

Around the House!

Pretend play with gross-motor action!



Ages 2 to 4

Children will whirl, pop, spin, and mix up some fun and gross-motor skill-building with this pretend play activity! With the different actions of the Big Appliance Kitchen Set as their inspiration, children create their own movement experiences “inside” the Coffee Maker, Toaster, Mixer, Blender, and Teapot.

Objective

Develop gross-motor, creative thinking, and creative movement skills.

Equipment

Item # 25-042 **Big Appliance Kitchen Set**

Directions

1. Show children each of the appliances in the Big Appliance Kitchen Set. Talk about the function of each machine, where the children might have seen each one, and the kinds of foods or beverages each machine helps to prepare.
2. Next, focus the children’s attention on the action of each appliance. The coffee maker drips to fill the pot. The mixer stirs to mix up the cookie dough. The blender whips to make a milkshake. The teapot bubbles when it gets hot to make tea. The toaster pops when the toast is done.
3. Now, invite the children to pretend to be inside each of the appliances. For example, ask the children to pretend they are a piece of bread being put into the toaster and then popping up when they are toasted. Encourage them to squat down as low as they can when placed “into the toaster” and to pop up as high as they can when they’ve been “toasted.” You can even use exaggerated arm movements to pretend to butter the toast (wave your arms in a giant movement from one side of your body to the other) or to add peanut butter and jelly!
4. You could also have the children imagine that they are the cake batter (or cookie dough) being spun around in the mixer. Challenge the children to move around as if they were the batter.

Options

- Encourage children to think of other things (machines, tools, etc.) that are used around their house or school to make doing certain things easier. Encourage children to move as if they were in the middle of the action within each of the following household machines:

Machine	Action	Movement Idea
Washing Machine	Spin cycle	Invite the children to spin and twist as if they were a piece of clothing in the spin cycle.
Dryer	Tumble dry	Invite the children to move high and low, around and around as if they were a piece of clothing in the dryer.
Dishwasher	Swooshing water	Encourage children to imitate the water inside the dishwasher as it swooshes around to get the dishes clean.
Microwave	Popping popcorn	Have the children pretend they are microwave popcorn in the microwave. Encourage them to jump/hop like a kernel of popcorn does as it cooks.
Stove/Oven	Cooking eggs in a pan	Invite the children to pretend they are eggs sizzling in a pan on the stovetop.

- Invite the children to play a game of “Change the Setting.” Begin by asking the children to move as if they were a milkshake being mixed in the blender at a very slow speed. Then, have them demonstrate how they would move if the blender were set at a very high speed, then again at medium speed. Try this with other appliances as well.

