

MAKING MEDIA WITH A TODDLER

By Harold Spanier

I have always thought that imagination can be the best source for discovery in a child. It instantly turns the ordinary into a learning situation, and helps make sense of nonsense. When you invent stories, mix ideas, and create images, you can help children discover new ways of thinking. I hope these suggestions can help your child tap into a world of discovery where their imaginations are in charge.

Photo Story Scrapbook



Keep this idea in mind: every picture tells a story! Obtain a plastic covered scrapbook. Take snapshot photographs of your child's commonplace activities. Group activities into categories: mealtimes, playing with a favourite toy, and other everyday activities. Use labels and write in big block letters. Read the adventures from your photo story scrapbook.

Digital Fun

There are many free programs available to create videos. Start creating your own adventures with your child! Get some Mega Bloks or a favourite plush animal toy. Make your own time-lapse movies or stop motion animation (think: claymation).

I made short 15-20 second movies with my toddler. Activities like counting apples, playing with a toy, visiting a pet store, and walking down the street or looking up at a tree. It's always a good idea to watch together. My toddler insists on watching himself and daddy; thumbs down when presented with Barney!



What can you do with an older child? Interview your child as a favourite nursery rhyme or story character!!