

# PATCH 'Ohana Network



PATCH - Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

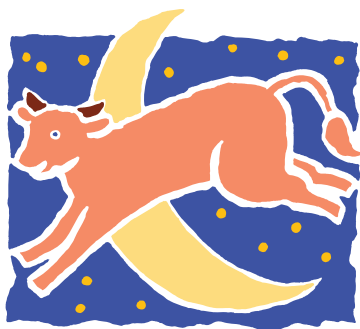
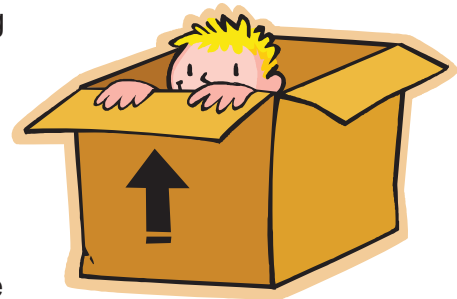
## Supporting Your Child's Learning with the Classic Games

No matter what age, children learn best through play. Here are a few classics that will help put your child on a road to life long learning.

**Infant Play: Peek-a-Boo!** Infants and the adults in their lives, enjoy playing this classic game. Young infants (i.e. 4 month olds) delight in seeing the adult that they are playing with magically appear and disappear while older infants (i.e. 10 to 12 month olds) enjoy looking for their adult playmate who is hiding under a blanket or behind a piece of furniture. Besides being fun, peek-a-boo helps infants learn object permanence – that something, or in this case, someone, still exists even if it cannot be seen. The development of object permanence helps young children through separation anxiety: they know their parent, or other care provider, will return after an extended period of time (i.e. after running errands, going to work, etc.).



**Toddler Play: Cardboard Boxes** Toddlers love playing with simple toys. Cardboard boxes are one of the most simple and affordable toys available. This corrugated paper product has entertained generations of keiki, providing them with hours of creative, constructive play. A toddler, with minimal grown up help, can turn an ordinary cardboard box, into a house, a car, or space ship. When toddlers play with cardboard boxes they are using their creativity and imagination – important life skills.



**Preschool Play: Nursery Rhymes** Singing, reading, and reciting nursery rhymes help preschoolers to develop important reading readiness skills. Studies have shown that young children who have difficulty with rhyming words have a hard time learning to read. Nursery rhymes are a natural way to introduce/reinforce rhyming words. The rhythm that occur in nursery rhymes help keiki hear and identify the individual sounds that make up a word – a skill that young children use to become readers.

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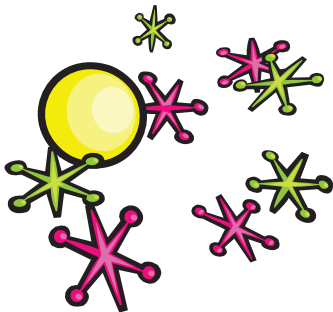
**"We Are Stronger Together",  
a Conference for child care providers,  
teachers, and even parents,  
will be held July 21st-July23rd from 8:30am-1:30pm  
each day at the Royal Lahaina Resort, Maui.**

The conference is sponsored by the California Alameda Family Child Care Association and is being chaired by Marva Lyons, NAFCC Regional 9 Representative. For more information, contact: [happymarva57@yahoo.com](mailto:happymarva57@yahoo.com) or call 510.593.7505.

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**Kindergarten Play: Jacks** Playing with jacks allows keiki to practice their hand-eye coordination and use their fine and gross motor skills (i.e., picking up a jack with their fingers and using their entire arm to sweep up all the jacks at one time, all while bouncing and catching a ball) at the same time. While this classic, timeless game reinforces counting, it also introduces young children to a harder, more difficult math concept – division with remainders. When playing with ten jacks, and doing “ones”, young children discover that things come out “even in the end” - there are no left-



overs. When doing “twos” they discover that again, there are no leftovers. However, when doing “threes” children discover that one jack is left and needs to be scooped up alone. This simple act of grabbing jacks in sets of threes, three times, and having one leftover introduces keiki to an abstract math concept in a safe, fun, non-threatening way.

While playing these classic games with your child provides you with an opportunity to interject learning moments, it more importantly creates moments that become memories that will last a lifetime.

by Celia Chang Takahashi  
Oahu Coordinator, Good Beginnings Alliance

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