



Little Goalkeeper

Catch the monster's ball and protect the toy animals.

Helps Your Child Grow



Gross Motor

Watching the ball's direction and speed and moving the hands and body into its path gives your child practice coordinating a catch.



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Staying focused on your throwing movement and the ball's flight gives your child practice watching for change and responding at the right moment.

Steps

- Stand face-to-face with your child and place several toy animals behind them. Keep one soft ball for throwing.
- Pretend to be a monster while your child is the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper catches each ball to protect the animals.
- Begin close together and toss the ball slowly and gently so your child can become familiar with the catch.
- If the ball gets past and touches an animal, use a playful monster voice: "Oops, the ball got through! Can your animals stand up again?"
- Your child can set the animals upright and return to the ready position for another throw.
- As catching becomes easier, move a little farther away or toss from a different direction. Adjust one challenge at a time to what you observe.
- At the end, let the monster collapse dramatically: "What an amazing goalkeeper!"

Tips

- Make the first few tosses easy to catch. Early success can make your child eager for another round.
- Before each toss, say, "Ready - I'm throwing!" so your child has time to watch and prepare.

Observations

- ☐ Catches a ball you toss toward them
- ☐ Watches your movement and the ball closely while preparing to catch it