



## **Play to Learn! June 1, 2022**

### **Edmonds Park - Outdoors!**

#### **Toddler Tiger Tail**

##### ***Materials Needed:***

- An open outdoor space on grass, free of obstacles
- Scrap of colourful fabric 50-100 cm long to use as a tiger tail

##### ***Directions:***

- Explain that the two of you will pretend to be tigers (or lions, cheetahs, etc.)
- Tuck one end of the fabric into the back of your child's pants and explain that this is her "tail".
- Say, "I'm going to get your tail!" and encourage your child to run away.
- Chase your child and snatch her tail.
- Change your roles and tuck the fabric into your own pants, and then encourage your child to chase you.
- Make "big cat" noises as you play (tiger, lion, etc.)

##### ***Variation:***

- Create "safe" places where you are not permitted to grab tails. Then encourage your child to run from one "safe" space to another without having her tail snatched. You can "prowl" around at a distance and give her the opportunity to decide whether or not she is safe to run.

***Toddler Tiger Tail will help your child's development in the following areas:***



##### **Physical Health & Well-Being**

- This activity develops gross motor skills such as, agility, balance, speed and early running.
- Gross motor skill development involves large muscles in the arms, legs and torso, and form

the basis for fine motor skills (the smaller muscles in the body, like those in the hands, fingers and thumbs).



### **Language & Cognitive Development**

- This game helps children practice decision making and the ability to “read” the situation, especially when played with the “safe” zones.
- Making animal sounds are like building blocks for creating other words, and sentences later on.



### **Social Competence and Emotional Maturity**

- Children develop resiliency, or the ability to bounce back from disappointment when their tail is snatched.
- Playing games with simple rules helps build focus and concentration, essential components for learning.



### **Communication Skills & General Knowledge**

- Taking turns helps children learn the back and forth rhythm of communication, about fairness, compromise and negotiation.
- Taking turns also helps develop self-control and delayed gratification (the ability to wait).
- Learning about new things, like tigers and other big cats, fosters interest and knowledge about the world we live in.