

Game Ideas for 1-2 Year Olds

Using Toy: Soft Balls



Toy: Large Soft Balls (or textured sensory balls, rubber balls)

(Safe, easy to grip, doesn't roll too fast, versatile)

Movement & Motor Fun

1. **Roll and Chase**

Gently roll the ball and encourage your toddler to crawl or walk after it.

2. **Push-Push Parade**

Let your child push the ball across the floor like a vehicle — make "beep beep!" sounds.

3. **Obstacle Rolling**

Place soft toys or pillows around and have them roll the ball *through* or *around* the obstacles.

4. **Drop and Bounce**

Drop the ball from different heights (your lap, chair, floor) and watch how it bounces or rolls.

Sensory & Discovery Play

1. **Basket Drop**

Set a laundry basket or box and drop the ball into it. Celebrate the "goal"!

2. **Roll on Textures**

Let the ball roll across a blanket, mat, or bubble wrap. Encourage feeling with hands and feet.

3. **Sound Ball**

Tape something soft like bells or foil to the ball and listen to the noise as it moves.

4. **Wet & Dry Ball**

Use water play — wet one ball and keep one dry. Let your toddler explore the difference.

Pretend & Role Play

1. **Feed the Ball to a Monster**

Make a "mouth" with a cardboard box and "feed" the ball into it like food.

2. **Bedtime Ball**

Pretend the ball is a baby. Wrap it in a blanket, rock it, and say goodnight.

3. **Shopping Game**

Pretend the ball is an item from a store. Put it in a bag or basket and go “shopping.”

4. **Doctor Ball**

Check the ball’s “health” with a toy stethoscope or spoon. Bandage it up with a tissue!

Creative & Quiet Time

1. **Painting Rolling**

Dip the ball in (non-toxic) paint and roll it across paper inside a tray – great for sensory art.

2. **Peekaboo Ball**

Hide the ball under a scarf or cup. Say “Where did it go?” and uncover with excitement.

3. **Mirror Play**

Roll the ball in front of a mirror and watch how your toddler reacts to its movement and reflection.

Songs & Language Play

1. **Ball Song Time**

Use songs like “Roll, Roll, Roll Your Ball” or “Where is Ball?” with actions.

2. **Pass the Ball**

Sit across from each other and roll the ball back and forth, singing a tune while passing.

Sorting & Stacking

1. **Color Hunt**

If you have multiple balls, ask the child to find “the red ball” and place it in a matching container.

2. **In & Out Game**

Put the ball into a bucket, take it out, repeat. Helps with object permanence and language (“in,” “out”).

3. **Stack & Knock**

If balls are stackable or squishy, try to make a short stack and knock it over – over and over again.