

Activities from waste for kids

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SINCE the start of the pandemic, schools have not opened fully.

This means children spend more time at home compared to normal schooling years.

As much as children learn at school, they also learn through play. They learn about shapes, colours, size and numbers, including all basic concepts necessary for learning and many other important emergent skills like problem-solving, memory, concentration, attention span, thinking skills as well as fine and gross motor skills.

“Many parents and caregivers think that in order to learn, one needs expensive games and equipment,” explained Sandy Immelman from Masikhule, an organisation that trains Early Childhood Development educators in marginalised communities in Helderberg.

“Quite the opposite is the case,” she said. “For true learning to take place, children need to be actively involved, using all areas of their brain including their creativity and imagination.”

She said that waste material can be used to create toys. “Creating and having fun using waste material such as toilet rolls, egg boxes, empty boxes, milk bottle tops, etc



Choo-choo train

is a perfect way to stimulate brain development at minimal costs.”

The activities are done under the supervision of an adult. She provided three examples of toys to create.

Choo-choo train – use empty boxes (milk cartons, toothpaste boxes), toilet rolls and bottle tops to make a choo-choo train. Let your child help you to glue all the pieces together. If you have paint or crayons, decorate the train with bright colours. Have fun talking about trains, counting wheels and making train sounds.

Fun with colours – colour the underneath of an egg box. Make a slit to fit matching coloured ice cream/cardboard sticks

Puzzle – Use different pictures of animals, cars or objects that your child can identify. Paste it on a carton and cut it horizontally, vertically or diagonally and ask your child to complete the puzzles.