Why your chicks need toys

The science is clear on this—chicks in enriched environments just do better. They're happier. They're lower in stress. They're less fearful, even as adults. And they're better able to navigate their world as they grow older.

Chicks go through 4 different developmental stages during their first two weeks of life: imprinting, early exploration, complex awareness, and spatial navigation.

This guide provides you with examples of exactly what types of toys your chicks need for each developmental stage.

Need more info? Want to see the science? Learn it all [here](#).

### Days 1-3

- **Imprinting**
  - *Brooder plate* (mandatory)
  - *Red light* and/or *comfort feathers* (optional)
  - *Stuffed hen* (optional)

### Days 4-7

- **Exploration**
  - *Dust bath container* and substrate
  - *Perch* and/or *bridge*
  - *Marbles, balls,* and/or *springs*
  - *Dangly toys*
  - *Laser pointer*
Don't want to buy toys? No problem!

You don't need to spend money to get your chicks the toys they need. Get creative with sticks, branches, stumps, cardboard boxes, and any other backyard or household items you can think of!

Want more information?

For more information on the science behind how toys influence chick development, and for additional toy ideas, check out my article, *Chick toys: What your chicks need, when, and why.*