

games for dani



READING IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

Kofi, you know, is two and a half years old.
He has a ball, a little blue one.

He loves that ball. He kicks it. He throws it.

He keeps it in a special place.



Maya has a little brother, Dani. He is a happy boy. He was one year old three months ago. He learnt to walk when he was one year old.

We helped him. Now he always tries to run. Sometimes he falls over.

He gets up. He laughs.



Dani always wants to touch things. Sometimes he pulls things off the table. Sometimes they break. We have to watch him all the time.

We say, “No, Dani.”

We do not get angry with him - but we do call him, ‘Dani Crash’.



Dani always wants Kofi's ball. Sometimes Kofi gives it to him. Sometimes Kofi is not happy.

"Dani lose ball," he shouts.

"Dani put ball down well, MY ball, MY ball."



“Sami, let’s make a ball for Dani,” says Maya.
“Yes,” I said. “We learnt how to at school.”

So we find grass and long dry leaves. We put the short grass in the middle. We wind the long leaves round to hold it together.

We give the ball to Dani. He is very happy.

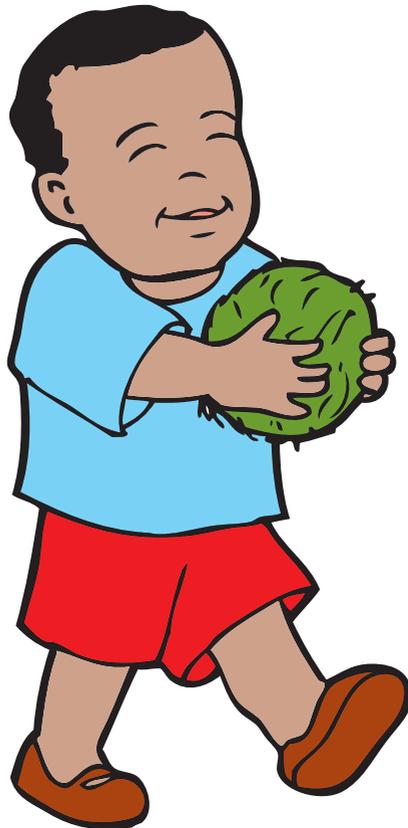


Dani loves his ball.

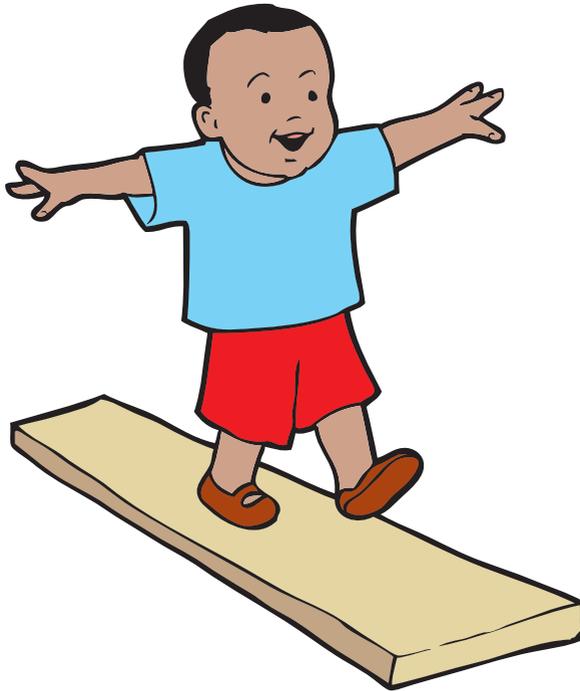
We give it to him. He holds it. We roll it to him.

He tries to kick it like Kofi. We throw it very gently to him. He tries to catch it. He misses.

He picks the ball up. He laughs.



We play other games with him. We put a plank of wood down on the ground. We help him to walk straight along it.



We ask our uncle to help us make a seesaw. He gets another plank and a big piece of wood. He helps us.

We play more finger games with Dani. We teach him to touch his toes. We say, "Well done, Dani!"

Kofi is happy. He can keep his blue ball, but he has heard us saying, “Watch out, Dani!”

So he always says, “Watch out, Dani, with your ball!”



some ideas from maya

Try to make some of the things we made for Dani.

Why not ask other children and older people to help you?

Remember that little children like Dani are learning to use their bodies for the first time. The more you play with them the better.

Give them things that feel different from each other.

Give them shapes to put in to and pull out of boxes.

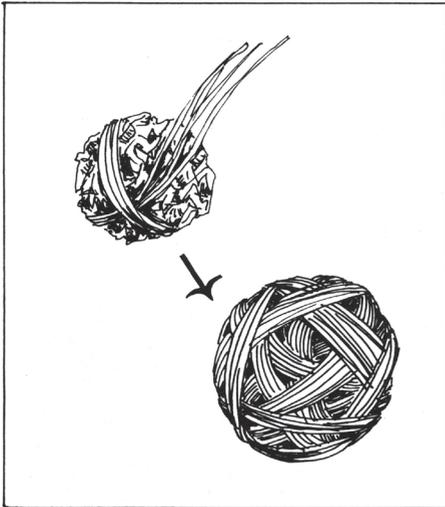
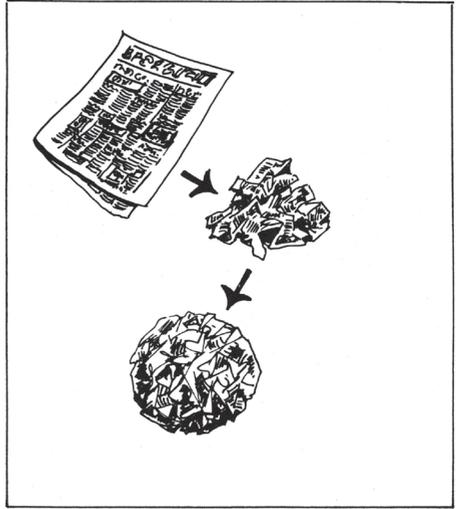
Put things that they know in a bag.

Let them put them in and pull them out and say the names of these things.

Let them talk, talk, talk, like I do with Dani.

Making a ball

(illustration by Jan Martin from *Toys for Fun*)





First stage

Who can use this book?

Good readers class 3.

Average readers classes 4 & 5.

How can it be used best?

Reading for school children.

Games and activities for younger ones.

How does it help children to develop?

Playing with balls develops many movement skills in little children. Older children learn how to develop these skills by playing the games that help this.

Making balls develops craft skills.



a hanging library book

Story by Hugh Hawes and illustrations by David Gifford 2007.