

DIY BUTTON KIT: 10 ACTIVITIES TO TEACH KIDS TO BUTTON

1 || Buttons or coins and an empty plastic container

Simply cut a slit in the top of a clean, empty plastic container. Have kids place buttons or coins into the container by pushing them through the slit. Once they get good at it, have kids race against a friend! Make the slit wider for kids who are just getting started and then gradually move to a very narrow slit so kids have to push a little harder to get the coin or button through.

2 || Tearing paper

Tearing paper is great for building hand strength and for helping kids practice using two hands together. Have kids tear small pieces of colored paper to make a mosaic.

3 || Stringing beads

Another great fine motor and bilateral activity for little ones. A perfect warmup for buttoning!

4 || Lacing cards

Just a little more bilateral fun!

5 || Buttons and play dough/putty

Pushing buttons into putty or play dough and pulling them back out again is another great hand strengthening activity and helps kids practice the motion of pushing and pulling buttons through button holes.

6 || Button flip

Place buttons flat on the table and have kids turn them over one at a time. Use larger buttons and put stickers on each button so they're revealed as the buttons are flipped over. Or make your own memory game by putting pairs of stickers on the buttons.

7 || Button snake

Once the child has gotten lots of good prep work and practice with the activities above, it's time to move on to actual buttoning and a button snake is a great way to start. Simply sew a button to the end of a length of wide, sturdy ribbon. Cut several circles or other shapes out of felt and cut a slit in the middle of each. Prompt the child to button each of the shapes onto the ribbon to make a "snake".

8 || Loose buttons and button board

Rather than jumping right into a buttonboard, first have kids try passing loose buttons through the buttonholes the board. They can get the motion down before facing the challenge of fastening buttons that are sewn to the fabric.

9 || Regular button board

Finally, it's time to get some practice with the real thing. A button strip is a nice way to start because it's smaller and less bulky than practicing on actual clothing.

10 || Practicing buttons on clothing that is off the body

Before kids start practicing on the clothes they're wearing, have them try buttoning a shirt or sweater that's lying on their lap or on the table in front of them. It's easier to see and easier to manage.