

Off-Limits

The 2022 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Helena Yoon
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A slightly opened 'off-limits' room invites a curious young child in to explore its contents: office supplies. The playful and creative play that comes next acts as an inspiration for us all to seek out more fun in the everyday. Independent play supports language development, and the unstructured materials boost imaginative expression.

Activity Ideas for *Off-Limits*:

- Sticky notes are a fun tool for all kinds of early math activities. Write the numbers 1-10 on individual sticky notes and place them around your home. Have your child go on a number find by starting with the number one. Once they locate the correct sticky note, have them create a number line. Once they find all 10, let them take a turn hiding the numbers for you! This time, find the numbers in reverse order, beginning with the number 10. This type of activity will help your child gain number sense, the ability to count forwards and backwards.
- You are your child's first role model, and it is common for a child to want to copy what they see you do. Create a pretend play experience for your child based on your job, hobbies or household activities. Do you like to bake? Set up a play space filled with mixing bowls and spoons. Are you a grocery store clerk? Turn a table into a stocking station with recycled boxes. Do you work from home on your computer? Turn a cardboard box into a make-believe laptop!
- Gather a box of unexpected playthings from around the house with your child. Can you pull one item from each room? Bring them together in the same space and use them as tactile storytelling props. Begin with a familiar story as your setting or just let their imagination flow. Soon, forks can become brave princesses as washcloths fly as daring dragons!

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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