



# HAVE A BALL WITH YOUR CHILD!

## Ball Activities

- Count as you roll, or toss the ball back and forth to child.
- Play a game of toss and say "stop" or "freeze" when the child has the ball. Have child tell you the first number or letter he/she sees.
- Play a game of toss and when the ball stops, have players jump, skip, blink eyes, rub head, hop etc.,
- Use a clean waste basket to shoot baskets. Toss the ball from different distances. Try tossing from under legs or over the head.
- Name the colors on the ball. Go around the house or wherever you are and find objects that match the colors on the ball.
- Prediction: make a plus or cross of tape/string, or just draw a large "+" on a large piece of paper. Have the child say where the ball will land. Then roll the ball onto the plus sign and see how many times they are right.
- Roll the ball back and forth and say the ABCs as you roll, or see how high they can count with you as they roll the ball back and forth with you.
- Try to "bounce pass" the ball by bouncing it once in the direction of the child and having them try to catch it as it bounces up at them.
- Have the child stretch arms in front with hands together. Try to balance the ball on their arms. Have them try to walk while balancing the ball.

### Hints:

To build vocabulary, use different words with the ball play. Compare distance (nearest/farthest), speed of ball (slow, slower, fast, faster), etc. For creativity, have your child throw like a "seal" or "kangaroo"; name things in categories (such as colors, animals, toys or places) when bouncing the ball to each other.

## Measuring With String

Have the child stand in one spot and roll or throw the ball as far as it can go. Mark where it landed. Give the child a string or rope to stretch between the two spots (It helps if someone holds the string or tapes it to the starting place). Repeat the throw and measuring with a second string/rope. Ask the child which ball throw was shorter or longer. For more fun, use more players and compare their distances.



## The Great Math Race

Cut 16 paper squares and place in a line on the floor about 12" apart. Have one player stand to the right of the line and the other player stand to the left of the line. Players take turns tossing the ball in the air and moving the number of squares that matches the number on the ball that they see when they catch it (like a dice). The first player to reach the end of the line wins.