

Busy Box Ideas

Guidance

You can create a busy box from any container filled with items that you can find around the home such as pom poms, buttons or building blocks. Busy boxes are a great way to entertain younger children, while also developing fine motor skills and encouraging independent exploration. We have created cards for some of the items that you might like to include in your box. Each card contains questions or suggested activities that you could use to help your child get the most from this time.



Pom Poms

Sort your pom poms by colour.

Sort your pom poms by size.

Sort your pom poms by material.

How many different groups can you make with your pom poms?

Use your pom poms to write your name.

Magnetic Letters

Sort your letters by colour.

Group your letters.

Write your name using your letters.

Write as many 3-letter words as you can.

How many different sounds can you make with your letters?

Coins

Sort your coins by colour.

Sort your coins by shape.

Order your coins by size.

Order your coins by value.

How many different groups can you make with your coins?

Lollipop Sticks

Create a triangle with your sticks.

Create a square.

Create a shape with more than 5 sides.

Create a shape with an even number of sides.

How many 3D shapes can you create using your lollipop sticks?

Extension

Draw or paint a pattern onto paper or card. Copy the pattern using your pom poms.

Extension

Write words onto lollipop sticks or cards. Copy the words using your letters and say the word.

Extension

Create price tags for your toys. Work out which coins you will need to pay for each item.

Extension

Number your lollipop sticks. Practise counting by ordering them or counting in jumps.

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Buttons

- Sort your buttons by colour.
- Sort your buttons by size.
- Sort your buttons by shape.
- Thread your buttons onto string to create a bracelet.
- Thread your buttons onto pipe cleaners to create trees.

Extension

Draw or paint a pattern onto paper or card. Copy the pattern using your buttons.

Playing Cards

- Sort the cards by number.
- Sort the cards by suit.
- Group the cards into even and odd numbers.
- Put the cards in order from smallest to greatest.
- Cut the cards in half and match them back together again.

Extension

Choose two cards at random. Add them together – what is the answer?

Coloured Pasta

- Sort your pasta by colour.
- Sort your pasta by shape.
- How many different groups can you make with your pasta?
- Thread your pasta onto string to create a necklace.
- Make a pattern using your pasta.

Extension

Use your pasta to fill containers of different sizes. You could use bottles, pans, mugs or tubs.

Building Bricks

- Sort your bricks by colour.
- Sort your bricks by size.
- Create something using only 10 bricks.
- Write your name using your bricks.
- Create something using an odd number of bricks.

Extension

Draw or print an image of something to recreate using bricks.