

Creative Movement for Older Babies and Toddlers: PATHWAYS
curvy, straight, and zigzag
Ideas to relate the concepts of PATHWAYS to the multiple intelligences:

- Visual/
Spatial:** Crafty! You could give your child an inexpensive drawing book of his/her own. These little steno notebooks can be purchased at any drugstore, and are wonderful for carrying around with you. You can compliment your child's growing collection of straight, zigzag and curvy lines!
- Kinesthetic:** Stickers! Place different colored removable stickers on the floor. Suggest to your child new ways of moving from sticker to sticker. This is great for developing focus, and is a new way for kids to start developing choices.
- Linguistic/
aural:** Play connect-the-dots, but with a twist: Make up a little story as you connect dots on a apiece of paper with zigzag, curvy or straight pathways. Maybe it starts, "Once upon a time thee was a line..." OR, as your child draws, name the pathways s/he is using.
- Logical/
math:** Crafty! The mud is gonna fly -- at your own monster truck paint pull! Use little washable cars rolled through paint to make fabulous tracks across paper. You could try the same activity with plastic animals, noticing their unique tracks. (The bravest cruise directors among you may even let your little ones paint pathways on the tub and tiles...)
- Spiritual/
nature:** Can you find animal tracks in your environment? It might seem tricky to find them in the city, but you could look for bird tracks around puddles, or paw prints in the mud. Can you and your dancer make tracks? What do they look like?
- Musical:** Homemade marching band! Everyone has a song to sing or an instrument to play -- even if they're off-tune and homemade! You could even use a portable stereo as you move in, around and out of rooms using curvy, straight and zigzag pathways.
- Emotional:** Do different pathways seem to have different kinds of feelings associated with them? Experiment with music and movement. Does a zigzag pathway feel silly? Does a curvy pathway seem sad...or just relaxed? You can begin to talk about 'feeling words as you explore...
- Practical life:** Little helpers love to clean up, and a sponge and soapy water can be a wonderful tool for making bubbly curves, zigzags and straight lines!
- A few extra
ideas for
those
squirrely
moments
Great play
equipment
for cheap** Could you make an indoor tape roadway for your child's collection of cars or animals?

A fun, easy and imaginative "toy" for kids of all ages are carpet squares. If you find the right store, you can usually pick 'me up for about a buck apiece. Kids can play dot-to-dot with them, as well as about 4,000 other games they'll invent as they grow!