

Setting Up Your ACTIVITY BINS

Here's an example of how I have my bins set up. You don't need to set them up exactly the same way, in fact I've included a worksheet on the next page to help you set up your own activity bins!

In general, you want something to avoid having all of one thing in a bin. My one exception is the "favorites box".. for my son it's literally FILLED with cars (mostly cheap matchbox-type cars) It will keep him busy forever. So I do recommend having one box filled with whatever your child is obsessed with.

The other boxes should have different types of activities. I try to include one favorite item, one puzzle, one Melissa & Doug toy (my toddler loves the ones with hammers), a felt activity, magnets for his board, a mess-free option for drawing, a stacking toy, and then some imagination-required toys (like measuring cups, utensils, etc). Every child is different but this is what works for my son.

Our big rule is that only ONE box is allowed out at a time. If he wants a different one, he must clean up the first box. All boxes have to be put back together and cleaned up before bedtime.

Here's an example of our boxes:

Activity Bin 1: Favorites

- Literally filled with cars; matchbox cars, big cars, little cars, anything cars.

Activity Bin 2

- A couple beach toys (buckets and shovels)
- Letter magnets
- [Magna Doodle](#)
- Shape Sorter
- Wooden Tools
- Stacking Cups
- Melissa & Doug [Egg Cutting Game](#)

Activity Bin 3

- Stacking Squares
- Felt 4-square activity (find them at target!)
- Melissa & Doug [Pound and Roll](#)
- [Wooden Tower](#)
- A few more cars
- Measuring Cups
- Water WOW! [Water-reveal activity books](#)
- Robot magnets

Activity Bin 4

- Melissa & Doug [Lock Puzzle](#)
- Learning Path House Toy
- Light up ball
- Quiet book
- Block stacking toy/puzzle
- Measuring cups
- Melissa & Doug [Pounding Wooden Bench Toy](#)

Setting Up Your ACTIVITY BINS

Activity Bin #1

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Activity Bin #2

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Activity Bin #3

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Activity Bin #4

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____