

OCEANetwork Busy Bags and Blessed Moms Activities

Clothes Pin Busy Bag Kits

Supplies:

2 paper plates

1 plain laminated strip of white paper

1 strip of laminated paper with colored dots: <https://oceanetwork.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/color+matching+strips.png>

26 Clothes pins: Red, yellow, blue, and green clothespins or sharpies in those colors.

1. Number Match

- Use a sharpie to draw numbers 1-10 around the edge of one of the plates.
- Use a sharpie to number 10 of your clothes pins with numbers 1-10
- Children practice number recognition by matching the clothes pin numbers to the plate numbers and attaching them one at a time.

2. Lower/Upper Case Letter Match

- Use a sharpie to draw lower case A - Z around the edge of one of the plates.
- Use a sharpie to label the other side of the clothes pins with upper case A - Z.
- Children practice letter recognition and lower/upper case matching by matching the clothes pin letters to the plate letters and attaching them one at a time.

3. Clothes Pin Color and Letter Match Strips

- Cut out a horizontal strips of white paper
- Print the color dot sheet linked above and cut out one of the strips
- Laminate both strips
- Use clothes pins that are red, yellow, blue, and green or add colored dots to your plain clothespins using sharpies.
- Children match the colored pins to the colored dots.
- Use a dry erase marker to write letters or numbers on the blank strip.
- Children use the pins with letters and numbers written on them to match to the letters written on the strip. Practice spelling different words, too, using the matching pins.

Idea credit: <https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/abc-fine-motor-preschool-busy-bag/>

Craft Sticks Busy Bags Kit

Supplies:

Colorful craft sticks

Velcro dots

Craft stick pattern cards: <http://sarainshanghai.com/printables/>

Shape cards (print multiple pages on one sheet to reduce size): <https://preschoolmom.com/preschool-printables/shape-preschool-printables/>

1. Craft Stick Building

- Attach velcro dots to colorful craft sticks (a rough side on one tip and a fuzzy side on the other tip. You can also do double sided, although we just did one side).
- Children can enjoy creative building with craft sticks in any pattern they choose, connecting the ends together.

2. Craft Stick Pattern Matching

- Children can use colorful craft sticks to match the pattern on each of the pattern cards.

3. Craft Stick Shape Matching

- Children can use colorful craft sticks to build shapes matching each of the pattern cards.

Idea credit: <https://www.powerfulmothering.com/velcro-dot-craft-sticks/>

Straws & Pipe Cleaners Busy Bags Kit

Supplies:

Pipe cleaners

Printed alphabet mat/page (we used this one <https://depositphotos.com/25958787/stock-illustration-cartoon-alphabet-characters-vector.html> But you could also use a free one like this <https://kraftimama.com/2019/01/24/flash-cards-and-poster-free/>)

Drinking straws

Shoe lace

Craft foam

Scissors

1. Building with Straws and Pipe Cleaners

Show children how to build structures by putting straws on the ends of pipe cleaners that can be bent like joints. Make squares, cubes, houses, bridges, and anything else they can manage with the pipe cleaners and straws.

2. Alphabet Mat Matching

- Cut plastic straws into 26 1-inch long pieces
- Write the letters of the alphabet on the straws (upper case is easiest)
- Children can practice letter recognition and matching as well as fine motor skills by propping the straw pieces up on the mat on the matching letters.
- Standard straw diameter is more challenging to stand on end and is for older kids. Try using jumbo or smoothie straws for younger kids, or cut a piece of foam into 1-inch pieces for younger kids to place on the mat.

3. Straw Threading

- Tie a knot or two on the end of a shoe lace
- Children can practice fine motor skills by threading the straw pieces on the shoe lace. Optionally, use the alphabet pieces to build words or thread the letters in order.

Idea credit: <https://happybrownhouse.com/straw-pipe-cleaner-busy-bag/> and <https://theeducatorsspinonit.com/abc-fun-busy-bag/>

Rainbow Busy Bags

Supplies:

Colorful foam sheets
Foam brush
Wiggle/crazy straws

1. Rainbow Assembly

- Cut half circle shapes out of foam sheets for the following colors, cutting them smaller as you go down the list to make a layered rainbow: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet/purple.
- Children can use a small bit of water in a bowl and the foam brush to apply water to the pieces and make them stick together into a layered rainbow. Alternatively, use velcro dots.

2. Crazy Rainbows

- Cut foam sheets of various colors into 1 - 2 inch pieces.
- Cut a slit in the center of each piece
- Children can practice fine motor skills and color recognition by threading pieces onto straws in a specified pattern or being creative to make their own crazy rainbows.

Idea credit: <https://viewsfromastepstool.com/rainbow-busy-bags/> and <https://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2014/10/crazy-straw-busy-bag-idea.html>

Pom Pom Busy Bags Kit

Supplies:

Colorful pom poms

1 clothes pin

Plastic lidded containers (cleaned plastic food tubs work best)

Caterpillar printable: (we used this one <https://depositphotos.com/146763807/stock-illustration-counting-number-with-green-caterpillar.html> but you could download this for free as well: <https://www.powerfulmothering.com/counting-caterpillar-busy-bag/>)

1. Pom Pom Push

- Use a knife or scissors to punch one or more holes into the top of the container lid
- Children can practice fine motor skills, color matching, and cleaning up (lol!) by pushing pom poms into the container and dumping them out again.

2. Pom Pom Drop

- Remove the lids from several containers.
- Fill one container with pom poms
- Children can practice fine motor skills and sorting by using a clothes pin to drop pom poms from one container to another. Have them separate the colors, pick the color you call out, etc.

3. Pom Pom Caterpillar

Children can practice counting by placing a pom pom on each section as they count out loud.





