

Build a Busy Board

Encourage your child's curiosity and tactile skills with this fun toy you can make yourself.



As the name suggests, a busy board is so engaging it keeps your child busy playing with it. Justyn created this busy board (above) for his son Havyk because “he’s constantly moving.” Flipping switches, turning things on and off, opening and closing doors, twisting handles, spinning wheels – anything to keep Havyk’s hands occupied. Although this busy board is made with everyday items found at the local hardware store, you can make a busy board out of anything that holds your child’s interest, such as shiny paper or bows, kitchen utensils, small toys, ribbons, or fabric.

Havyk and Justyn enjoy playing with the busy board together. By placing his hand under Havyk’s and guiding him, Justyn can show him how to open a more difficult latch or remind him

to use his right hand instead of his left. Playing together with the board – with dad imitating Havyk’s noises or narrating what Havyk is doing —helps Havyk build language skills.

Supplies for Havyk’s Busy Board:

- Four-foot-tall smooth, medium density fiberboard
- Buttons, latches, doorstops, wheels, locks, etc.
- Screws
- Screwdriver



One of A Shared Vision’s Western Slope parents made the busy board (above) because her daughter was attracted to items that were shiny. She bought shiny, metallic paper from the crafts store, cut it into shapes, and glued them in a pattern on poster board. You can also use paper that has a bold pattern or texture. She mounted the poster to a blank wall with tape.

For more busy board ideas go to <https://www.pinterest.com/hbu02/busy-board/>

Safety Tips for Building a Busy Board

- Wash all hardware or kitchen utensils with a mild soap before assembling.
- If using fiberboard sand or file sharp edges and corners so they’re splinter-free

- If using paint, make sure it is lead- and toxin-free.
- Make sure all small parts are firmly secured and are not choking hazards.
- Keep any hanging cords, strings, and chains to a maximum length of six inches.
- Be mindful of pieces that might pinch little fingers.
- Always keep close supervision while your child is playing with a busy board.