Appendix B
Toys You Can Make

Toys that help develop use of hands and sense of touch

You can make beads and chains out of wild fruits and nuts.

- prickly
- rough and smooth
- fuzzy
- wrinkled or lumpy
- smooth
- wriggly

For a baby, hang a ring of beads where she can reach and handle it.

A child can play putting the nuts and pods in and out of a container.

As the child develops more hand control, she can begin to make chains and necklaces by stringing beads on a cord.

'Snakes' can be made by stringing nuts, 'caps' of acorns, bottle caps, or any combination of things.

Later he can learn to sort them.

'Hedgehogs'

If you use your imagination, there are all kinds of toy animals you and your children can have fun making.
Rattles and other noise toys

**Gourd rattle**

Find a small gourd (wild gourds or tree gourds may work).
Cut a round hole at the stem and clean out the seeds and flesh. Let it dry out well.
Put 2 or 3 small rocks, nuts or other objects inside.
Find a stick the size of the hole. If the hole is large, thin down this part of the stick.
Glue the stick to the gourd.
Paint it colorfully.

**Plastic bottle rattle**

a see-through plastic bottle
ring cut from a plastic bottle, bamboo or whatever you have
sticks cut from plastic bottles of different colors, colorful stones, nuts, etc.
ring can be wrapped with strips of cloth or tire tubing for easier grip

**Bamboo rattle**

SIMPLE FORM

**Tin can rattle**

WITH HANDLE

**Cowhorn rattle**

Trim rough edges.
Put in a cardboard or wood plug.
Then seal with a mix of sawdust and white glue, or plaster of Paris.

Ideas for homemade music

- gourds with seeds in them
- 2 wood sticks
- tambourine
- jingle bells
- marimba
- loose hardwood plates
- castanets (wooden clappers)
**Soft rattle**

Use a small can or bottle with a small stone inside... ...or use 2 small bells.

Cut a colorful soft cloth (flannel) into this shape.

Sew it into a square and turn inside out.

Place can or bells in cloth square and pack wild kapok, cotton or bits of sponge around it. Sew it shut.

**Doll rattle**

Draw a doll on 2 pieces of cloth, and cut them out.

Sew the 2 dolls together.

Turn the doll inside out.

Put small bells or a rattle inside and stuff with kapok, cotton or sponge and sew shut.

Sew or draw on a face.

**Animal rattles**

can be made in the same way.

**Ball rattle**

Cut 3 pieces of one color... ...and 3 pieces of another color.

Sew them together except for a small hole.

Turn inside out and stuff.

**Push-along noise toy**

Make hole in lid and bottom of tin.

Put bottle tops, small stones, etc. inside.

Put loop of stiff wire through holes with knot inside tin.

**Bamboo push-along**

Cut here
Games fitting pegs or blocks into holes
These games help develop better hand control and ‘hand-eye coordination.’ They also help the child learn to compare sizes, shapes, and color.

Drill holes in a piece of wood and cut pegs from tree branches.

Or make a ‘size box’ by pouring cement, plaster of Paris, or clay into a mold. Or, make a ‘plaster’ box out of cow-dung or mud mixed with sand (and lime if you have it). Press pegs into the wet plaster, and remove when almost dry.

For pegs, use bottles, scraps of pipe, pieces of broom handles, bolts — or whatever you have.

Or you can cut holes in a cardboard box. Glue an extra layer of tough cardboard on the top.

Also, make games that help the child develop a twisting motion in her hands and wrists.

Other ideas

Shapes on pegs
With these, children learn about matching colors, shapes, and sizes.

Blocks for building a tower on pegs
Make it more fun by putting a face on the top block.
Blocks can be cut from a thin log.

Paint them bright colors.

Gourd Racing Car
beans as decoration
pull string

Building blocks
made of wood, clay, or layers of cardboard.