



THAT'S MY WORK BAG

Materials you need:

- Squares of calico (2 for every child)
- Sewing machine
- Length of ribbon or drawstring rope for a handle
- Fabric paints

Setup for play:

- Set out the pieces of calico along with the fabric paints and encourage the children to design and personalise their bag.
- When dry lay the wrong sides of fabric together (the ones with no painting on them) and sew down each side. If you don't have a sewing machine you can show them how to use a needle and thread and do a basic running stitch.
- Sew the rope or ribbon to the top of the bag to act as a handle.
- The children can bring their bag to before/after school or vacation care to keep their craft, drawing and other special work in to take home. This works well when you share your spaces and don't have much storage room.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children design and make their bags they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Listen to and follow directions
- Recognise and follow sequences and visual cues.
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes – show pride in their work
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Persist even when they find the task difficult
- Create with different mediums and textures
- Work independently on a project
- Problem solve to meet their needs
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play

Extending the play:

- Show the children how to sew stitches into squares of felt using embroidery thread and a needle with a large eye. Turn into a display to hang using a stick and a little twine.

