

# FamilyHome

**BONUS IDEA:** A binder kit provides a quick and budget-savvy solution for sending birthday wishes as well. Filled with the same supplies as our thank-you note kit, it lets kids create fast and festive cards.



## Thank-You Notes Made Fun

Stock a binder with cool supplies to create an easy and inspiring card-making kit

By Debra Immergut

Like many parents, Carrie Wright of Sherwood Park, Alberta, believes that every gift-giver deserves a thoughtful thank-you note. But she also realizes that for her 7-year-old son, Jaiden, the idea of sitting down to write such notes isn't exactly appealing. So Carrie turns a chore into a craft by letting Jaiden decorate blank cards using stamps and stamp pads — "a special treat!" Our binder takes Carrie's idea a step further, organizing supplies into an easy-to-stow and ready-for-action kit that gets kids excited about creating unique thank-you cards.



## How to Outfit Your Kit

Turn a humble three-ring binder into a one-stop card-making shop by adding homemade supply pockets, a handy printable chart, and plenty of irresistible craft goodies. To jazz up the outside of the kit, have your kids glue cutout decorations to sheets of card stock, write a title with marker, then glue the sheets to the cover and spine or slip them into a view binder's clear front and spine pockets.



Print this Thank-You Note Tracker or a Birthday Calendar! They're free at [FamilyFun.com/magazine](http://FamilyFun.com/magazine).



### You will need:

- Envelopes, blank note cards, and craft supplies (see suggestions below)
- Plastic ziplock bags in sandwich, quart, and gallon sizes
- Colored duct tape
- Three-hole or single-hole punch
- Three-ring binder (we used a 3-inch view binder from an office supply store)
- Printable Thank-You Note Tracker or Birthday Calendar from [FamilyFun.com/magazine](http://FamilyFun.com/magazine)

- 1 Determine the quantity and size of bags that will best fit your supplies. We like a smaller size for stamps and labels, while the quart size is perfect for markers. Gallon-size bags may need to be cut down to fit.
- 2 For each pocket, sandwich the bag's bottom edge between two lengths of duct tape, creating one inch of overhang.
- 3 Use the binder's rings to mark the correct positions for holes, then punch the holes through the overhanging tape. Avoid puncturing the bag.
- 4 Affix a printable chart inside the front cover with tape or stickers.

**YOU SAID IT**  
 "To get our kids to express written gratitude, we make thank-you note writing into a family night. The notes are much more fun to work on together. After we're finished, we play a game and have dessert."  
 Christine Beaulieu  
 Riverside, California

## Stock Your Binder With Supplies Like These:

address book • glitter glue • return address labels • postage stamps • pencils • stamps and ink pad • eraser • sharpener • markers • scissors • hole punch

