C:\Users\Owner\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\2LE5FOMM\MC900254374[1].wmfBoredom Busters

For 72 Hr. Kits

(From Prepared Members of the Plano Texas Stake)

Here are a few guidelines and ideas for what to pack in your 72 Hr. kits to alleviate or prevent boredom:

* Safety comes first. Do not put dangerous items in a child’s kit. Protect all fingers and hands from sharp points (pencils, pens, scissors, needles, etc.). Be on the lookout for choking hazards to children less than three years of age.
* Think small. Compact, lightweight items fit best in 72 Hr. kits.
* You needn’t spend much if any money on your small collection of “Boredom Busters.” Many items you may already have at home.
* Put paper and cardboard in zippered plastic bags to protect from moisture.
* Teach family members how to use the items and play the games in your kit before a disaster strikes. It will make the things you have packed immediately useable. (Preparedness has never been so fun!)
* Games like “Hangman,” “Dots and Boxes,” or Tic-tac-toe” can be played in a small notebook or with a supply of paper and a few pencils or pens. Make sure pencils have good erasers. Include a pencil sharpener. For instructions see:

[www.ehow.com/how\_13518\_play-hangman.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_13518_play-hangman.html)

[www.wikihow.com/Play-Dots-and-Boxes](http://www.wikihow.com/Play-Dots-and-Boxes)

[www.ehow.com/how\_7447\_play-tic-tac.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_7447_play-tic-tac.html)

* Card games like Go Fish, Old Maid, UNO, etc. take up very little space. A rubber band can hold them neatly in their deck and a plastic zipper bag will keep them dry. Have the instructions memorized if possible.
* Yo-yos. It is useful to have already acquired some of the skills for basic yo-yo tricks. With that said, learning new yo-yo tricks can help fill free time which you may have in abundance. Go online to find instructions and You-tube videos.
* Crayons (or colored pencils), color books, paper or sketchpads.
* Songbooks. Small-sized Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the size that LDS missionaries commonly use) and a Cub Scout (or Boy Scout) songbook.
* A Book of Mormon can help bring a sense of calm and routine to an otherwise stressful experience. The smallest are available at LDS bookstores and are soft cover—smaller than the soft cover Book of Mormon given out by missionaries.
* Travel games and smaller versions of your favorite games and puzzles. Your local discount or toy store is a good place to look for these. Magnetic chess and checkers games help keep pieces from getting lost. Consider Key chain versions of puzzles like “Rubik’s Cube.” For travel games requiring batteries, store batteries separately in a plastic zipper bag, preferably in an adult’s kit.
* Dice. Most games can be played with 1-10 dice. See the handout “Dice Games” on the Plano Stake Preparedness website:

[www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org) in the August section of the “Preparedness Calendar” under the “Preparedness Challenge” Tab. This handout may be downloaded and copied in its entirety (but not altered). The copyright must appear on the last page. One idea is to print up the handout of instructions, and place in a flexible binder along with a three-hole punched zippered pencil pouch. Put the dice, a few pencils, pencil sharpener, and a small pad of paper into the pouch. The pencils and paper are necessary for some of the dice games and to keep score in others. “Pocket Farkel” (a travel version of the “Farkle” dice game) comes in a small plastic canister with 6 miniature dice and instructions. You could also use these dice to play many of the games listed in the handout mentioned above.

* String games. (What takes up less space than a string?) Visit the following website for instructions on how to make Jacob’s Ladder, Cat Whiskers, Cat’s Cradle and others: [www.momsminivan.com/string\_games.html](http://www.momsminivan.com/string_games.html)
* Matchbox ™ Hot Wheels™ or other miniature cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc. One or two will do. There are some very tiny cars on the market.
* A few of your child’s favorite small action figures.
* Small dolls or paper dolls. Choose your child’s favorites.
* For more ideas go online to travel game web sites.