

A child's interests are

Windows of Opportunity

to fun and enjoyable learning

Play in **water**
is a powerful
learning activity
for many young children



Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AT HOME**

Kitchen sink when it's time to wash dishes

- Set her in an infant seat, pull up her high chair, or let her stand on a chair or step stool right next to the sink.
- Smile and talk or sing to her about what I'm doing.
- Sprinkle her gently with drops of the warm water from time to time.
- When she's big enough, let her play in the sink with the soapy water and a few unbreakable dishes, pots, and spoons.

Outdoor spigot

- Let him fill the watering can and water the flowers and vegetables.
- Let him use a watering can or cup to fill a bird bath or the pets' water dishes.
- Show him how to use a hose to water plants and explore the different kinds of spray he can make by twisting the nozzle.
- Have wet 'n' wild fun together using soapy water, buckets, a hose, and sponges to wash the car.
- Set up a lawn sprinkler on a hot, summer day and enjoy the cooling drops together.

Bath tub at bath time

- Make up funny rhyming raps and chants using words like *splash*, *soap*, *scrub*, *drip*, and *wash*.
- Make silly "beards" and "hairdos" with bubbles.
- Offer plenty of plastic cups, empty margarine tubs, and other containers for lots of pouring and measuring fun.

Bathroom sink when I'm shaving

- Let her pat water and shaving cream on my face.
- Talk to her about what I'm doing.
- Let her wet a wash rag and wipe the cream off.
- Put her in charge of turning the faucet off and on.
- Show her how to draw on the steamy mirror with her finger.

Clothesline or laundry room

- Let him hand wash doll clothes or handkerchiefs in a shallow pan of soapy water and rinse them in clear water. Show him how to squeeze out the water and hang things up.
- He can have fun sorting clothespins.
- Sing "This is the way we wash our clothes."

Places to learn and activities to enjoy **AWAY FROM HOME**

Duck pond

- Let her wiggle her toes in the water, drop stones into the pond, toss cracked corn or bits of stale bread into the water for the ducks and watch them eat, toddle after the ducks, drag a stick through the water, and much more!
- Make up stories about the ducks. Talk about the way they swim, dive, and fly.
- Do you see any baby ducks? Hunt together for duck feathers and duck eggs.

Coin laundry

- Give her many little jobs at the laundromat, like sorting dark and light clothes, inserting coins in the money slots, scooping soap powder, watching the swirling clothes through the glass window, filling the dryer, matching socks, and helping fold towels and washcloths.

Taking a walk in the neighborhood

- Take a walk on a rainy day.
 - Enjoy feeling the raindrops on your faces.
 - Try to catch drops in your hand or on your tongue.
 - Sing every song you can think of that has the word *rain*.
 - Wear rubber boots or old sneakers so you can jump over or splash in puddles along the sidewalks and driveways.
 - Discover “rainbows” in puddles where motor oil has been dripping.
- Take a walk on a sunny day.
 - Look for places where you can see water or people using water. Some hints: folks watering their gardens, a stream, a drainage ditch, a drinking fountain, a fire hydrant, etc.



I'm
wild
about
water!

Always
ready to
make a
splash!

