**Ministry of Education, Human Resource Planning,**

**Vocational Training and National Excellence**

**Early Childhood Unit**

**Learning at Home**

**Some Materials and Some of their Uses**

**A Simple Guide for Families**

**With Children in Preschool**

**Naturally Found Items**

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| **Some Items** | **Some Uses** |
| Twigs/sticks | Forming words to include names/counting/ ordering/making shapes/art, … |
| Leaves | Writing/counting/art e.g. plaiting, windmill), … |
| Flowers | Feeling (texture)/drying/art/colours/ |
| Plants | Growing (nurturing, observing)/smelling/measuring height, … |
| Sweet lime | Glue, tasting, … |
| Charcoal | Writing/colours, … |
| Sand | Empty, full/heavy, light/pouring /art/ writing, … |
| Water | Sink and float/measuring/ cleaning, … |
| Seeds e.g. guava seeds | Planting/art/forming shapes, numbers, letters/ comparing/seed, bean bags, … |
| Beads | Patterns/lacing/art, |
| Dry coconut husks and fibre | Art |
| Shells | Shapes/ sizes/colours/counting/musical instrument |
| Stones/rocks | Sink, float/sorting/counting/corresponding/shapes/  sizes/art, writing, … |
| Feathers | Heavy, light/art/colours, … |
| Pieces of wood and (local) rope | Making models, … |
| Bark of dry banana leaves | Stamping/ropes, … |

**Reusables**

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| **Some Items** | **Some Uses** |
| Straws | Length/ ordering / counting /art, … |
| Sponge/foam | Art e.g. dolls, puppets, stamping/sink and float, … |
| Tins and other containers | Musical instruments/planting/empty, full, half empty, half full/ heavy, light/rolling/stacking/comparing, … |
| Plastic bottles and jars | Art to include stamping/musical instruments/  pouring/funnels/comparing/measuring/  storage for puzzles, cards, … |
| Paper rolls | Length, /art/tunnels/models (e.g. telescope, microscope)/rolling, … |
| Covers from bottles and jars | Patterns/sorting/comparing/counting/lacing/musical instrument, … |
| Egg Trays | Art/sorting, … |
| Cardboard boxes (all sizes) | Building/ making models e.g. roads and traffic signs/ stacking/musical instruments/art, … |
| Cardboard | Making books/cutting (for fine motor skills)/puzzles/  cards for numbers, letters, words/writing/art, … |
| Buttons | Lacing/art e.g. eyes for puppets, dolls/patterns/  counting/comparing, … |
| Pieces of cloth | Cutting/comparing (e.g. size, lengths, texture, colours)/ art, … |
| Laces | Lacing/comparing/tying, … |
| Socks | Puppets, washing, … |
| Old shoes | Painting |
| Clothes pegs (the more the better) | Fine motor skills/making models/sorting/counting/  Patterns/stringing, … |
| Plastic nettings bags | Sorting/art/storage, … |
| Knots and bolts | Fine motor skills, … |
| Pieces of plastic pipe | Practise plumbing |
| Pieces of carpet | Practise tiling |
| Magnets | Magnetism, … |
| Magazines, books, directories, … | Picture reading/ identifying letters and words/ cutting letters and words/ |
| Tyres | Rolling/jumping/pulling, … |
| Crates | Pulling/transportation, … |

If you do not have glue for activities, use flour and water

Give your child a used bag to store her/his favourite items

**How to make a Puzzle**

1. Cut out picture from old calendars, magazines, cereal boxes, or use drawings from children, …
2. Cut cardboard to suit size of picture
3. Stick picture onto cardboard and allow to dry
4. Use a marker or (pen, pencil) and draw lines on the picture
5. Use scissors and cut along the lines that you draw to make pieces of the puzzle

You can make puzzles of different sizes (different number of pieces) based on the level of your child

**How to make Playdough**

**Ingredients**

1 cup of flour

1/2 cup of salt

1/2 cup of water

2 tablespoons of oil

Food colouring (That is optional. If you have, use (/them) it to give colour)

**Method**

Mix all ingredients together, knead to make a smooth dough.

Keep playdough in the refrigerator when not in use to keep it hard

**“Turn Your Trashables into Teachables”**

**Let’s have fun while Learning**