

READ.MAKE.DO.

Let's Play, Babies!

Thank you for picking up your Read. Make. Do. Kit

In this kit, you will find:

- 1 container of shaving cream (sensory bag)
- 1 gallon Ziploc bag (sensory bag)
- 2 paint containers (sensory bag)
- 2 empty bottles with screw-tops (sensory bottles)
- A small assortment of beads (sensory bottles)
- 1 roll of masking tape (various activities)
- A set of 8 large buttons (various activities)
- 3 pipe cleaners (various activities)
- 2 sheets of contact paper
- Instructions and activity ideas
- A booklist

I hope you have fun! Please contact me if you have any questions

or feedback: anna.krueger@co.ramsey.mn.us

—Anna



We'd love to see your fun! Share your play photos and tag us on social media!
#RCLReadMakeDo @rclreads

Books and Resources

Ramsey County Library website

Visit the kid's section of the library's webpage to find lots of great resources for your family, and to connect with one of the children's librarians

<https://www.rclreads.org/kids/>

Storytime Snacks

You can access video recordings of your favorite librarians singing songs, telling flannel board stories, and more at our Storytime Snacks page. Scroll down for some baby bounces and play along at home!

<https://my.nicheacademy.com/kidsathome?category=4002>



1. Fun Baby Learning Games: Activities to Support Development in Infants, Toddlers, and Two-year-olds by Sally Goldberg

2. 1001 Fun Ways to Play by Susan Davis

3. Let's Play and Learn Together: Fill your Baby's Day With Creative Activities That Are Fun and Enhance Development by Roni Leiderman

Little Walks, Big Adventures: 50+ Ideas for Exploring With Toddlers by Erin Buhr

Play & Learn Toddler Activities Book:
200+ Fun Activities for Early Learning by Angela Thayer

Loose Parts 2: Inspiring Play With Infants and Toddlers by Lisa Daly





Let's Play, Babies!

Lots of people wonder what activities are appropriate and fun for babies and young toddlers. Hopefully this kit will give you some new ideas and give you confidence that you're already doing a wonderful job helping your little one grow!

As you play, try to leave room for baby to explore on their own before you "show" them what to do. Tell baby what you see, "Oh, that bottle makes noise when you shake it up and down. It's noisy, do you like it?"

I see you shake it side to side, it's not as noisy that way, is it?"

Remember that mouthing things is normal and safe under close supervision, and some babies are more oral than others so some activities will work better than others!

Please supervise all of these activities closely, since homemade toys can become choking hazards.

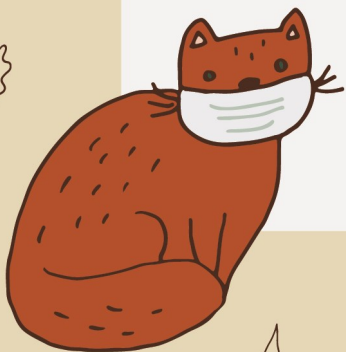


Make a sensory bag:

Ahead of time, pour a quarter-sized blob of yellow paint on one side of the Ziploc bag, and blue on the other side. Add most of the can of shaving cream. **Optional: add a few small objects such as buttons, marbles or glass gems.** Squeeze out as much air as you can, then close and seal it with tape. Use duct tape or packing tape if you have it, otherwise some of the included masking tape will do in a pinch. Tape the bag to a flat surface—floor for tummy time, or a window or door for older babies. Let baby touch, poke, and squeeze. You can draw shapes or letters, or press hands or feet to make prints.

Another variation is to use hair gel instead of shaving cream, and add a variety of everyday objects for baby to look at as they poke and prod.

(more activities on the other side)



Sensory bottles:

Put a selection of small beads into each of the two bottles. Now add liquid to one or both of the bottles (leaving one dry makes a fun rattle). You can use plain water, or a combo of water, hand soap or hair gel. A higher ratio of soap or gel will make the beads move more slowly in the bottle. Screw on the lid and tape securely. The caps have been glued shut, so even if little fingers pry them open, nothing should spill. (These bottles can be fun distractions for the changing table!)

Cling art

With baby in the high chair, or using a wall or cookie sheet, tape a sheet of contact paper flat with the sticky side up. Let baby experiment with sticking things onto the paper. You can use the large buttons included in this kit, food like Cheerios, pieces of colored paper (ripping and tearing are great skills), or any other small baby-safe objects.

Buttons and Pipe Cleaners

Thread buttons or Cheerios on pipe cleaners (bend the tips over so they are not sharp). Save an empty baby wipe container or tissue box and let baby put the buttons in and shake them out. Cut the pipe cleaners into smaller sections & let baby poke them into a colander or drop them into an empty water bottle. Loosely tape buttons to baby's high-chair tray to peel off. Hide a button in your hand or several buttons under cups, and have baby find them. Cheer and clap if they get it right!

Play with Tape

Stick a little tape on baby's foot or hand and see what they do. Loosely tape toys to the floor or wall for baby to practice peeling. Make shapes on the floor, and gently trace them with baby's hand or foot, or fill the shapes with other toys.

Baby I Spy:

Teach baby the names of things around the room by playing baby I spy. Sing or chant "We're looking for a ____.

We're looking for a _____. Hi-ho the derry-o,
we're looking for a _____." Touch the object and sing or chant,
"We found a ____ right there."

