



Barrel Seat



You can make a small barrel seat quite easily from a 5 gallon plastic pail to support a child while sitting on the floor. The back can be cut high for children who require a great deal of support or low for those that do not. It can be cut off periodically to gradually decrease support as the child develops the ability to sit with less support.

Materials:

5 gallon plastic pail
Very sharp instrument-kitchen knife, coping saw, or X-acto knife
Sandpaper—medium and fine
14" round pillow

Directions:

Measure the child see how high the back of the barrel seat needs to be. You will need to decide how much support he or she needs. The sides can be cut away or left to make a curved support that gently rounds shoulders, if needed. You can often get a 5 gallon pail free from a restaurant, small business, or farm if they buy products that come in them.

Mark the cutting line with a permanent marker. Cut carefully. Sand edges with medium sandpaper and repeat with fine sandpaper. Use round pillow as seat cushion. You can usually find round pillow forms at craft or fabric stores.

Note: You can actually get two barrel seats from one pail if the children for whom you are making them for are small and you cut carefully.

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These ideas have been gathered from various resources included (a) submissions from early interventionists across the country, (b) development by Tots-n-Tech staff, or (c) retrieved from various websites focusing on assistive technology. If you have an idea to submit, please send a description and photo to: jill.McLeod@jefferson.edu