

# Inexpensive gift wrapping ideas

## Make the gift wrap part of the gift!

- Use baby receiving blankets as your gift wrap, tie the corners together over the gift and attach a rattle or toy as decoration. If you don't have enough "corner" to tie, use baby pins and fasten the blanket like a diaper.
- Use a tablecloth, place mats, or napkins for a Bridal shower gift. Tie a gift certificate to the top.
- Shop towels for the handyman make great gift wrap.
- Children's drawings make great gift wrap. You can't save them all! Once you have selected the ones you are going to keep for your scrapbook, have your child wrap Grandma's Mother's Day gift in "one of a kind" art.

## Household items

Use a brown grocery bag in a pinch! Don't like the plain paper? Have your child stamp a design using rubber stamps, cut up vegetables made into stamps, or leaves from the yard for a natural look.

Anything long and flexible can be used to tie up your gift. Fancy ribbon is nice but if you forgot to buy some or you unroll the spool and realize you have only 6" left, you have to improvise. What kind of gift are you wrapping? Is it for Father's Day? Use one of Dad's old ties that you were going to throw out anyway. Power tools? An old electrical cord or heavy twine is manly enough for your guy! For the sewer? Rickrack, elastic, a tape measure, or seam binding come in handy and they may be able to use it in a future project. Never overlook just plain old string or twine. You can dress it up with some tie-ons.

Tie-on ideas:

- Baby gifts: rattle, teething toy, small stuffed animal, hair brush and/or comb set, baby socks made into "roses"
- Father's Day or birthday: safety goggles, screwdriver, wrench, etc. (Come up with clever phrases to go with them. (ie "My heart wrenches at the sound of your name!" – corny, but they'll never forget it!), an old key ("You have the key to my heart!"),
- Mother's Day or birthday: individual bubble bath pouches, shower scrubbie (these come in all colors),
- Kids: candy, candy, and more candy! Aside from that, you could attach a matchbox car, hair ties, barrettes, cheap sunglasses from the dollar store ("Your future's so bright, you gotta' wear shades!")
- And perfect for everyone: a gift card (this does not have to come from a store! – make up a coupon booklet for.... Good for: A hug anytime requested...One good belly laugh...A picnic in the park...10 more minutes of storytime...You are limited only by your imagination! Many times, people just want to know that they can call on you. Children just want your undivided time and attention. I recently gave a gift to my niece on her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was a sand bucket filled with Little Swimmer diapers, water wings, a baby bikini, Baby sunscreen, a beach towel, etc. I attached a coupon that was a "Lifetime Pool Pass" at our home.

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