

Busy Books

What are Busy Books?

Busy books are made with materials to provide entertainment for children in the hospital. These are provided in waiting areas, clinic areas, and for individual bedside activities. The activities provided in Busy Books can be seasonal or generic. This is a great project for groups in the community to make together at meetings or workshops.

Supplies:

- **Coloring/Activity Pages:** one of the easiest ways to make these books is by purchasing coloring/activity books, tearing out 4-5 pages and putting them in a packet. You can also print coloring/activity pages from child friendly websites such as Crayola. If you print your own books, half of letter size (4.25 by 5.5 inches) is the preferred size.
- **Yarn or Staples:** Please use only one staple in the left corner or a string of yarn to bind the book together.
- **Tape:** Use tape to secure the crayons to the books.
- **Crayons:** Attach at least 3 different colored crayons to the Busy Book.



Busy Book Guidelines:

- **Make Your Busy Book Generic:** Making a book that is suitable for either a boy or a girl helps us speed the delivery of Busy Books.
- **Avoid Specific Spiritual or Holiday References:** We serve a very diverse patient population; As a result, our patients celebrate many different cultural celebrations and holidays.
- **Decorate with Crayons, Makers, or Watercolors:** Patients enjoy receiving colorful Busy Books. However, to avoid choking hazards please do not use glue to add any items to Busy Books. This includes glitter, feathers, and other seemingly non-hazardous items.
- **Neutral Messages are Best:** Appropriate messages are "Thinking of you!", "Just want to say hi!", and "Hope to brighten your day!".

Please contact the Child Life Department for questions, or to schedule a drop-off time at (469) 303-6280 or childlifelegacy@childrens.com.

Busy books

For a little patient in a waiting room, boredom can set in quickly. Assemble a “Busy Book” to entertain them as they wait.

What supplies are need to create a busy book?

- **Coloring/activity pages**
 - One of the easiest ways to make these books is by purchasing coloring/activities books, tearing out 4-5 pages and putting them into a packet.
 - You can also print coloring/activity pages from child friendly websites such as Crayola.
 - If you print your own books, half of letter size (4.25 by 5.5 inches) is the preferred size.
- **Yarn or staples**
 - Please use only one staple in the left corner or a string of yarn to bind the book together.
- **Crayons**
 - Attach at least 3 different colored crayons to the busy book.
- **Tape**
 - Use tape to secure the crayons to the books.

What are the guidelines for creating a busy book?

The following guidelines have been created to help you with your project:

- **Make your busy book generic**
 - Making a book that is suitable for either a boy or a girl helps us speed the delivery of busy books
- **Avoid specific spiritual or holiday references**
 - We serve a very diverse patient population. As a result, our patients celebrate several different holidays during the month of December.
 - Many do not celebrate Easter. And some may not be familiar with holidays that are more familiar to citizens of the U.S.
- **Decorate with crayons, markers, or watercolors**
 - Patients enjoy receiving colorful busy books. However, to avoid choking hazards for our little ones, please do not use glue to add any items to busy books - this includes glitter, feathers, and other seemingly non-hazardous items.
- **Neutral messages are best**
 - We ask that you use neutral messages. Appropriate Messages: Thinking of you, Just want to say Hi! , Sending you sunny smiles, Hope to brighten your day.
- **Completed busy books**
 - Please store completed busy books in an unscented plastic bag to keep them clean until delivery or a box the size of a file box.