



Valentine's Day Busy Book

This hands-on Valentine unit turns curiosity about love and kindness into a playful learning experience. Through **tracing, counting, matching, storytelling, and even baking** together, children build **confidence in early writing, number awareness, observation, and communication.**

Each activity gently supports growing skills while keeping things light and meaningful. Perfect for cosy seasonal learning, celebrating kindness, and making memories together.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before starting, take a few minutes to prepare the materials. Print the pages you need and cut out any cards or matching pieces. If you'd like to reuse the activities, laminating the sheets or placing them in plastic wallets works well.

A little preparation at the beginning makes the activities smoother and more enjoyable for your child.

When you sit down together:

- **Go at your child's pace.** Some activities will feel easy, others may take more time.
- **Encourage effort over perfection.** Counting mistakes and wobbly tracing are part of learning.
- **Keep it conversational.** Ask questions, listen, and follow their curiosity.
- **Let it feel relaxed.** Valentine learning can be calm, cosy, and connection-filled.

This unit is designed to be flexible. You don't need to complete everything at once. Let your child choose the order. If some pages are not used at all, that is perfectly fine. Learning happens best when it feels natural, not forced.



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BAKING: VALENTINE BISCUITS

What it builds: **Sequencing · Following instructions · Measuring awareness · Independence · Logical thinking**

What to do:

Follow the picture steps together to bake Valentine heart biscuits. Let your child help with measuring, mixing, rolling, and cutting the shapes.

How to support your child:

- **Ask your child to describe what they see in each picture.**
- **With younger children, briefly explain symbols such as the plus sign (+) and arrows (→) before starting.**
- **Let your child pour, scoop, and mix where possible.**
- **Talk about the ingredients and textures as you go.**

What to say:

- **"We need 250 grams of flour. Can you help me measure it?"**
- **"How many hearts did we cut out?"**
- **"Who could we share these with?"**

Make it meaningful:

Baking together is not just a cooking task, it is shared time. Encourage your child to think about who they might give their biscuits to and why.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PICTURE?

What it builds: **Expressive language · Observation skills · Storytelling · Emotional awareness · Imagination**

What to do:

Look at the Valentine street scene together and **invite your child to describe what is happening.** Encourage full sentences and detailed observations.

How to support your child:

- **Give them quiet time to study the picture first.**
- **Ask open-ended questions rather than yes-or-no questions.**
- **Expand their answers gently by modelling longer sentences.**
- **Encourage imagination, there is no single correct story.**

What to say:

- **"Who can you see?" and "What are they doing?"**
- **"How do you think they feel?" and "What are they saying?"**
- **"Why is the man buying flowers?"**

TRACING & WRITING: LOVE

What it builds: **Pencil control** · **Letter formation awareness** · **Fine motor strength** · **Writing confidence**

What to do:

Invite your child to trace the word "Love" carefully using the dotted guides. Once they feel confident, encourage them to try writing it independently.

How to support your child:

- **Remind them to move slowly and stay on the lines.**
- **Encourage proper pencil grip if appropriate for their age.**
- **Celebrate effort and focus rather than how the letters look.**
- **Let them experiment with writing it bigger, smaller, or in different colours.**

Look out for:

- **Controlled hand movements**
- **Correct letter direction**

Make it meaningful:

Writing becomes more powerful when it connects to real feelings. Talk about what love means in your family and who your child might like to share that word with.

MAZE ADVENTURE

What it builds: **Pencil control** · **Visual tracking** · **Problem-solving** · **Patience** · **Hand-eye coordination**

What to do:

Help the postman find the correct path through the maze. Encourage your child to move slowly and carefully without crossing the lines.

How to support your child:

- **Remind them to go slowly rather than rushing.**
- **If they reach a dead end, calmly say, "Let's try another way."**

What to say:

- **"Oops, that way is blocked. What could we try instead?"**
- **"How did you know that was the right way?"**

Make it meaningful:

Remind your child that sometimes we take the wrong path, and that's okay. Trying again is part of learning.

CUPCAKE ORDERS: PACK THE BOX

What it builds: **Pattern recognition** · **Logical thinking** · **Attention to detail** · **Early mathematical awareness** · **Visual perception**

What to do:

Explain to your child that they are helping prepare Valentine cupcake orders. Each order card shows how the cupcakes should be arranged in the box. Invite them to place the cupcakes in the correct order, copying the pattern exactly.

How to support your child:

- **Ask them to describe the order before they start packing.**
- **If something doesn't match, gently ask them to compare it with the order card.**

What to say:

- **"What cupcake comes first in this order?"**
- **"Let's check if the box matches the order."**

Make it meaningful:

Turn it into pretend play. You are running a Valentine bakery together. Packing the cupcakes correctly helps customers receive exactly what they ordered. This adds purpose and motivation while strengthening early maths skills.

I SPY: VALENTINE EDITION

What it builds: **Visual discrimination** · **Counting skills** · **Attention to detail** · **Comparison**

What to do:

Invite your child to carefully search the picture and count how many of each Valentine object they can find. Encourage them to scan slowly and avoid rushing.

How to support your child:

- **Suggest they point to each object as they count.**
- **Encourage counting out loud to strengthen one-to-one correspondence.**
- **For older children, compare which object appears more or fewer times.**

What to say:

- **"How many hearts can you find?"**
- **"Which object appears the most?"**
- **"Can you find fewer chocolates than flowers?"**

MATCH THE NUMBER

What it builds: **Number recognition** · **One-to-one correspondence** · **Counting accuracy** · **Early number sense** · **Building understanding of quantity**

What to do:

Invite your child to count the objects carefully and place them under the correct number.

How to support your child:

- **Ask them to touch or point to each object as they count.**
- **If they are unsure, count together calmly.**
- **For younger children, demonstrate the first example together**
- **Encourage them to double-check before placing the card.**
- **For older children, ask what number comes before or after.**

Make it meaningful:

Turn it into a small Valentine shop activity. Each number shows how many items a customer ordered. Your child's job is to match the correct amount so every order is packed properly.

CLIP THE CORRECT NAME

What it builds: **Print awareness** · **Word recognition** · **Visual discrimination** · **Vocabulary development**

What to do:

Invite your child to look carefully at the picture and choose the correct word by clipping it.

How to support your child:

- **Ask them to say the word out loud before choosing.**
- **If unsure, gently guide them to compare each option.**
- **Remind them that it's okay to change their answer after checking.**

What to say:

- **"What do you see in the picture?"**
- **"What sound does it start with?"**
- **"Which word looks right?"**

Make it meaningful:

Frame it as helping label Valentine items correctly. In your Valentine shop, everything needs the right name so customers know what they are getting.

FIND THE OTHER HALF

What it builds: **Visual discrimination** · **Whole-to-part awareness** · **Attention to detail** · **Logical matching**

What to do:

Ask your child to look carefully at each picture and find the correct missing half that completes the object. Encourage them to notice colours, shapes, and small details before choosing.

How to support your child:

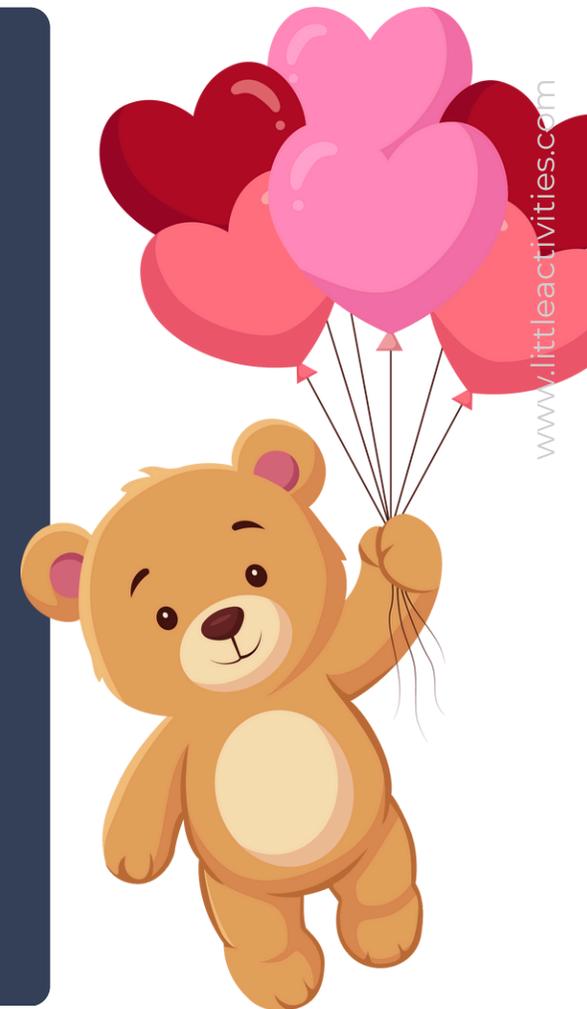
- **Ask them to describe what they see first.**

BONUS: TAKE IT BEYOND THE PAGE

Want to keep the Valentine learning going? Try these simple real-life ideas:

- **Go on a family coffee or hot chocolate date.** Let your child order politely, count the cups, and talk about kindness in public spaces.
- **Make handmade Valentine cards.** Encourage your child to draw, write, and decorate cards for family members, neighbours, or friends.
- **Bake and share.** Deliver your Valentine biscuits to a grandparent or neighbour. Talk about how giving feels.
- **Create a Kindness Jar.** Write simple acts of kindness on small pieces of paper and pick one each day.
- **Talk about gratitude.** At dinner, ask, "What is one thing you loved about today?"

These small experiences help children see that learning is not just something that happens on paper. It is woven into everyday family life.



PRO TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Slow down and enjoy it.** Valentine's learning works best when it feels calm and connected, not rushed.
- **Focus on effort, not perfection.** Wobbly tracing, miscounted hearts, or a slightly wonky biscuit are all part of the learning process.
- **Keep conversations open.** Use this theme to talk about kindness, gratitude, and how we show love in everyday life.
- **Follow your child's energy.** Some days they may want to bake and talk, other days they may prefer quiet counting or pattern work. Both are valuable.
- **Repeat favourite activities.** Repetition builds confidence. If your child loves the cupcake orders or the I Spy page, revisit it.

Valentine's Day in your home does not need to be commercial or elaborate. It can be simple, thoughtful, and centred on connection.

HELPFUL TOOLS FOR PLAY & PREP

Here are a few simple tools that make preparation easier and learning smoother at home:

- **Laminator & pouches** - Keeps your printables durable and ready for reuse
- **Velcro Dots** - Perfect for attaching and reattaching pieces
- **Storage box** - Handy for keeping everything together in one place
- **Mini wooden pegs** - Great for building fine motor skills
- **Dry-erase markers** - Useful if laminating sheets for repeated use.
- **Heart-shaped cookie cutter** - Essential for the Valentine biscuit recipe and completing the baking activity.

These are affiliate links - they don't cost you anything extra, but help support our small business when you shop through them. Thank you!

Questions or Feedback?

Baked biscuits? Packed cupcake orders? Heart patterns everywhere? We'd love to see it. Share your Valentine learning moments with us. Tag us on Instagram [@littleactivities.co](https://www.instagram.com/littleactivities.co) or send us a message at contact@littleactivities.com

More Play, More Learning

We're always creating new hands-on activities to support your little one's development. Stay in the loop by signing up for our newsletter or following us on Instagram.

www.littleactivities.com

