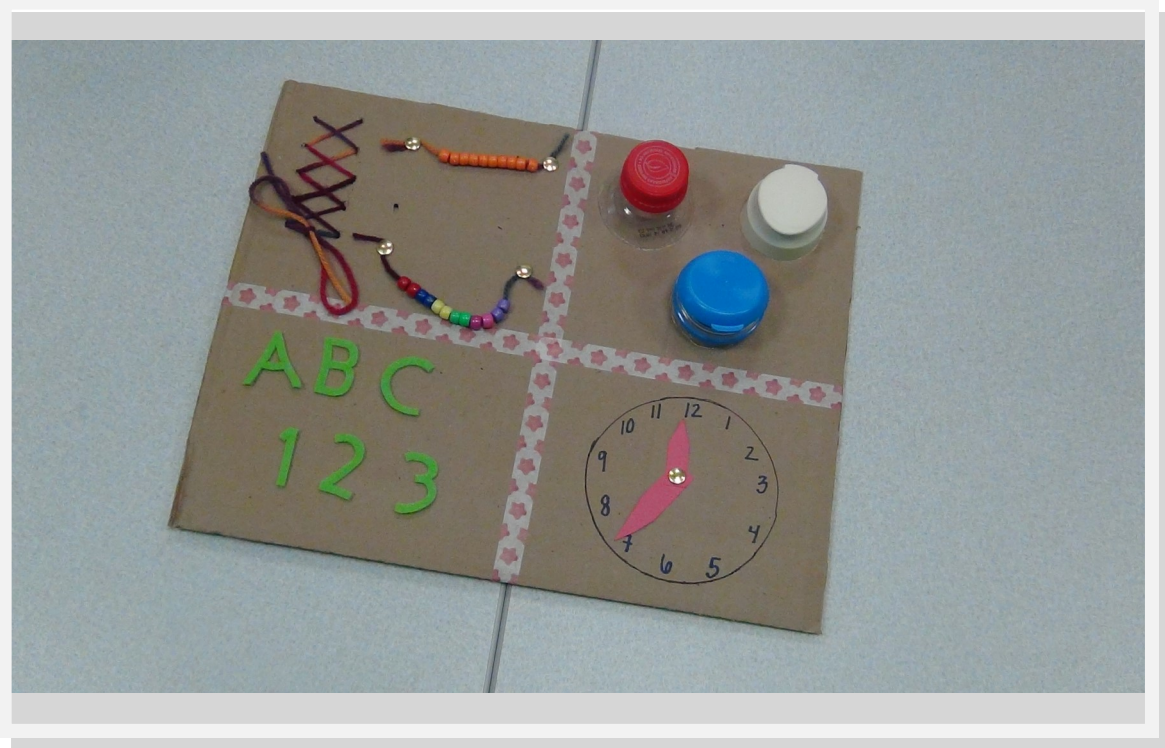




Busy Board



INTRODUCTION

This DIY busy board is ideal to combat travel boredom—and uses materials you probably already have at home! Even though I only list instructions for five learning areas, I encourage you to explore other options for activities that might also work for your child's interests and skill level. Sensory activities come in a wide variety of forms, many of which are super easy to incorporate into a board like this one.

SUPPLIES

- ▶ Flat piece of cardboard
- ▶ Yarn or shoelace
- ▶ Construction paper
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Brads
- ▶ Pony beads
- ▶ Hole punch
- ▶ Markers
- ▶ Sand paper or felt
- ▶ Pop-top lids
- ▶ Hot glue

INSTRUCTIONS

- [1] **LACING.** Punch either **parallel or random holes** in the cardboard. Use either a brad or a hole puncher. Threading can be done with either yarn or a shoelace.
- [2] **COUNTING BEADS.** Punch two holes in the cardboard far enough apart to string desired length of yarn. Knot one end of the yarn around a brad, then string beads with enough room for them to **move around**, tying the other end to another brad. Then, push brads through cardboard, folding both ends back to secure.
- [3] **SENSORY LETTERS.** Draw out and cut out letters onto sandpaper or felt (**or both!**) then hot glue onto the cardboard. Create small words or big letters.
- [4] **PRACTICE CLOCK.** Trace a circle of any size and write in a clock face with numbers. In the center, **make a hole** so that a brad can be pushed through. Create clock hands with construction paper and attach them to the cardboard with a brad. Make sure it is loose enough that the hands can move freely.
- [5] **BOTTLE TOPS.** Hot glue a pop-top from a bottle onto the cardboard, making sure it is **sturdy** enough to handle the tops being taken on and off.

HOW TO USE YOUR BUSY BOARD

This busy board is all about being able to exercise important **early literacy skills** on the go. Lacing and bottle tops help little ones with **dexterity** and **motor skills**, while counting beads, the practice clock, and sensory letters create easy opportunities to practice **letter recognition**, **counting**, and **telling time**. As a portable lap activity, the board can go anywhere your child does – making sure they never miss out on improving their skills.

WANT MORE?

To view a video on this activity plus other Library Make instruction videos, visit the Plano Public Library's official YouTube channel! You can also check out our blog post about this activity at kidsbrainplano.org/librarymake.

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