



BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE BABY 'N ME (8-12 months)

Serendipity List

According to Webster's dictionary, *serendipity* means "the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for." Your baby possesses this gift. As she explores her home she will find many valuable or agreeable objects not intended to be toys. However, to her they may have great intrinsic play value. As long as household gadgets and objects are safe and durable, they are certainly as acceptable as commercial or homemade toys.

You can enrich your child's playtimes by becoming aware of things in your home which are appropriate for these early stages of development. Then your baby will not have to rely on an infrequent chance discovery of some commonplace utensil that could be such fun for her to examine.

The following lists give you suggestions of possible items you may have in stock. If you have a new home sparsely supplied with odds and ends, perhaps there's a grandmother's house you could raid. If you have a toy budget, you may rather spend it at places that aren't toy stores. Other possibilities are factory outlets, plumbing or electrical supply stores, appliance repair stores which have molded plastic spare parts, and hardware departments of discounts stores.



KITCHEN GADGETS

plastic cookie cutter
popsicle mold
egg separator
slotted spoon
wooden or plastic mixing spoon
meat baster
funnels (2 sizes for nesting)
strainers (2 sizes for nesting)
eggbeater for frothing soapsuds in bathtub
(with parent supervising)
rubber spatula
wooden mallet head (for tenderizing meat)
tea infuser
flexible rubber disk (for twisting lids open)

WASTEBASKET FINDS

typewriter reels
film cans
cardboard cores from tape rolls
milk cartons of various sizes
plastic lids from spray cans
mailing tubes
crates or cartons that home appliances are delivered in
old rubber windshield wiper blades (springy)
small cardboard boxes
tissue boxes
rubber gloves, cleansed of any detergent
shirt cardboards
cardboard collar stiffeners
cardboard juice cans with snap-on lids
old deck of cards
plastic baby food jars

melon baller
bottle stopper
plastic juice squeezer
flour, sugar, tea canisters with easy-to-put-in-place lids
bendable straw
colander
measuring spoons
measuring cups
hinged metal implement (for twisting lids open)
pastry brush
very large cake-decorating nozzle and pastry bag
individual plastic ice-cube mold

HOUSEHOLD OBJETS D'ART

padlock
latch on briefcase
latch on trunk
door bolt or latch
plastic tubing
empty plastic squeeze bottles
3" -long aluminum bolt
toilet-paper holder with spring center core (not the kind with a metal spring that could come out)
ottoman or low stool
bolster, cushion, pillow
unbreakable mirror (camping equipment, auto)
plastic lazy Susan (for kitchen cabinet)
short telephone wire, unplugged and coiled
rubber disk for stopping tub drain
electric curlers detached from appliance
clothespin
screwdriver handle (without interchangeable parts)
pleated hand fan

pots, pans, and lids (especially with shiny copper bottoms)
flashlight
blinking Christmas-tree lights any time of year (with parental supervision)
napkin ring
sturdy plastic bracelet
large S hook
small C clamp
vacuum cleaner attachment (for cleaning crevices)
small brush (for cleaning fingernails)
shoehorn
bird-call whistle
dinner bell
roll handle (for carrying packages)
rolls of masking tape, different sizes
rolls of cloth tape, different colors
bathroom plastic drinking cup
toothbrush
empty plastic cosmetic jars and bottles for traveling
telephone cradling device, with nuts and bolts removed
dispenser for roll of stamps (from Post Office)
soap dish
cassette tape box
giant plastic paper clip
key ring
Band-Aid can with flip-top lid
dispenser for Towelettes (screw-on lid has snap-on top in center)
rainy-day plastic front hall runner (for baby to crawl on)
desk organizer (small plastic box with sliding drawers)
desk accessories
plastic or leather luggage tag
metronome (attach yarn fluff ball or bow to end of stick; parent must supervise)
tape recorder (with supervision)
record player (with supervision)