

Hopscotch

Sidewalk chalk or even regular chalk is inexpensive and kids will love being able to draw on the road or on another piece of concrete. The beauty of sidewalk chalk is the no clean-up required rule. The next time it rains it will all be washed away. If the children use a back patio as their canvas you may want to hose it down with water so chalk isn't tracked inside the house.

Hopscotch is a fun activity that will help children learn their numbers while hopping. It is great exercise and energy burner. Play with the traditional rules of using a marker (a small rock is perfect) and numbering the squares of the hopscotch pattern with the numbers one through eight. Each child must toss their rock onto a numbered square starting with one and hop through the pattern without touching the square the marker is on. Then they turn around and come back picking up their marker on the way. This continues with the marker being tossed on each subsequent number. If a child misses the correct number they are out of the game.

At the end of the hopscotch squares, the children can draw a half-circle for a resting place (this is optional). They can take a second to regain their balance before hopping back to pick-up their marker. The only other time the children should place two feet down is when there are two squares placed side-by-side in the pattern.

The marker and number part of the game can be skipped and the kids can just have fun hopping through the squares. Let them make the pattern as big and elaborate as they like. Another variation is to use the alphabet instead of numbers or have the child spell out their name in the hopscotch squares.

