# Little SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

## Busy Box Alternatives: Compact Activity Center

**Materials:** The Compact Activity Center has a bead curtain, a vibrating light-up plate, a music box activated with a pull ball, and a spinning dome of brightly-colored sequins which helps with developing cognitive skills, teaching cause and effect, and increasing sensory stimulation.
Requires 2 C Batteries. Weight: 3½ lbs.

**Image:**



[Purchasing Information](https://enablingdevices.com/product/compact-activity-center/)

[Users Manual](https://enablingdevices.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2300.pdf)

**Why Might Benefit?**

Those who need to further develop reaching, targeting, hand eye coordination, and fine motor skills.

**Why Use?**Provides an opportunity for simple cause and effect, multi-sensory engagement through reach and fine motor skills.

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| **Instructions for Use:** | **Adaptation Ideas:** |
| **Environmental Considerations*** Use anywhere but quiet areas may be disrupted.

**Positioning*** Tabletop, floor (tummy or sidelying), wall-mounted with hardware (not included).

**Alternate Positioning*** Slanted: Place on slanted surface such as a 3-4 inch 3 ring binder to help with viewing and reach.

**Basic Play/Use*** Place in front of the child within easy reach for free exploration.

**Extended Play/Use*** Give instructions:
	+ Touch the beads
	+ Press the blue button
	+ Touch the bumpy button
	+ Touch the one that makes music

**Play/Use with Others*** Multiple items allows at least 2 children to play together for turn-taking turns or parallel play.
 | **Stabilize It*** Dycem or velcro could be use on the back of the Activity Center.

**Simplify It*** Cover choices to reveal one at a time.

**Add Sensory Cues*** Stickers, puffy paint, or other tactile cues could be added if needed.

**Communication Support*** Provide a communication board with vocabulary related to the various Activity Center activities.

**DIY Alternatives*** [Build a toddler busy board with items you already have](https://www.familyhandyman.com/article/build-a-toddler-busy-board-with-items-you-already-have/).
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### Words to Encourage Play/Use

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| **Push**Child pushing rock away. | **Pull A child pulling a rock toward them.**  | **Reach**A child reaching for a red cube.  |
| **Touch**A child with their hand on the shoulder of another child.  | **Help**A child kneeling on his knee and another child reaching toward the kneeling child.   | **LikeA hand giving a thumbs up**  |
| **StopRed light lit up on a traffic signal** | **GoGreen light lit up on a traffic signal** | **MoreA pile of red stones with a black arrow pointing to the top and a smaller pile of red stone next to that pile.** |

\*”Adaptations” adapted from: Haugen’s Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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