



## WASHING UP

Suits ages 24 months +



### ***What you'll need***

- A washing up bowl
- Washing up liquid
- Sponge or cloth
- Tea towel
- Items to wash

### ***What you do***

1. Set up a washing up bowl filled with warm soapy water.
2. Have a selection of items to wash – these could be plastic crockery\* or toys.
3. Encourage your child to wash the dirt from the items.
4. Encourage your child to help you clean and dry the toys.
5. Encourage your child to put them away.

*\*Children are very capable of doing this with china dishes as long as they are supervised and made aware of the consequences if something is dropped.*

This activity is excellent for developing children's independence skills and self-confidence. It allows them to feel they make a positive contribution to the house as they feel they are helping you do your 'jobs'. It is also lots of fun and great for developing fine motor skills. Talk about the bubbles the children are making whilst they are washing up – what colours can they see? What shapes are being made?

To extend this activity encourage your child to talk about the changes – what happens if no soapy water is used... does the dirt wash off? This is a great way to extend thinking skills.