Watching where you're going
- Visual memory
- Controlling specific movement
- Listening
- Social awareness



Compassion for others; respect.

Values





Explore the 5 senses with a treasure hunt that develops visual processing, memory and thinking skills.

What you need:



Collect various items while walking

Alternative materials:



Items found around the house

What to do:

Start by discussing the 5 senses (see, smell, taste, listen and touch) and explaining how each sense works. Take a walk in the garden or park to collect things related to the senses. These could be a stone with rough texture when you touch it, freshly cut grass with its particular smell, chip packets that are brightly coloured, scrunching paper to make a sound and different fruits with different flavours. When you've collected several things, sit together to count them and go through which sense each one represents. Do some items represent more than one sense?

You can use this activity to explore nature in your area, helping your child to understand how nature appeals to all our senses and how important it is for us to care for the natural world. You can also use this treasure hunt as an opportunity to teach your child to pick up litter when on a walk.

Change it Up

If you are not able to walk outdoors with your child, make a treasure hunt at home to search for small items that appeal to each of the senses.

Make it easy: Choose items for your child to work with instead of having them find items.

Make it a challenge: Introduce some unusual and unfamiliar items and ask your child to work out what they might be.

Development Areas

- Understanding your surroundings
- Visual memory
- Thinking skills
- Planning
- Listening

Values

Sharing; confidence to participate; love of nature.

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A creative weather themed game that combines a treasure hunt with a fun "finishthe-picture" drawing element. It will develop visual skills and memory.

What you need:



Alternative materials:





sand or rice

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What to do:

Cut scrap card into squares. On each square, draw half of a weather symbol (e.g., half a sun or half a raindrop). Bury the squares in a sandpit or in a container filled with sand. To do the activity, first ask your child to hunt for the buried symbols. As they dig up each symbol, ask them to name what the symbol is. When they have found all the buried symbols, they can use marker pens to draw in the other half of each symbol.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Draw the whole symbol on each square of card and just have your child colour in or decorate the symbols they have found.

Make it a challenge: Add symbols that your child might not be familiar with, like hail or snowflake.

Group work: Children can work in pairs or small groups to dig up and complete the symbols and compete to see which group completes all the drawings first.

Development Areas

- Understanding where you are
- Concentrating on what you look at
- Memory
- Knowing what you see
- Remembering details in things

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Values

Teamwork; sharing; consideration.

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I'm here to help develop your child's social skills. I'll help your child understand their emotions so they can be more sociable and interact with other children.



This activity encourages your child to communicate emotions.

What you need:



A sandy patch

of ground



Alternative materials:



What to do:

Go to a sandy area outside with your child. Take a stick and draw a happy face in the sand. Talk about what is making you feel happy right then. Give the stick to your child and ask them to draw a happy face. Ask your child to talk about what makes them happy. If your child is not feeling happy, encourage them to express what emotion they are feeling, and to talk about what is making them feel sad/angry/unhappy etc.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Draw the outline of a face and let your child direct you how the nose, mouth, eyes should look. You can also draw several faces showing different emotions on pieces of paper and let your child pick the one that they think shows the emotion they're feeling.

Make it a challenge: Ask your child to draw several different faces showing different emotions. Encourage them to ask questions and express what they think about different emotions.

Development Areas

Values







A fun activity that involves throwing mudballs to answer safety-themed questions. This helps in developing social awareness and co-ordination.



What to do:

Draw large faces on pieces of paper showing different emotions. You can also draw faces in sand using a stick.

Think of a few different scenarios you can describe to your child, including some where there might be a safety risk. For example: going to a water park; getting separated from your parents at a park or shop; getting new clothes; falling over and bumping your head.

With your child, mix up sand and water to make mudballs.

Lay out the pictures of emotions or show them the pictures you've drawn in the sand. Tell your child about each of the scenarios you've thought of and ask them to throw a mudball at the emotion they think they would feel in that situation.

Talk through each situation and what would be the best way to handle it.

You can include situations in which other people may be in danger and ask your child what they might do to help that person. Talk with them about responsibility towards others and for their own safety. This can also be a good way to introduce a discussion about stranger danger.

If you can't do this activity outside, you could still use mud in a waterproof space like a bathroom or kitchen, or you could give your child crumpled up balls of paper to throw at the pictures.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Use only two emotions: happy or sad. Make the scenarios simple and don't include scenarios that include other people.

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Make it a challenge: Use emotions that are not obvious to understand, like relief, confusion or feeling nervous. Use more serious situations, like if someone getting seriously hurt or if they see someone stealing.

Development Areas

- Social awareness
- Body awareness
- Hand-eye coordination
- Using both sides of your body
- Touch

Values

Honesty, speaking out when in danger; self confidence.

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Develop your child's motor skills and social awareness with this fun finger-painting activity.



What to do:

On the paper, draw some faces of different family members (use features like hair, hats, glasses etc to help differentiate family members), each showing a different emotion.

Mix sand and water in the container to make a runny mud or prepare the finger paint. Get your child to trace your drawings using their fingers dipped in mud. While they are finger painting, talk about each family member, and about the emotion they are showing in the picture. Discuss how everyone has different emotions at different times, how we can show love to our friends and family and how to care for family members when they are sad

Change it Up

Make it easy: Use just two emotions - happy and sad.

Make it a challenge: Ask your child to describe a time they felt one of these emotions. Add more family members, like an uncle or a cousin, and/or more complex emotions like worry, excitement etc.

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Development Areas

- Social awareness
- Planning
- Knowing your surroundings
- Specific movement
- Shoulder stability

Values

The importance of family; u derstanding emotions; caring for others.





Develop your child's self-awareness and understanding of the senses by exploring different sensory experiences.

What you need:



Various items that appeal to different senses. Some ideas are: salt; fruit; flowers; sandpaper; bottle or cup of water; paper clips; playdough; music (on your phone, for example). A sandy area and a stick to draw in the sand with.

Alternative materials:



What to do:

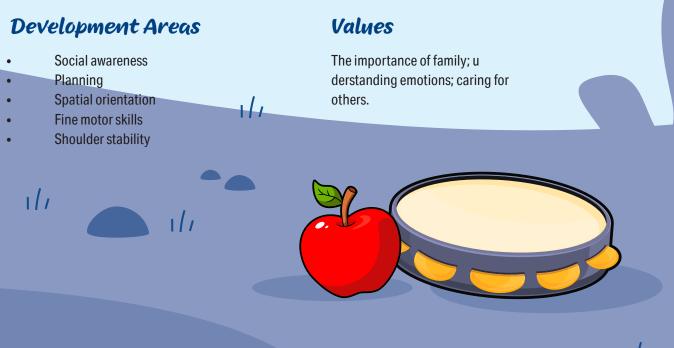
Have all the items in a container or tray. Let your child pick an item and say which sense it uses. Then they use the stick to draw a tick or a cross in the sand, depending on whether they like or dislike the sensory experience of the item. You can do this activity indoors with a list on paper, or you can just talk about whether they like or dislike the experience, and why.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Have just a few simple items and only one or two unpleasant sensations.

Make it a challenge: Blindfold your child or place the items inside a bag and ask them to use any sense other than sight to figure out what the object is.

Group work: Get everyone in the groups to take turns holding and touching the items. As a team, they can identify what senses they need for the items and draw a tick or cross in the sand to say whether they like it or not. This will develop both social awareness and self-awareness.







This weather learning activity develops thinking skills and memory through visual processing.



What to do:

Go outside with your child and talk about what the weather is like today. Draw the symbol for today's weather in the sand using the stick. Talk about the clothes you are both wearing and whether those are the right clothes for today's weather.

Now ask your child to draw symbols in the sand for other types of weather, such as raindrops for a rainy day, a cloud and lightning bolt for a storm, and so on. As they draw each symbol, discuss what kind of clothes you would wear in that kind of weather. You can show them examples of those kinds of clothes if you have them (you can also use pictures of different clothing items cut from magazines). Talk about kinds of weather that happen in other parts of world and which we may not see, such as tornados and snow. Discuss how some people don't have the clothes or shelter they may need to protect themselves from the weather.

Change it Up

Make it easy: Draw the symbols for your child and explain what they mean then ask your child to describe what kind of clothes they would wear for that weather.

Make it a challenge: Don't show your child pictures of clothes, just ask them to describe the kinds of clothes they'd wear. Show your child some pictures of a person wearing the 'wrong' kinds of clothes for the weather – you can draw or collage these in advance – and ask them to tell you what's wrong and how to correct it.

Group work: Add to the activity by asking the children to pair up or get into groups and talk about some examples of fun activities they might do in each kind of weather, such as swimming in hot weather, jumping in puddles in rainy weather and so on.

Development Areas

- Staying in control of yourself
- Understanding your surroundings
- Memory
- Task management
- Thinking skills

Values

Compassion; appreciation; love of nature; self-awareness.

Create your Mess

OMO promotes a world of messy fun! Create textural landscapes with colourful rice, build wonderlands together using DIY playdough or invent outdoor games with washable paint and your imagination. Fill up your sensory bins with messy tools and encourage your kids to explore with our fun DIY articles.



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Basic play dough is something every parent should have in their messy play collection. It's ideal for a rainy day game or paired with a cognitive learning activity for kids such as colour naming and grouping. The texture of the dough is smooth and pliable for hours of creative and of course, messy play.

Please note - This recipe requires heating. Please take caution when children are participating in this activity. Always ensure a parent or supervising adult is available to help with this part of the recipe. Small children should not handle stovetop cooking unsupervised.

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Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup salt
4 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 cups lukewarm water
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil or coconut oil

Instructions:

Combine the flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot or saucepan. Next, add the water and oil and mix gently.

Begin to cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring continuously. Keep going as the dough begins to thicken, it will eventually start to pull away from the sides and form a ball. Remove the pot from the heat and allow it to cool in a heatproof bowl or some wax paper.

When it has cooled enough to handle then knead the dough until smooth.

If you would like to make different colours, divide the dough into balls and add a few drops of your food colouring to each ball add more to brighten it up or less for more pastel tones. Add non-toxic neon/glow in the dark paints for a fun variation of this recipe. You can knead the dough inside a zip-seal bag, so it doesn't stain your hands. Once it's all mixed, playtime can begin! Store the play dough in resealable bags or containers to keep soft - our OMO capsules boxes are airtight and so perfect for storing playdough in. If stored correctly, the dough will stay fresh for up to 3 months. If the dough dries out, knead one tablespoon of water at a time to refresh its texture and pliability.

Beet, spinach, and carrot juice are great for adding colour to your doughs, these are a fantastic natural option for little hands. To add natural scents opt for extracts and small amounts of natural essential oils. Note: be sure to check the respective labels for warnings relating to children and skin allergies.

Use doughs in your sensory bins as a filler to encourage sensory play – not only is it an excellent activity for kids to learn through play, but it has the added benefit of being messy play. Messy play can be, well, messy! But don't worry about spills, OMO detergents are designed for tough stain removal.

Fill up your sensory bins with messy tools and encourage your kids to explore with our fun DIY Messy Play filler recipes

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SCAN HERE or visit omo.co.za to find out more



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quick stain removal tips

Playing outside all day can create stains that are tough to remove, here are some helpful tips on stain removal that you can use at home:

STICKY SITUATION

Gently remove excess honey with a butter knife. Mix warm water and a teaspoon of OMO Auto Liquid. Soak a clean sponge in the mixture and blot until it has fully disappeared.

PESKY PAINT

Oil-based - hold an absorbent pad under the stain and dab it with white spirit. Put the clothing in the washing machine on a high temperature.

Acrylic - hand wash with OMO and water, then use the washing machine.

STUCK IN A JAM

Immediately remove the piece of clothing and rinse the jam stain under warm water. This will dissolve the sugar. Dip the stained area in some water mixed with a cup of OMO Handwash Laundry Liquid. **CRAZY CRAYONS**

Pre-treat with OMO Auto Washing Liquid before popping the clothing into the washing machine.

GREEN GRITTY GRASS

To get rid of grass stains on cotton, hand wash in cold water with OMO to break the stain down, then throw it in the washing machine.



Congratulations! You've completed all the OMO Messy Play Zone activities! We hope you had a great time playing. Share your pictures with family and friends and encourage them to benefit from outdoor play.

For more exciting, interactive and messy games visit: www.omo.co.za | @@omosouthafrica | @@omo_southafrica





OMO believes in the importance of Early Childhood Development and that equipping children with the necessary values and skills in life will help maximise their future well-being.

Visit www.omo.co.za for fun activities to do at home or with friends

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