

## INCUBATION KIT – Building the Brooder Box and safely setting up the lamp for heating



1. You will need a cardboard box with a min. length and width of 24" x 18" for 8 – 12 chicks.

You may think about using a plastic bin – if you do this, you must be careful to keep the bottom covered with newspaper/coarse paper so that the chicks do not slip. Slipping can cause their legs to “splay” apart causing damage to the chick.



2a. You may choose to use plastic wrap\* and duct tape to put a “window” in a side of the box.  
(\*Teacher provided)



2b. You may choose to add some cardboard “eaves” to keep the box top flaps away from the lamp should you decide to partially close the top of the box - to keep heat in or to keep hands out.

(See Step 7 graphic)



3. Setting up the heat source (clamp lamp with 40W light bulb) is as simple as:

- Select a base and pole from the kit (there are two, one for a dbl. pan balance and one for holding the lamp)
- Screw the pole into the base.
- Attach the lamp 12" – 18" above the box floor to the pole using the squeeze clamp. Secure the clamp using **a small amount of duct tape** (for now).
- Use a thermometer to check the temperature (95°) below lamp, adjust the lamp height as needed. **Add tape to secure the clamp lamp.**



4. Place the clamp lamp set up in the box with the base against a box wall and the lamp away from the walls – over the center area of the box floor.

The slit in the top of the pole is handy for holding the lamp cord.

Be sure to consider where you are going to place the brooder box in your classroom – away from drafts and not in direct sun are wise considerations.. Be sure to **tape down** any electrical cords.

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5. Placing the base in the box will create a “step up/stepdown” which may trip the chicks.

You can buffer this step by adding newspaper or paper towels under the layer of newspaper/coarse paper which the chicks will walk upon.

OR



You can create a cardboard “fence” out of cardboard strips which will keep the chicks away from the step.

I used one of the box flaps (short side) to make my “eaves” and fence.



Box without “fence”.

Box with “fence”.



6. At this point:

- Make sure your lamp is secure so it will not tilt/fall onto the box floor.
- Add newspaper/coarse paper to fill in the floor of the box so that maintenance (cleaning) is easily done.



Brooder Box with lamp on.

Notice that the “eaves” are designed to keep the closed over lid away from the lamp.

The box top can be left open or closed over (only if kept away from the lamp). Be sure to check the temperature regularly. A thermometer is provided.