

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.

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What is this resource and how do I use it?

Enjoy exploring our range of no-mess busy trays with your little one. These busy trays will encourage your child to explore, play, create and imagine, stimulating your child's senses, without any of the mess! Easy to set up and easy to tidy away, these are fantastic multisensory activities for you and your child to enjoy at home.

What is the focus of this resource?

Busy Trays

Sensory Play

Mess-Free

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Twinkl Parents can help you to make the most out of your busy tray – get started with our **Busy Tray Essentials** guide. One busy tray but so many possibilities; your little one will love playing in their very own **rainbow land**, **fairy garden** or **cafe**.

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No-Mess Busy Trays

This busy tray activity is ideal for little ones from six months of age, once they are able to sit unaided.

Reflections Busy Tray



You will need:

- foil blanket or tinfoil
- child safe mirror
- kitchen utensils (whisk, spoons, teaspoons)
- bells
- silver or gold gift wrap bows
- stainless steel mixing bowl
- anything shiny or reflective you can find in the house
- busy tray

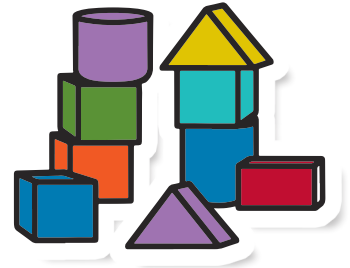
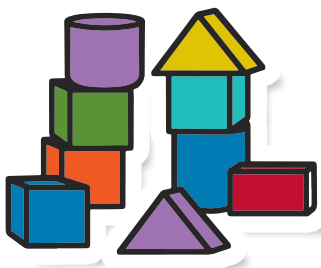
Set-Up

1. Lay out your foil blanket or tinfoil across your busy tray and place your child-safe mirror, bells and kitchen utensils.
2. Take a look around your home to see if you could add anything else shiny to your tray; keys, a metal scourer or a steel colander for example. If you add anything with small parts, please make sure you don't leave your little one unattended and remember keys and scourers are to touch, not to taste!
3. Have fun exploring all of the textures of your busy tray. Your little one will love how the foil reflects the light – this is fantastic for strengthening their eye muscles. They may also enjoy the noise the foil makes too!

No-Mess Busy Trays

This busy tray activity is ideal for little ones from six months of age, once they are able to sit unaided.

Colour Sorting Busy Tray



You will need:

- colourful bricks
- colourful plastic or wooden food
- colourful foam letters
- colourful plastic cups or stacking cups
- colourful stacking rings
- colourful plastic bowls or plates
- colourful plastic spoons
- scoops and plastic tweezers
- busy tray

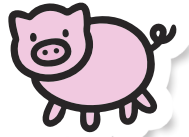
Set-Up

1. Place your colourful items in the centre of the busy tray. These could include plastic bricks, cups, rings, toy food, foam letters – anything colourful and child-friendly you can find in the house.
2. Lay out your colourful plates or bowls around your pile of objects.
3. Now, support your little one in sorting their colourful items into the correct colours. To do this, simply pick up an item and place it onto the correct coloured plate or bowl. Fantastic for developing colour recognition

No-Mess Busy Trays

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Little Town Busy Tray



You will need:

- toy trains, cars and buses
- toy people
- toy animals
- toy fences, bushes and trees (if you have them)
- red, white and blue chalk pens
- busy tray



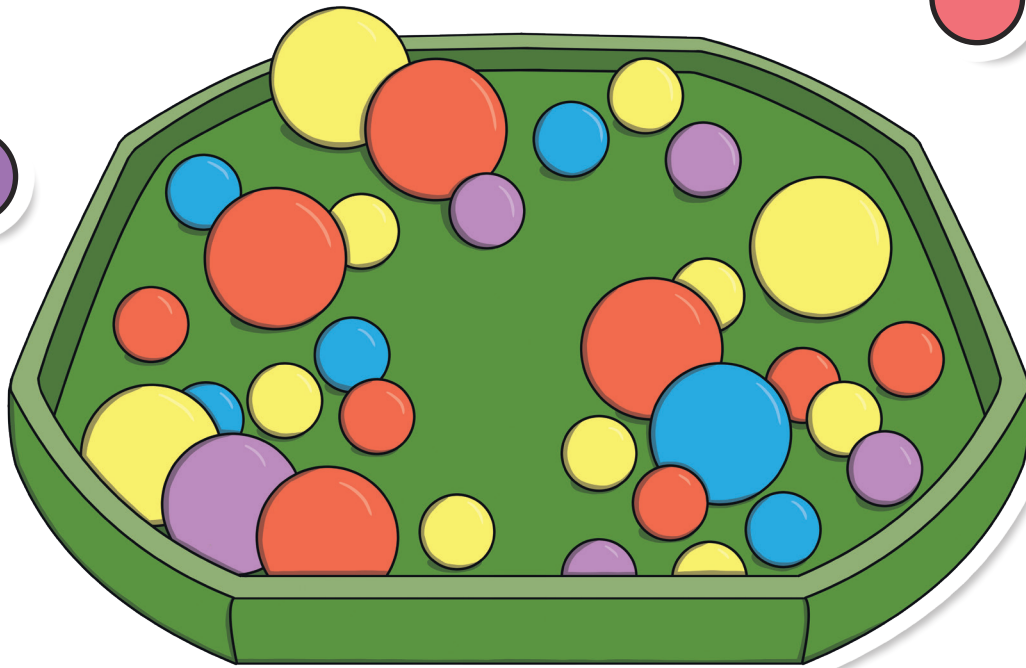
Set-Up

1. Create your own little town with just a couple of chalk pens! Draw a large road around the outside of your busy tray and a roundabout in the centre of your busy tray. Then, draw four connecting roads between the two.
2. You can get as creative as you like now – you could add a train station and train track, shopping centre and car park, doctor's surgery, park, pond or even an airport!
3. Place your toy vehicles, people, animals and objects around your busy tray.
4. Your little one will have so much fun pretending to be the mayor in their own little town!

No-Mess Busy Trays

This busy tray activity is ideal for little ones from six months of age, once they are able to sit unaided.

Ball Pit Busy Tray



You will need:

- colourful balls
- busy tray

Set-Up

1. This is a super simple busy tray to set up but one your little one will definitely enjoy! Throw in either plastic play balls or a range of different types of balls that you can find around the house.
2. Pop your little one into the centre of their mini ball pit and watch them have so much fun!

Disclaimer: As this resource refers to sensory activities, and food items/ingredients, you must ensure that an adequate risk assessment is carried out prior to using this resource. Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks before the activity and only proceed if it is safe to do so. The final product from this activity is safe for children to taste and explore with their mouths. However, it is not intended for them to eat in large quantities and it is your responsibility to ensure the safety of the group. Twinkl is not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment. It is your responsibility to ensure the resource and the information/activity it contains are safe and appropriate to use in your situation. Please be aware that children under the age of three will need to be supervised at all times due to potential hazards with handling and exploring sensory objects.