

# April Fool's Day Activities

## Infants (Birth–12 months)

### Activity 1: Peekaboo Prop Surprise

**What you need:** A small blanket, scarf, or burp cloth.

**How to set it up:** Sit baby safely on your lap or on a soft mat facing you.

**How to do it:**

1. Smile and say, “Where did you go?”
2. Gently lift the cloth between your face and baby’s face.
3. Pause for 1 second.
4. Lower it and say, “There you are!” in a warm voice.
5. Repeat 3–5 times, then stop while the baby is still happy.

**How to show babies:** Use a calm voice, big slow smile, and gentle movements.

**Tip:** If the baby startles, slow it down and use a quieter “hello!”

### Activity 2: Silly Mirror Hello

**What you need:** A baby-safe unbreakable mirror.

**How to set it up:** Place a mirror where the baby can see during tummy time or lap time.

**How to do it:**

1. Say, “Who’s that baby?” and wait.
2. Make a funny face next to baby’s reflection (puffy cheeks, silly eyebrows).
3. Whisper, “That baby is soooo silly!”

**How to show babies:** Copy baby’s coos back to them. Babies often love echo sounds.



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## Activity 3: Wrong-Word Song Day

**What you need:** Nothing!

**How to do it:**

1. Start a familiar song (like “Twinkle, Twinkle”).
2. Change one word to something silly: “Twinkle, twinkle little... BANANA!”
3. Giggle softly, then return to the normal lyrics.

**How to show babies:** Keep routines the same—only the word changes.

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## Toddlers (1–2 years)

### Activity 1: Mixed-Up Toy Basket Rescue

**What you need:** Two bins + familiar toys.

**How to set it up:** Put toys in the “wrong” bin (animals in the block bin, etc.).

**How to do it:**

1. Say, “Uh-oh! Our toys got mixed up!”
2. Hold up an item and act surprised: “Why is the cow in the block bin?”
3. Invite toddlers to help sort: “Can you put the cow where it belongs?”
4. Celebrate each fix: “You did it!”

**How to show toddlers:** Act playfully confused—not frustrated. Let them be the hero.

### Activity 2: Silly Shoes Storytime

**What you need:** A pair of shoes (adult or child).

**How to set it up:** Put shoes on your hands like puppets.

**How to do it:**



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1. Sit for storytime and say, "My hands feel funny today..."
2. Lift your "shoe hands" and let them wave.
3. The shoes "talk" during the story: "Turn the page, please!"  
**How to show toddlers:** Encourage waving back and saying hello.

## Activity 3: Sticker Reveal Art

**What you need:** Paper, crayons/markers, large easy-peel stickers.

**How to set it up:** Place a few stickers on the paper before kids start.

**How to do it:**

1. Tell toddlers: "There are surprises hiding on your paper!"
2. Let them color over the stickers.
3. Help peel stickers off to reveal white shapes underneath.  
**How to show toddlers:** Use short words: "Color... peel... WOW!"

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## Preschool (3–5 years)

### Activity 1: Paper Fish Surprise

**What you need:** Paper, crayons, scissors, tape (or sticky notes).

**How to set it up:** Pre-cut fish shapes for kids who need help.

**How to do it:**

1. Say: "In some places, April Fool's is a paper fish day!"
2. Kids decorate fish with patterns, scales, and eyes.
3. Teach the kind version: "Ask first—can I put a fish on your back?"



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4. Tape lightly on clothing OR place fish on chairs/cubbies instead.
5. Reveal quickly and laugh together: "Fishy surprise!"  
**How to show kids:** Model the exact words: "Can I?" and "No is okay."

## Activity 2: Silly Sign Switch

**What you need:** Paper signs + tape.

**How to set it up:** Label areas with silly names:

- Blocks = "Book Bakery"
- Reading = "Dinosaur Dentist"

**How to do it:**

1. Walk in confused: "Wait... is this the Dinosaur Dentist?"
2. Let kids discover what's silly.
3. Ask: "What should it REALLY say?"
4. Make new correct signs together.

**How to show kids:** Turn it into a literacy moment (letters, sounds, matching).

## Activity 3: Invisible Paint Magic

**What you need:** Construction paper, water, paintbrushes/sponges.

**How to set it up:** Tell kids they're using "clear paint" (water).

**How to do it:**

1. Say: "Watch... the invisible paint shows up!"
2. Kids paint water on paper (color darkens temporarily).
3. Wait and watch it dry (disappears).



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4. Repeat and talk about what changed.

**How to show kids:** Use curiosity questions: "What do you notice?"

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## School Age (6–12 years)

### Activity 1: “Funny or Not Funny?” Kind Prank Lab

**What you need:** Chart paper, markers, sticky notes.

**How to set it up:** Make 3 columns: Funny / Not Funny / Not Safe

**How to do it:**

1. Ask: “What makes a prank okay?”
2. Build a class checklist:
  - Doesn’t hurt bodies
  - Doesn’t hurt feelings
  - Doesn’t break stuff
  - Quick reveal
  - People can say “no”
3. Kids write pretend prank ideas on sticky notes.
4. Sort them into the chart together and explain why.

**How to show kids:** Teach the golden rule: “Funny is only funny if everyone laughs.”

### Activity 2: Upside-Down Day Challenge

**What you need:** A list of safe “upside-down” tasks.

**Examples:**



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- Wear a nametag upside down
- Try reading one sentence upside down
- Write your name backward

**How to do it:**

1. Explain: “Today we do tiny safe mix-ups—no running backward.”
2. Demonstrate each challenge.
3. Kids choose 1–2 challenges and share results.

**How to show kids:** Make it a brain challenge, not chaos.

## Activity 3: Optical Illusion Art Gallery

**What you need:** Paper, pencils, rulers (optional).

**How to set it up:** Show one simple illusion drawing example.

**How to do it:**

1. Say: “Today we trick our eyes with art!”
2. Teach an easy illusion step-by-step (3D cube, spiral, impossible triangle).
3. Display artwork and do a gallery walk.

**How to show kids:** Let them be “art detectives” and explain how the illusion works.

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