

## What others are saying about *Preschool Activities in a Bag:*

*After becoming pregnant with my third child on some days I would put the kids in front of the TV while I took my daily nap. Now when it is time for my nap the kids are asking, "Hey Mom, can we do our Preschool Activities instead of watching TV?" What a blessing the activities have been for me. Thank you so much for creating this much-needed book! ~ Carol V.*

*My kids love the preschool activities. They have spent so much time doing them already. In fact, sometimes when I am trying to make lunch, I will put a movie on for them to watch, but now they just want to play with their new activities. ~ Rebecca C.*

*My 12-year-old daughter put the Preschool Activities into a handy carry along tub to take with her on her baby-sitting jobs. When she shows up to baby-sit, both the parents and kids she's baby-sitting for are especially happy to see her! The kids can't wait to get some of the activities out of the tub, and it makes the parent to baby-sitter transition so much easier. The parents are so impressed and pleased with the activities, knowing that while they're away their children will not only be entertained, but also learning while they play. These activities have helped my daughter go from being a "good" baby-sitter, to becoming a "great" baby-sitter! ~ Mia G*

*It is well worth the time and money to make 20 of the same activities and then get 20 different activities. My kids love them and it's a great gift to give away. ~ Wendy D.*

*These activities are a blessing and great for little guys to work with independently. ~ Becky D.*

*I am so grateful for "Activities in a Bag" because it helps me give my kids activities that they enjoy and learn from, especially because I greatly lack creativity - this is a great help! Thanks ~ Norma B.*

*It's amazing how for so little money and time our preschool resources multiply and have such broad skill sets. ~ Tina S.*

*The Preschool Activity I got was great! It was inexpensive to make, educational, fun and easy for my 3-year-old to do alone. I am very excited to see the other 19 bags. So is my son! Thank you both. ~ Shelby M.*

*I love the idea of things for my son to do to keep him busy. ~ Lori G.*

*The idea of compiling activities for preschoolers is terrific. Thank you for letting me be a part of it this project. ~ Shana C.*

*I am the home school mom of 6 kids and I just love the Preschool Activities in a Bag!! They are so convenient. I just grab a bag out of my box and plop it down in front of one of my preschoolers and I have peace and quiet until they are ready for another activity! Wow! I would recommend this book to anyone with preschoolers. Preschool Activities in a Bag take me away! ~ Grace R.*

*When I was first introduced to the idea of the activity bags, I didn't fully appreciate the purpose of them! But, as I heard about my grandchildren's enthusiasm, I began to understand. Then, as a full time caregiver of a developmentally disabled young woman, I decided to let her "try them out"! She was totally focused while doing the activity. She looks forward to the time that she can spend with the activities. These have helped her to focus, helps with her coordination and she feels like she is accomplishing something important. I am so blessed to have a daughter that "listened" to the Lord's leading in this idea and for her to have a special friend to share in the creation of "Activity Bags". These are truly two very special women whom I have the honor of knowing and loving! I am truly blessed. ~ Karen H.*

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Greetings friends of a Preschooler,

You might be asking yourself, "What are ***Preschool Activities in a Bag?***" Good question! Quite simply, they are self-guided activities that a preschooler can do by himself with little to no help. He can see immediately if the activity was done correctly, and each activity is contained in a one-gallon zipper bag. When we were developing and testing these activities, our goal was to keep the cost at about \$1 per activity bag. Some may cost a little less and some may cost a little more. These activities are fun for the child to do and they teach a valuable skill at the same time. Children gain confidence as they learn

new skills, so they are much better prepared for school. But please, do not think that preschoolers are the only ones that enjoy these activities. Many of our test moms reported that their older children also enjoyed many of the activities. Each activity has been assembled by a test mom and tested by at least 25 preschoolers. We are happy to say that we have heard many moms and preschoolers raving about the activities. In fact, our favorite question from our own preschoolers is, "Mom, can I please do another activity?"

### **How did it all start?**

Paula and Sherri are both home school moms. Paula has 7 children and Sherri has 4. One day in the summer of 2002, Paula was thinking of the upcoming school year and wondered what she was going to do with her 3-year-old boy while she schooled the older children. She wanted something that would be fun, educational, and easy to use that he could do independently. She called her friend Sherri and together they brainstormed and came up with the idea of putting Preschool Activities in a Bag. At first, they were just going to put a few together for themselves, but then they thought it would be fun to include a few other moms. They thought that they might be able to get 10 moms to participate. Each mom would get the instructions for putting 1 activity together 10 times and then they would get together and swap them so each mom would have 10 different activities. This is where the fun started!! Two days later they had 25 moms who wanted to participate in this swap! They had a few activities in mind but certainly not 25, so they got together for a brainstorming session to come up with enough activities. It was during this brainstorming session that they realized there were a lot of other moms who needed help keeping their preschoolers busy with productive activities, so they decided to put their ideas into a book.

The first swap was held just before school started. The activity bags were a hit! Everyone loved them. Since they also had a waiting list of moms wanting to participate, they decided to come up with more activities to test for their book. 80 new activities were written up and ready to be tested the following summer. By then, information about this project had spread like a wild fire and there were plenty of moms to test all the new activities. In the summer of 2003, they hosted 4 swaps to test the new activities. Each swap consisted of 20 participants. Some of the participants even participated in more than 1 swap. These swaps were also a huge success! Paula and Sherri even had moms calling them wanting to know when there would be another swap.

Now that they had all the activities tested, they needed to test the coordinator position. They knew they could coordinate a swap, but they needed to know if they could communicate to someone else how to do it. They had 5 volunteers to test that position.

With feedback from the moms who tested the activities and the volunteer coordinators, and over 100 completed activities at home, they were ready to begin writing their book. *Preschool Activities in a Bag - Book 1* is the result of Paula and Sherri planning and working for almost 2 years along with the hard work of 70 other moms assembling more than 3000 activity bags. WOW!

# Who Can Use Preschool Activities?

Below are some ideas for using *Preschool Activities in a Bag*.  
Get creative and think of some on your own. Have fun!

## 1. Preschoolers

- A mom can give these activities to her preschoolers while she is home schooling her older children, cleaning the house, cooking a meal, or any other time she needs to get something done. She can also sit down with her preschooler and do the activities with them, which will greatly enhance the activities.
- Teachers in preschools and day care centers can use these activities for the preschoolers in their care.
- Playgroups can use these activities to give the preschoolers something fun and educational to do.

## 2. Developmentally Disabled

Anyone who cares for the developmentally disabled can put these activities together and have them available for use by those in their care.

## 3. Doctors' Offices

This would be a great way to occupy young children in waiting rooms. The activities could be kept behind the receptionist's desk and checked out one at a time.

## 4. Baby-sitters

Just imagine having fun activities to pull out of your bag to entertain the preschoolers you are baby-sitting. You just might be their favorite baby-sitter!

## 5. Baby Showers

This would be a great gift to welcome a new baby who will be a preschooler before too long.

## 6. Birthday parties

Each person invited could make up a couple activities to give to the birthday child.

## 7. Grandmothers

You could give these activities as a gift or keep them at your house for fun when your grandchildren come for a visit. Better yet, you could do both!

## 8. Missionary Families

What a blessing to be able to send something fun and educational to missionary families with preschoolers.

## 9. Co-op School Groups

You can use these activities for a school co-op that has preschoolers.

## 10. Church Nursery

Amazingly enough, even 2 year olds can do some of these activities with adult supervision. The activities will keep them busy and keep them learning.



## PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY SKILLS

Below is a list of skills that can be learned by doing Preschool Activities in a Bag.  
The skills that are listed are just a few examples, since they are too numerous to list all of them.

Activity Name	123 Order	ABC Order	Color	Consumable	Motor Skills	Hand/Eye Coordination	Matching	Observation	Patterning	Puzzle	Sorting
1. 123 Trail	X						X				
2. ABC 123 Match	X	X					X				
3. ABC Puzzles		X								X	X
4. All Mixed Up											X
5. Alpha Beads		X			X						
6. Alpha Spoons		X									
7. b or d?							X				X
8. Bean Bag Toss					X	X					
9. Boredom Buster					X						
10. Can You Remember?							X	X	X		
11. Can You Remember Numbers?							X	X	X		
12. Catalog Collage				X	X						
13. Chalkboard Fun	X	X			X	X					
14. Clip the Square			X		X		X				X
15. Clips-N-Straws					X	X					
16. Color Me Puzzles					X					X	X
17. Cut-N-Collage				X	X						
18. Fabric Pattern Cards							X				X
19. Grid Matching							X				
20. Hand Puzzle	X									X	
21. Hidden Treasure								X			
22. It's in the Pocket							X				
23. Lets Go Fishing					X	X					
24. Link-N-Sort					X						X
25. Magnify It								X			
26. Match the Bead					X	X	X				X
27. Number-N-Shape Puzzle	X						X			X	X
28. Punchy, Punchy				X	X						
29. Ring Toss					X	X					
30. Sewing Board					X	X					
31. String It					X	X					
32. Tear It Up				X	X						
33. Texture Rubbing				X	X						
34. Tissue Collage				X	X						

## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Below is a list of the preschool activities in alphabetical order. We included a description of each activity, skills learned, general supplies needed for assembly and the masters needed.

1. **123 TRAIL**: Help the bunny find the carrot by making a trail of numbers.  
**Skills Learned**: Number recognition and number order.  
**General Supplies Needed**: sheet protectors, clear contact paper, cardstock copies  
**Masters Needed**: 2, pages 62-63
2. **ABC-123 MATCH**: Foam letters and numbers are placed on a paper guide for an exact match.  
**Skills Learned**: ABC order, matching skills, number order, correct letter and number orientation.  
**General Supplies Needed**: foam letters and numbers or an extra copy of the masters and contact paper to laminate, sheet protectors, cardstock copies  
**Masters Needed**: 2, pages 64-65
3. **ABC PUZZLES**: Upper case letters are matched with lower case letters. When the correct letters are put together there is a picture on the back that begins with that letter.  
**Skills Learned**: Letter recognition, matching upper & lower case letters, sorting by color, ABC order.  
**General Supplies Needed**: sheet protectors, cardstock copies  
**Masters Needed**: 9, pages 66-74
4. **ALL MIXED UP**: All types of objects will be sorted by shape, color, size, etc.  
**Skills Learned**: Matching, sorting, color recognition.  
**General Supplies Needed**: assorted items, condiment cups, cardstock copies  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 75
5. **ALPHA-BEADS**: Letters are formed using strings of beads.  
**Skills Learned**: Alphabet recognition, letter formation, small motor skills, hand-eye coordination.  
**General Supplies Needed**: cardstock copies, string, pony beads, cardstock  
**Masters Needed**: 8, page 76-83
6. **ALPHA-SPOONS**: Upper case letters are matched to the correct lower case letters.  
**Skills Learned**: Upper and lower case letter recognition, ABC order.  
**General Supplies Needed**: plastic spoons, cardstock copies, sheet protectors  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 84
7. **b or d?**: Pictures that begin with b or d are matched to help distinguish the two letters and their sounds.  
**Skills Learned**: Letter recognition, thinking skills, sound recognition, matching skills, game skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: cardstock, cardstock copies, stickers, clear contact paper  
**Masters Needed**: 2, pages 85-86
8. **BEAN BAG TOSS**: Small beanbags are tossed onto a target on the floor or a container can be supplied for the target.  
**Skills Learned**: Hand-eye coordination, target practice.  
**General Supplies Needed**: fabric, rice, thread, cardstock copies, sewing machine  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 87
9. **BOREDOM BUSTER**: This activity consists of household activities to do when your kids are bored and nothing you offer them will suffice.  
**Skills Learned**: Household skills enhancement, character building, understanding of how to run a home, practical life experiences, working with hands, responsibility, coordination, and concentration.  
**General Supplies Needed**: cardstock, cardstock copies, clear contact paper  
**Masters Needed**: 2, pages 88-89

10. **CAN YOU REMEMBER?:** This activity has 18 different cards with 3, 4, or 5 objects on each card. The sequence of objects is duplicated from memory.  
**Skills Learned:** Sequential memory skills, matching skills.  
**General Supplies Needed:** cardstock, cardstock copies, contact paper, string or yarn  
**Masters Needed:** 7, pages 90-96
11. **CAN YOU REMEMBER NUMBERS?:** This activity has 18 different cards with 3, 4, or 5 numbers on each card. The sequence of numbers is duplicated from memory.  
**Skills Learned:** Sequential memory skills, matching skills.  
**General Supplies Needed:** cardstock, cardstock copies, contact paper, string or yarn  
**Masters Needed:** 7, pages 97-103
12. **CATALOG COLLAGE:** Pictures are cut out of a catalog and pasted onto a piece of paper to make a collage.  
**Skills Learned:** Use of scissors, glue stick, develops creativity and hand-eye coordination.  
**General Supplies Needed:** scissors, glue sticks, paper, catalogs appropriate for children  
**Masters Needed:** 0
13. **CHALKBOARD FUN:** This activity consists of a chalkboard, chalk, and an eraser.  
**Skills Learned:** Use of chalk, small motor skills and creativity.  
**General Supplies Needed:** mini chalkboard, white chalk, felt, cardstock copies, sheet protectors  
**Masters Needed:** 1, page 104
14. **CLIPS AND STRAWS:** Geometric shapes and objects can be constructed using paper clips and straws.  
**Skills Learned:** Small motor skills, hand-eye coordination, critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.  
**General Supplies Needed:** paper clips, straws in assorted colors, cardstock  
**Masters Needed:** 0
15. **CLIP THE SQUARE:** Colored paper clips are clipped to matching colored squares.  
**Skills Learned:** Sorting skills, fine motor skills, color recognition and matching.  
**General Supplies Needed:** cardstock copies, colored paper clips, clear contact paper, cardstock  
**Masters Needed:** 1, page 105
16. **COLOR ME PUZZLES:** This activity is 2 puzzles that the preschooler can color, cut and put back together.  
**Skills Learned:** Coloring skills, use of crayons, sorting skills, puzzle skills.  
**General Supplies Needed:** cardstock copies, crayons, clear contact paper, cardstock  
**Masters Needed:** 2, pages 106-107
17. **CUT N COLLAGE:** Coloring in shapes, cutting them out and then gluing them to construction paper creates a collage.  
**Skills Learned:** Fine motor skills, use of scissors, and use of glue stick, artistic creation.  
**General Supplies Needed:** child safe scissors, glue stick, copies, construction paper, crayons  
**Masters Needed:** 2, pages 108-109
18. **FABRIC PATTERN CARDS:** This is a memory and matching activity using fabric shapes on cards.  
**Skills Learned:** Matching skills, thinking skills, memory, pattern awareness, color awareness, and shape awareness.  
**General Supplies Needed:** fabric, cardstock copies, cardstock, glue  
**Masters Needed:** 1, page 110

19. **GRID MATCHING**: Foam shapes are matched to identical foam shapes in a grid.  
**Skills Learned**: Matching skills  
**General Supplies Needed**: foam shapes, sheet protectors, cardstock copies, tacky glue  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 111
20. **HAND PUZZLE**: This is a hand puzzle. Are you surprised?  
**Skills Learned**: Number order, puzzle skills, left and right awareness, small motor skills  
**General Supplies Needed**: 8" X 10" foam sheet, cardstock, copies, glue, permanent marker  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 112
21. **HIDDEN TREASURE**: A 16oz. water bottle is filled with rice and small objects waiting to be discovered by moving the bottle around.  
**Skills Learned**: Observation skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: small assorted items, 16 oz. water bottle, glue, rice  
**Masters Needed**: 0
22. **IT'S IN THE POCKET**: A variety of objects are matched to identical objects in clear pockets. This is a great project for cleaning out your junk drawer and craft box since it requires oodles of small items.  
**Skills Learned**: Matching skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: sheet protectors, variety of objects, cardstock, tape  
**Masters Needed**: 0
23. **LETS GO FISHING**: Fish are caught with a magnetic fishing pole.  
**Skills Learned**: Hand-eye coordination, motor skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: foam fish, dowel rod, string, magnet, paper clips, cardstock, glue, and paper  
**Masters Needed**: 0
24. **LINK-N-SORT**: Plastic linking charms are sorted, counted, and linked together.  
**Skills Learned**: Sorting, color recognition, counting skills, creative constructing, hand-eye coordination, and small motor skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: plastic links, coated paper clips, cardstock copies, condiment cups, sheet protectors  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 113
25. **MAGNIFY IT**: Use a magnifying glass to examine various objects.  
**Skills Learned**: Observation skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: assorted items, magnifying glass, cardstock, clear contact paper  
**Masters Needed**: 0
26. **MATCH THE BEAD**: Beads are sorted by type and color on pipe cleaners.  
**Skills Learned**: Hand-eye coordination, matching skills, color recognition, sorting skills  
**General Supplies Needed**: pipe cleaners, assorted beads in 6 colors, cardstock, glue gun  
**Masters Needed**: 0
27. **NUMBER-N-SHAPE PUZZLE**: This activity contains 3 puzzles with 20 pieces each.  
**Skills Learned**: Recognize different shapes, learn numbers 1-20, sorting colors, order placement experience putting together puzzles.  
**General Supplies Needed**: cardstock copies, sheet protectors  
**Masters Needed**: 4, pages 114-117
28. **PUNCHY PUNCHY**: Using a hole punch to punch holes out of paper helps to strengthen the hand muscles.  
**Skills Learned**: Fine motor skills, muscle development in the hand, artistic creation, hand-eye coordination, confidence building  
**General Supplies Needed**: hand held hole punch, assortment of paper, cardstock  
**Masters Needed**: 0

29. **RING TOSS**: This is a ring toss game using pipe cleaner rings and water bottles.  
**Skills Learned**: Aim and accuracy, confidence building, hand-eye coordination, judging distance counting skills.  
**General Supplies Needed**: pipe cleaners or bracelets, 12 – 17 oz. water bottles, rice, permanent marker, glue  
**Masters Needed**: 0
30. **SEWING BOARD**: Sewing stitches are used to sew different shapes and patterns on plastic canvas.  
**Skills Learned**: Fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, thinking skills, artistic creation, sewing skills  
**General Supplies Needed**: plastic canvas, yarn with dipped end, cardstock copies  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 118
31. **STRING IT**: This activity is stringing beads.  
**Skills Learned**: Fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination  
**General Supplies Needed**: string, pipe cleaner, variety of beads, cardstock  
**Masters Needed**: 0
32. **TEAR IT UP**: Using your hands, you can tear out pictures and shapes and then glue them to a piece of paper to make a collage.  
**Skills Learned**: Develop finger muscles; learn to tear different shapes, artistic opportunity, and use of a glue stick.  
**General Supplies Needed**: tissue paper, copies, glue stick, crayons, construction paper  
**Masters Needed**: 1, page 119
33. **TEXTURE RUBBING**: Rubbing a crayon over different objects creates different designs and textures.  
**Skills Learned**: Artistic creativity, texture awareness.  
**General Supplies Needed**: assorted items, crayons, white paper  
**Masters Needed**: 0
34. **TISSUE COLLAGE**: Squares of tissue paper are glued to wax paper and/or construction paper for a stained glass effect.  
**Skills Learned**: Fine motor skills, use of color, creativity.  
**General Supplies Needed**: tissue paper, construction paper, glue stick, wax paper  
**Masters Needed**: 0

