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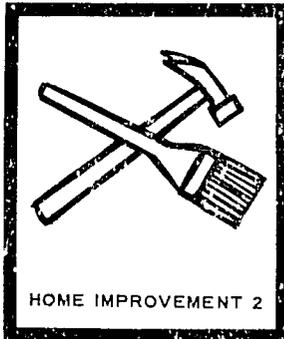
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HOW TO MAKE A BABY'S PLAY PEN

An Aid to Extension
and Village Workers
in Many Countries

Women in Development
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**This is for
YOU
The Home Economics Extension Worker
or
The Village Worker**

The information in this booklet is based on experiences of extension workers and health workers in many countries. A good method any homemaker can follow has been developed. You'll find ideas to help you teach families how to make a baby's play pen at home.

Use this material in any way best suited to your needs.

Appreciation is expressed for assistance from: health, sanitation, home economics and information personnel of the Agency for International Development; specialists in the Federal Extension Service, and staff members of other agencies.

HOW TO MAKE A BABY'S PLAY PEN

In many countries families build play pens of bamboo or wood for their babies. You can make a play pen for your baby at home.

A PLAY PEN IS SAFE:

A baby is safe in a sturdy play pen if his mother or older brother or sister is nearby. He cannot pick things up off the floor as he might outside the pen. Animals cannot get to him.

A PLAY PEN IS CONVENIENT:

For the Mother—She can leave her baby there while she works. The pen can be moved to different parts of the house or yard while she does her work. A mother can work more easily if she knows her baby is comfortable and safe. It's also easier to keep a baby clean in a play pen.

For Brothers and Sisters—If they must care for the baby, they can study or play without having to watch him all the time.

For the Baby—He has room to play and move freely. He is clean, cool and comfortable.

2

HOW TO MAKE A PLAY PEN

YOU WILL NEED THESE MATERIALS:

Thirty-six pieces of bamboo or wood 20 inches long by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. These will be for upright posts on the sides of the pen.

Eight pieces of bamboo or wood for bottom and top rails, 40 inches long by 1 inch in diameter.

Eight pieces of bamboo or wood for corner posts, 26 inches long by 2 inches in diameter.

Eight hooks and eyes, or heavy twine, raffia, or other tying material to fasten corners together.

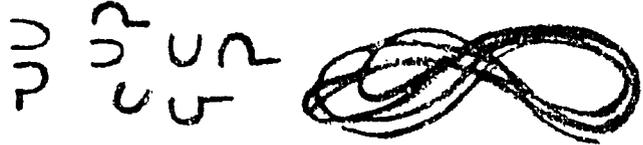
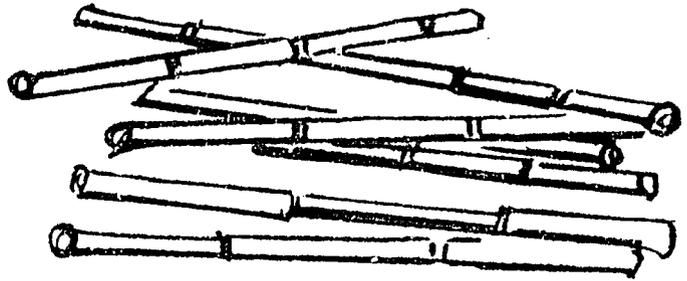
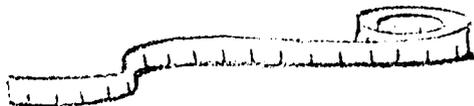
How to Make the Play Pen

Smooth all rough places on the wood or bamboo with sandpaper so the child won't get hurt.

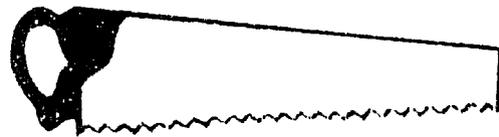
Measure even spaces for nine upright posts on each rail. Bore holes just large enough so the posts will fit snugly.

Put posts in the holes in the bottom rail. Then put the top rail on to form one side of play pen. Repeat for other three sides.

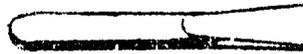
Bore holes for the top and bottom rails in the corner posts. Attach hooks to these four corner posts—top and bottom. Attach eyes to the other four posts so the hooks can be fastened into them.



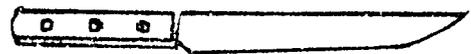
YOU WILL NEED THESE TOOLS:



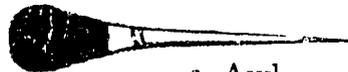
• Small saw



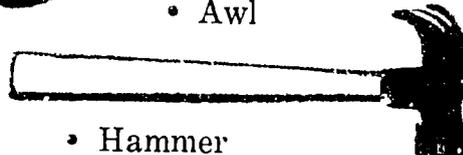
• Chisel



• Sharp knife

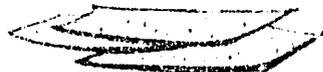


• Awl



• Hammer

• Pinchers

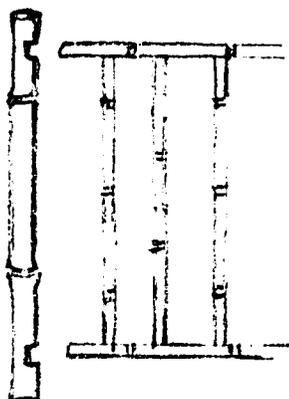
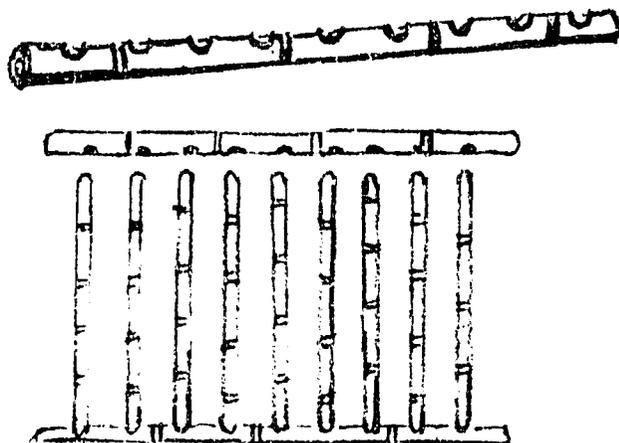


• Sandpaper

• Measure

Join a side of the play pen to two corner posts—one with hooks and one with eyes. Be sure the hooks point out of the pen so your baby will not hurt himself on them. It should look like this. Repeat on the other three sides.

Hook the four sides of the play pen together. It will look like this.



Tie light cord or rope to opposite corners across the bottom of the pen near the ground. This will brace the pen.

Spread a washable mat or mattress over the cord or on the wooden floor if you made one. Keep it clean.

Put some washable toys in the play pen. While your child gets accustomed to a pen, stay with him until he is busy with his toys.



If you do not have hooks, you can tie the corner posts together. It will work just as well.

You can make a wood floor or put a mat in the pen. This will keep your baby off the ground.

HOW TO USE A PLAY PEN

You can put the play pen under a tree near the house, or in a well-aired place on the floor inside.

Sweep the ground and set up the pen.

