

What others are saying about *Preschool Activities in A Bag*:

I organized a group of moms from our church and we each did one preschool activity. We were able to have a social swap and explain and show our activities. It was great fun and I've had many of the moms say their children were enjoying the activities and when was the next swap! Thanks so much for putting together such a great book. ~ Wendy C.

Even though I do not have kids of my own, I had a lot of fun participating in a swap. Then I sent the Activity Bags along with a book to my best friend in Washington. She called the day she received the box, and was so excited about the gift. She said her kids were already doing the activities and loving them. In fact they kept busy the whole day doing the activities. I am planning on participating in other swaps so that I can send a really cool unique gift to other friends with Preschoolers. ~ Cindy H.

As a home-schooling Mom of seven, these bags have been lifesavers. With a preschooler and kindergartner to keep busy it has been such a blessing to pull out one of the activities and watch them keep occupied and engaged for significant periods of time. Life is busy, and the commitment to do a swap can seem overwhelming at first. However, it really doesn't end up being as time consuming as you think, and that investment is completely worth it. The bags end up being the highlight of the day for my kids, and I am so grateful to be giving them something fun and educational (and compact!) with such ease! ~Beth L.

I did the Activity Bag Swap from the boards, and they are wonderful. I mean wonderful. You would not BELIEVE how much work these ladies put into their bags! So many of them not only followed directions, but added their own personal flare and flavor, and many of them strived for durability, with laminating, using well made pieces, or cardstock. A friend came over yesterday and was amazed at how nice they are! ~ Sandra D

I'm very excited about the Activities in a bag. It is going to really help the parents we work with have appropriate activities to do with their preschoolers. Please let me know when your other books are published. We are looking forward to expanding the amount of activities. This is a real blessing for my Home-Base Program.~ Dionne

* * * * * BOOK REVIEWS * * * * *

No matter where I go or what topic I am talking about one question is common to all situations, "What do you do with the toddler while doing school with the older ones?" Here is the answer! Included in this valuable book are simple and clear directions, a list of what you need, hints, and tips so that you can make up 33 activity bags to keep your toddler busy. Get your toddlers contentedly learning alongside you. The activities will keep your little guy busy while he learns colors, matching, left-right, hand-eye coordination, ordering, and more. Since each one has been tested by at least 70 (make that 76 - we did them all too!) children and moms you know they are easy to make and fun to do. There's also a section on how to get a group of moms to do a bag swap thus saving time and money. All you need to make this a reality is included - FUN! I love it! ~ Mrs. Flem, Publisher TEACHmagazine.com

*"How do we occupy our preschoolers while we're doing school with our older children?" is a cry heard from homeschooling mothers around the globe. **Preschool Activities in a Bag** meets that challenge head on! This 120-page laminated, coil-bound book is well worth the retail price. This book provides specific instructions, materials lists, masters, and helpful hints to make up 34 different activity bags for your preschooler. Bags cover such skills as matching, ordering, color recognition, left-right awareness, artistic creation, hand-eye coordination, and more. Each activity in the book has been assembled by a test mom and tested by at least 25 preschoolers. In fact, the authors included a couple of sample bags in my review packet, and my preschooler loved them!*

The authors of this book go the extra mile by sharing specifics and including resources for a bag swap. A swap allows a group of moms to save time while receiving several activity bags at once. Each mom makes several of one bag and then swaps with the other group members. This allows you to purchase and prepare for ONE activity while receiving the number of bags as moms who participate. If 20 moms participate in your swap, you'll end up with 20 different activity bags. The details included in the swap directions make it virtually foolproof. The authors cover everything from setting dates to the follow-up meeting and include a participation form listing who will provide which activity and a sample cover letter for participants. ~ Product Review By: Dena Wood, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC www.oldschoolhousemagazine.com

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OUR STORY



Greetings friends of a Preschooler,

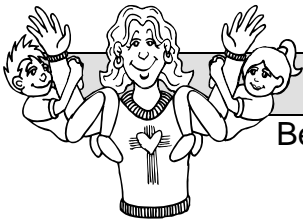
You might be asking yourself, “What are ***Preschool Activities in a Bag?***” Good question! Quite simply, they are self-guided activities contained within a one-gallon zipper bag. A preschooler can do these by himself with little to no help. He can see immediately if the activity was done correctly. While 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 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 and the activity bags were a hit! Everyone loved them. Since there was a waiting list of moms wanting to participate, Sherri and Paula 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.

With feedback from the moms who tested the activities, the volunteer coordinators, and over 100 completed activities at home, they were ready to write the first book in the series. With book 1 completed and selling well, they began working on ***Preschool Activities in a Bag - Book 2***. All this work would not have been possible without 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 homeschooling 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 him/her, 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 activity bags 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 activity bags 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 constant adult supervision. The activities will keep them busy as well as learning.

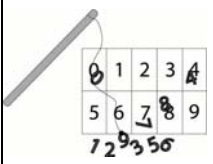



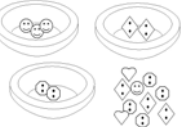

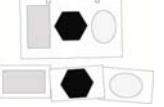
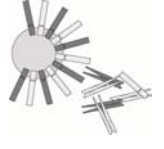

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY SKILLS

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; they are too numerous to list them all.

Activity Name	123 Order	ABC Order	Color	Consumable	Motor Skills	Hand/Eye Coordination	Matching	Observation	Patterning	Puzzle	Sorting
1. ABC 123 Fishing	X	X			X	X	X				X
2. ABC Hidden Treasure		X						X			
3. Alphabet & Color Collage			X	X	X						
4. Alphabet Match		X			X						
5. Bag O' Buttons			X								X
6. Beads-n-Shapes			X		X						
7. Can You Remember Shapes?							X	X			
8. Clip It			X		X		X		X		X
9. Color & Shape Graph			X				X				X
10. Counting Cards	X						X				
11. Drop-N-Plop					X	X					
12. Foam Pattern Match							X		X		
13. Fruits of the Spirit		X			X		X				
14. Fruity Puzzles										X	X
15. Let's Sew Buttons					X		X				
16. Lick-N-Stick			X	X							
17. Match the Colors			X				X	X			X
18. Puzzle Alphabet Shapes		X					X			X	X
19. Puzzle to Puzzle					X		X			X	
20. Shape Tracing				X	X						
21. Slot-N-Notch Sticks					X				X		X
22. Snip-N-Cut				X	X						
23. Some Stick Some Don't					X	X		X			X
24. Sorting Numbers	X						X				X
25. Sort-N-Pour					X						X
26. Sticker Match							X	X			
27. Stick to the Outline				X	X						
28. Stringing Straws					X				X		
29. Trace It				X	X	X					
30. Trace-n-Erase	X	X			X						
31. Walk the Line					X	X					
32. Wally the Worm	X									X	
33. Wrapping Paper Match			X				X	X	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 number of masters needed.

	<p>1. ABC 123 FISHING Skills Learned: motor skills, letter recognition and order, hand eye coordination, sorting skills, number recognition and order General Supplies Needed: foam alphabet & numbers, sheet protectors, wooden dowel, string, magnet. Masters Needed: 2</p>
	<p>2. ABC HIDDEN TREASURE Skills Learned: observation skills, ABC order General Supplies Needed: alphabet beads, rice, glue, 16 oz. water bottles Masters Needed: 0</p>
	<p>3. ALPHABET & COLOR COLLAGE Skills Learned: matching objects with beginning letter sounds, cutting and gluing skills, matching colors, artistic ability General Supplies Needed: construction paper, sticker dots, glue sticks (optional), child safe scissors Masters Needed: 5</p>
	<p>4. ALPHABET & NUMBER MATCH Skills Learned: recognizing upper and lower case letters, matching skills, learning numbers 0-9 General Supplies Needed: sheet protectors Masters Needed: 4</p>
	<p>5. BAG O' BUTTONS Skills Learned: color recognition, fine motor skills, sorting skills, counting skills General Supplies Needed: assorted buttons, condiments cups, sheet protectors (optional) Masters Needed: 1</p>
	<p>6. BEADS-N-SHAPES Skills Learned: shape recognition, shape formation, fine motor skills General Supplies Needed: string, pony beads Masters Needed: 3</p>
	<p>7. CAN YOU REMEMBER SHAPES? Skills Learned: sequential memory skills, matching skills General Supplies Needed: cardstock, contact paper, yarn Masters Needed: 7</p>
	<p>8. CLIP IT Skills Learned: fine motor skills, patterning, sorting, color discrimination, finger muscles General Supplies Needed: wide mouth metal canning lids, clothes pins, mini stickers Masters Needed: 0</p>
	<p>9. COLOR & SHAPE GRAPH Skills Learned: sorting by color, sorting by shape, graphing skills General Supplies Needed: foam shapes, sheet protectors Masters Needed: 1</p>