

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshops

February 2025: Valentines Candy Box

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

A secret code is a form of communication that only the people sending and receiving the message can understand.

When might a secret code be useful? Have you ever had to decipher (or figure out) a secret code?

INVESTIGATE.

You'll soon be creating your own secret message to place inside your Candy Box for your Valentine to find.

But before you can write your secret message, you need your own code! You could decide to replace every letter in your message with a picture, symbol, or number. Or you could replace each letter with a new letter so that A=B, B=C, C=D, and so on.

Think about what you'd like your code to be. Then fill in the cipher, or key, below with what you'll use to represent A-Z.

You'll be sharing this cipher with your Valentine so they can understand your secret message!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

EXAMPLE: cfbdi cbh = BEACH BAG

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i |

INNOVATE.

Now let's use your cipher to write your secret Valentine's Day message!

You'll need:

- Your Valentines Candy Box
- Fine-point marker
- Glitter pens
- Paper
- Scissors
- Individually wrapped candy to fill the Valentines Candy Box

1. First, write the cipher you created above on your Valentines Candy Box so your Valentine will be able to understand your message. Before you begin, think about whether it will be best to write your cipher on one side of your box or to spread it out among two sides. You don't want it to be too squished! Then use the fine-point marker to carefully write it out. Make sure it explains how to decode every letter.
2. Once it's recorded, it's time to write your secret message. Grab a piece of paper that you will be able to fit in your Valentines Candy Box once it's folded or rolled. If it's too big, cut it down a little bit. Then use your glitter pens and your cipher to write a secret note to your Valentine. Try to include something that will make them smile!
3. Once your message is complete, fold or roll up your note and slip it inside your Valentines Candy Box. Then fill the rest of the box with individually wrapped candy that you know your Valentine will enjoy.
4. Give your Valentines Candy Box to your special person on or before February 14th!

Share a photo of your Valentines Candy Box, complete with the cipher you created, using #kidsworkshopexplore.



Look how fun your Candy Box turned out! Just like all the colors and decorations you used on your Candy Box, a **Painter** uses different colored paints and tools like brushes, rollers, buckets, ladders, and tape to make homes and structures look beautiful.

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