

MAKING A BOOK OUT OF SANDWICH BAGS

Did you know you could make a book for your young child out of sandwich bags? Well, you can *and* it's easy. Here's how:

Take a few plastic sandwich bags and staple them together along their closed ends. Then cover the staples with masking tape so they won't pinch or scratch your little one's fingers. Now you're ready to turn the plastic bags into a book.

Open each bag and insert a photograph you think your child would like to look at. It could come from a magazine or a catalogue or the newspaper. Or it could come from your own family's albums.

If you want to get fancy, paste the photo on a piece of colored paper or cardboard that you've cut to fit inside the plastic bag, or use index cards. The stiff paper will help protect the photos from being folded and will make the pages easier to turn.

You could **make a book about colors** just by printing the name of the color in marker on each piece of colored paper. If you don't have colored paper, just use white, but write each color's name in a marker of the same color. Then ask your child to help you find pictures in magazines and junk mail of things that are the same color. He'll probably love the book about colors that he helped to make himself!

Or you could **make a book about numbers**. Just write a number on each page and then ask your child to tear or cut out pictures to match. **Two** oranges for the page that says **2**; **four** eggs for the page that says **4**. And so on....[Save the ads from grocery stores for this one!] Start with just a few numbers at first; you can add more as your child learns those.

Or you could **make an alphabet book, too**, using just the letters in your child's name at first. Write each letter on a piece of paper, and insert each in a plastic bag. Then look for photos of things that start with the same letter. If your child is learning the sounds letters make, helping you look for the right pictures would be great practice for her. And what a special alphabet book this will be—it's her very own!

Whichever book you make, **after you've inserted the photos or papers in each plastic bag, close the ends of the bags and you're all set: you'll have a nifty, little book** which you can change as often as you like just by changing the pictures and/or colored pages you put in it. It hasn't cost you anything except your time and it will probably be one of your child's favorites!

Have fun!