

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.

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?”

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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