

Home made toys

Babies to 12 months

PLAY
IDEAS 20

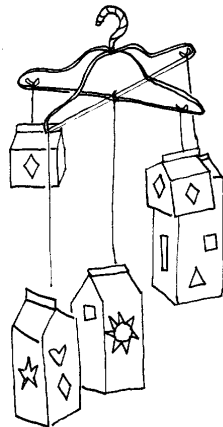
ABOUT
BABY TOYS

Home-made toys are fun, easy to make, have minimal cost, and develop creativity in your child. You can make them for your child's special interests and needs.

MOBILES

Objects:

Cross two wire coat hangers over each other and secure with insulation or masking tape. Hang various bright items from the hangers, for example cartons covered in contact or gift-wrap; small, safe felt toys; or different coloured plastic spoons. Hang with short lengths of fishing line and secure well so it is balanced.



Straws:

Thread straws onto fishing line with a needle. Use a button, large bead or a piece of cut straw as an anchor. Divisions can be made from cut straws after every third straw.

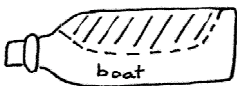


Pram or car-capsule mobiles:



Collect plastic lids from jars/aerosol cans, plastic spoons, plastic rings and similar safe toys. Thread onto firm, 6mm elastic or plastic string. Knot at ends and tie to pram/capsule with easy untying on one end. A longer string can be attached to one end to make a "pull-along" toy when baby is walking.

BATH TIME FUN



Boats:

Draw a shape on the outside of a plastic bottle with a waterproof pen. Fill the bottle with warm water to soften the plastic. Empty water before cutting out shape with a craft knife or scissors.



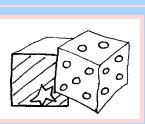
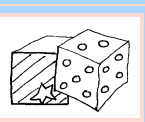
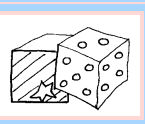
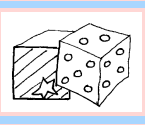
Scoops:

Use a 2 litre milk bottle. Hold bottle by the handle and draw a line to the diagonal opposite corner with a waterproof pen. Fill bottle with warm water to soften the plastic. Empty water before cutting bottle with a craft knife or scissors.

This scoop can also have holes punctured with a hot skewer to make a sieve.

The scoop with the lid removed becomes a funnel.

This toy is a bucket, spade, funnel, and sieve in one!



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TOUCH AND DISCOVER



Scrunch bag: Insert tied plastic bags, cellophane and tissue paper into a small mesh fruit/onion bag. Tie a knot each end. Mesh must be small enough so that baby cannot get fingers caught.

Stocking ball: Roll up colourful stockings and form into a ball. Stitch over open end. It's safe, soft, and colourful!



Shakers: Small plastic bottles containing lentils, rice, bells, or cut up plastic drinking straws. Secure lid with nail varnish, glue or electrical tape.

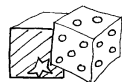
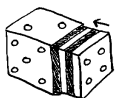
Floor rug: Use a remnant of quilted dressing gown material or an existing "bunny rug". Sew on pieces of brightly coloured, washable, textured material. Make a casing to hold a piece of acrylic mirror.



Rattles: Join 3 or 4 shower curtain plastic hooks together with insulating tape.

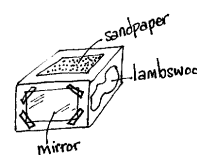
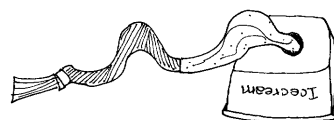
Rolly toy: Cut down 2 plastic bottles and fill with coloured lids or table tennis balls before pushing bottles together, and wrapping raw edge with insulation tape.

FLOOR TIME FUN

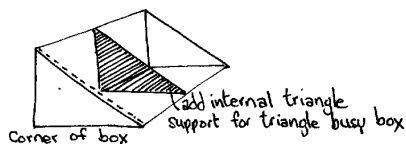


Blocks: Cut 2 milk cartons down and push into each other. Cover in contact, cutting the contact slightly longer than the block. Do not cut contact to fit each side, as the baby will pull at the edge of each piece. Or glue different textured materials to the block with "aquadhere". Or draw on coloured dots to make a dice.

Magic scarf box: Cut a circle in the bottom of an ice-cream container with a craft knife or scissors. Tie several old scarves to a piece of plastic string. Make 2 holes in the lid of the ice cream container, and thread, then tie, the ends of the craft string through from the inside, storing the scarves inside. Secure lid to container with insulation tape. This toy sits on the lid section.



Busy box: Take a wine cask or similar size cardboard box. Insert plastic lids, cotton reels, or bells into box before sealing it up with tape. Cover box with contact. Glue different textures to top and bottom of cask eg. Lamb's wool innersole, and sandpaper. Use insulation tape to attach a small acrylic mirror, zip fastener or spring peg.



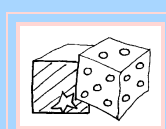
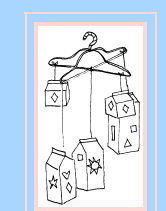
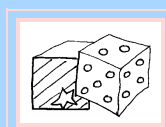
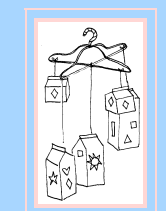
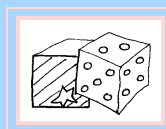
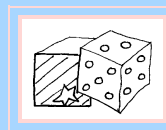
Variation: triangle box: - attach acrylic mirror on one side and photos of family or babies on other side. Use a corner of a substantial box to get the triangle shape, and cut to size, adding internal triangle support.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Supervise children closely while making toys, especially if using knives/scissors/glue/paint/staplers etc. Be aware of choking hazards and toxic materials.

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