Craft Ideas

It’s fun to make things for you and your child to play with and enjoy together. Try out some of the following ideas.

**Stick Puppets**
Use a craft stick, ice cream stick, tongue depressor, or even a wooden spoon. For children not yet steady on their feet, use a straw or tightly rolled piece of paper. Cut a circle out of colored paper, tape it on one end of the stick, and decorate it. Use stickers or draw a face.

**Picture Cards**
Use unlined index cards. Glue pictures from magazines, decorative stickers, or even photographs you have taken to the card. Using clear contact paper, place the decorated side of the index card face down on the sticky surface. Cover both sides for durability. Sort into a dishpan or box, which can also be used for storage.

**Can Lids**
Clean juice lids from frozen juice cans are great for “mailing” into a coffee can with a hole cut in the top. You can decorate the lids with stickers or use them as is. The lids make a great sound when dropped in the can!

**Squish Bags**
For the “paint,” you can use pudding. In a bowl, combine contents of one box of instant pudding mix with about 1/2 to 3/4 the amount of water usually required. Chocolate pudding makes great “dirt,” or you can add food coloring to vanilla pudding. Mix well. Put about 1/4 cup mixture into a ziplock bag, press out as much air as possible, and seal well. Reinforce the bag by folding tape over edges.

**Cream Bags**
Use whipped cream or shaving cream (if your child has stopped chewing on everything). Fill a ziplock plastic bag about half full. Add a few drops of food coloring. Seal well and then squeeze to mix. Freezer bags work the best because they are the strongest. Taping the opening end shut helps keep them that way when children play with them.

**Books**
You can make books that follow your child through his or her day, illustrating things that go, a trip to the farm, favorite things, and the like. Glue pictures on lightweight tag board or construction paper. Insert into plastic page protectors or cover both sides with clear contact paper. Punch holes on one side if not using page protectors. Join the pages together in a three-ring binder, use ring fasteners, or tie with yarn. This gives your child his or her own very personal book. If using plastic bags, cut cardboard to fit, draw or glue pictures on the board, insert into the bag, and then sew bags together on one side with yarn to make a book.