

# Individual Learning Kit

## Toddler

### What's Included

Your Toddler Individual Learning Kit includes the following materials to help children build skills.

- 5 Ocean Animals Board Books
- 10 Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals
- Hide & Seek Discovery Ball
- 52 Toddler Bristle Builders®
- Button Size-Sorting Box

### Activities

To help you get started, we've included a few activity ideas for using the materials with children.

#### • Activity 1: An Ocean of Animals

Explore the Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals with your child. Can your child name any of the animals? Does he or she know where the animals live? Has your child ever seen one in real life? Over several days, read the Ocean Animals Board Books with your child to learn more about sea life. Draw a picture of one of the ocean animals and invite your child to color it.

#### • Activity 2: Sink or Float?

Fill a container with a small amount of water and ask your child to count the Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals as he or she places them in the water one at a time. Discuss whether the animals sink or float. Find other items around the home or classroom to test—for example, a ball, a block, keys, and so on. Discover with your child which ones sink and which ones float.



#### • Activity 3: Color That Shape!

Select several different-shape buttons from the Button Size-Sorting Box and trace the shapes onto a piece of paper. Encourage your child to color within the shape outline. As he or she does so, describe each shape's attributes—for example, *That is a circle. It has no sides. It is round, like a clock.* Invite your child to draw other shapes and pictures. For added fun, use tape to create a large circle, triangle, and square on the floor. Have your child sort the buttons into their matching shapes.

#### • Activity 4: I Can Count!

Fill the Button Size-Sorting Box with buttons. Ask your child to reach in and grab a handful and lay the buttons on the floor or table, counting the buttons as he or she does so. Next, count all the buttons together, pointing to each one as you count. Then, drop the buttons through the slots back into the box, counting as you go.



- **Activity 5: Match & Stick Shape Sorting Game**

Lay out the rectangular and circular Toddler Bristle Builders on a flat surface. Hold up a rectangular piece and ask your child to find all the pieces that are the same shape. As your child finds the pieces, have him or her stick them together. Describe the characteristics of the shapes as your child sorts. Then repeat the activity with the circular pieces. Once your child is familiar with the rectangles and circles, introduce the square and triangular builders.

- **Activity 6: Animal Sounds**

Ask your child to identify the animal figures in the Toddler Bristle Builders and the sounds they make. If your child doesn't know, this is a great time to introduce animal sounds! Reinforce animal sounds by singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," adding animals that aren't included in the builder set. Together with your child, use the builders to create a farm or house for the animals.



- **Activity 7: Follow the Maze!**

Use the straight pieces from the Toddler Bristle Builders to build a maze or road. Build in some twists and turns as well. Invite your child to "guide" the animal figures from the builder set or the Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals through the maze or along the road. When your child is ready, invite him or her to build a maze or road for the animals of his or her own.

- **Activity 8: Color Sort**

Label several paper plates with a color—red, yellow, green, and blue. Remove the lid from the Button Size-Sorting Box and ask your child to select a button and place it on the plate with the matching-color label. Have your child continue with all the remaining buttons. For added fun, go on a color hunt! Search the home or classroom for other objects that match the colors on the plates.

- **Activity 9: Ocean Animal Sensory Play**

Create a fun sensory tub for your child using the Soft & Squeezy Ocean Animals. Fill a bin with water and add a few drops of dish soap along with some sponges. Make sure to mix the soap into the water so it dissolves. Place the ocean animals in the water. Invite your child to explore the animals within the soapy water. Encourage your child to clean or wipe down the animals with the sponges.

- **Activity 10: Gross Motor Fun!**

Sit about six feet away from your toddler and roll one of the sensory balls from the Hide & Seek Discovery Ball back and forth. Then try rolling the other three sensory balls. Which ball does your toddler like rolling the most? Set a cutting board at an angle against a couch cushion or a low stack of books and show your child how to roll one of the balls down the cutting board to see how far it goes. Then practice running or jumping to the ball to retrieve it. Place all four sensory balls inside the discovery ball and ask your toddler to remove them one by one. Then ask him or her to place them back in the discovery ball. Throw or kick all four small balls. Which balls travel the farthest?