



## every day/rainy day crafts

A collection of over 350 crafts that just don't fall into any particular category. These are the crafts that you do just to have fun as a family, for homeschool activities, or in Sunday School class!



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## EVERY DAY-RAINY DAY CRAFTS

### Finger Paint

**Materials:**

1/4 cup cornstarch  
2 cups water  
Food coloring

**Instructions:**

Mix ingredients in saucepan. Boil until mixture thickens. Allow to cool, then pour into jars or other storage containers and color with food coloring. Best used on a glossy paper, such as butcher or shelf paper.

### Bakable Clay Recipe

**Materials:**

4 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 tsp powdered alum  
1 1/2 cups water  
Food Coloring

**Instructions:**

Mix all ingredients in bowl. Extra water can be added with hands, if too dry. Color by dividing and adding food coloring to each portion. Roll or mold as desired. Once molded or rolled, bake on un-greased cookie sheet for 30 minutes in 250-degree oven. Turn and bake another 1 1/2 hour. Remove and cool. When done, sand lightly and paint.

### Face Paint

**Materials:**

1 tsp cornstarch  
1/2 tsp water  
1/2 tsp cold cream  
food coloring

**Instructions:**

Stir together starch and cold cream until well blended. Add water and stir, then add food coloring. Use a small paintbrush to paint designs on face. Removes with soap and water. Store in airtight container.

### Make Your Own Invisible Ink

Dissolve 1 tsp baking soda in 2 tsp of water and use this ink to write an invisible message on a piece of paper. When the ink is dry, hold the paper near a light bulb. The writing will turn brown and be visible. You can also use lemon juice to write the message.

## Make Your Own Stickers

### Materials:

#### Sticker Glue:

1/2 cup vinegar  
4 packets of un-flavored gelatin  
1 tsp peppermint extract

### Instructions:

Bring vinegar to a boil. Add gelatin, reduce heat to low. Stir until gelatin dissolves. Remove from heat and add flavoring. Yields 1/2 cup.

### To make stickers:

Brush on the back of your sticker page and let dry. Then lick and stick!

## Poster Paint Recipe

### Materials:

1/4 cup flour  
1 cup water  
3 tbsp. powdered tempera paint  
2 tbsp. Water  
1/2 tsp. liquid starch or liquid detergent

### Instructions:

Put the flour in a saucepan, then slowly add the 1 cup water, and stir until mixture is smooth. Heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Cool. Divide into small containers so they each contain a 1/4 cup flour paste. Add 3 tablespoons tempera paint and 2 tablespoons water for each color. For opaque finish add liquid starch. For glossy finish add liquid detergent.

## Scratch and Sniff Watercolors

### Materials:

1 Tbsp. Un-sweetened powdered drink mix  
1 Tbsp. warm water  
small containers (muffin tins)

### Instructions:

1. Mix water and powdered drink mix in small bowl. Repeat this step several times using different flavors of drink mix to create different colors of paint.
2. Paint and let dry overnight before scratching and sniffing.

## Silliness Putty Recipe

### Materials:

2 parts Elmer's White Glue (1/2 cup)  
1 part liquid starch (1/4 cup)

### Instructions:

Mix well. Putty must dry a bit before it is workable. Store in airtight container.

## Groovy Glasses

### Materials:

Poster board  
Collage material  
Glue  
Scissors  
Colored plastic wrap

### Instructions:

1. Cut several eyeglasses shapes out of poster board.
2. Set out collage materials and glue. Let your children work in small groups to decorate the eyeglass frames.
3. When the glue is dry, attach plain or colored plastic wrap to the frames for lenses.

## Make a beach scene

### Materials:

Baby food jar w/ lid  
Sand  
Pebbles  
Shells

### Instructions:

1. A fun way to make a beach scene is to fill a baby food jar with sand.
2. Arrange pebbles, shells, and put a lid on it. The lid can be sprayed gold. Pasta shells can be used to represent real shells.

## Hot air balloon

### Materials:

1 large paper plate  
Colorful crayons  
Brown paper  
2 Popsicle sticks  
Scissors

### Instructions:

1. Cut a piece of brown paper into a square (this is for the basket).
2. Let the children color the paper plate anyway they want.
3. Glue a Popsicle stick to each top corner of the square and then to the paper plate. It looks just like a hot air balloon when it is done.

## 3-D kites

### Materials:

Wallpaper  
Sponges  
Paper  
Ribbon

**Instructions:**

1. Let children cut out diamond shape kites using wallpaper. The kids can even trace around a cardboard diamond shape.
2. Now cut a tiny square of sponge and glue this onto a piece of construction paper. Place the kite shape on top of the tiny sponge adding some more glue. . The sponge will make the kite stand out.
3. Staple a piece of ribbon or yarn on the end of the kite for a tail. Let dry.
4. The children might like to draw a background for the kites.

**TWO DIFFERENT BIRDHOUSES****Materials:**

Cardboard milk cartons

Cardboard tube

Corrugated cardboard

Brown craft paper or paper bag

Poster board

Spanish moss or excelsior

Paint, 3 or more colors

Small dowel stick 1/8" diameter 1" long

Small embellishments such as birds, ribbon, cording, dried flowers, etc.

Rulers, scissors, pencil, paper, paint brush, sponge, glue, needle & thread

**Milk Carton Birdhouse****Instructions:**

1. Empty, wash and dry 1 pint or quart milk carton. Glue the pour spout closed and cut 1/2" along the top of the milk carton. Cut brown paper to fit around milk carton and glue in place following the folds of the carton.
2. Cut desired bird hole from the front of the carton through paper and milk carton. Cut a 4" square of corrugated cardboard and securely glue to bottom of milk carton for a base. Cut one 4" x 6" piece of cardboard, fold gently in half and glue to the top of the milk carton, along the fold and down the slanted sides of the carton.
3. Using scissors or knife to poke hole in carton just below where perch would go and glue stick in hole. Paint and embellish your birdhouse as desired using moss, excelsior, small flowers, etc.

**Tube Birdhouse****Instructions:**

1. Cut the cardboard tube to the desired height (paper towel core can be made into three or for story house, bathroom tissue becomes a single dwelling) Cut desired number of round holes for doors.
2. Cut a 3" square of corrugated cardboard and glue securely to the bottom of the cardboard tube for the base.
3. To form a roof cut a half circle (5" diameter) from poster board and roll into a cone overlapping and glue to top of cardboard tube for roof. Take 1" piece of dowel stick for each door in your birdhouse using scissors or knife to poke hold under the door where perch would be. Paint and embellish as desired.
4. After the birdhouse is built but before the decorations are added you may apply a coat of sealer or water-soluble varnish to protect the finish then proceed with the decoration.

## Bottle Safe

### Materials:

Small glass jar with screw on lid  
Paper towel or bathroom tissue core  
Paint, color of your choice  
Scissors  
Felt, size of bottom diameter of jar  
Variety of buttons, charms and sewing notions for lady  
Small doily (size of jar lid)  
Bow  
Lace and trims to decorate  
Craft glue and craft stick  
Assorted small pieces of hardware for man (screws, washers, nuts, tiny tools and pencil stub)

### Instructions:

1. Paint the jar lid and set aside to dry. Measure the cardboard core to at least 1/4" shorter than your jar. Spread glue on the outside of the cardboard core and arrange buttons or hardware trims to totally cover the core. Trace a circle the size of the inside bottom of your jar on the felt and cut out. Spread a very light coat of glue on one side of the felt and arrange to cover the inside bottom of the jar. Put glue on the bottom edge of your decorated cardboard tube and place it into the jar and press firmly against the felt. If room permits add additional trims, notions, hardware, etc. between the outside edge of the decorated cardboard and the glass.
2. For the ladies glue your doily centered on top of the jar lid and arrange prettiest buttons and charms to your liking on the doily and glue in place. Add bow.
3. For the man on the painted jar lid arrange a variety of the hardware, small screwdriver, pencil stub, etc. in a design that pleases you and glue in place.
4. Optional variations can be made using other things:  
Use cotton swabs or cotton balls to fill. Decorate with baby rattle, blocks, etc. for a baby's' room  
Use as filler colorful fishing worms, decorate top with flies, floats, sinkers, etc. for a fisherman  
Collect found objects on a nature walk and use as fill and decoration.

## Hidden Picture

### Materials:

Drawing paper - 8 x 11 standard size works well  
Crayons - lots of them and especially black  
Pencil or lollipop stick  
Newspaper - to cover work surfaces

### Instructions:

1. The entire paper should be colored using a fun array of bright colors. This is not a drawing but a collage of colors. There are no limits on the size or shapes of the colors. Encourage your child to make the colors vibrant and to press fairly hard to give rich colors.
2. Now take a black crayon and color the ENTIRE colored piece of paper with the black crayon. Make sure it is completely covered in black.
3. The magic begins - using the pencil or lollipop stick you can etch out a drawing from the now blackened paper. The etching will cause the buried colors to magically appear. I suggest discussing what kind of picture your child would like to draw before starting. Watch the colors bloom.

## Fabric Fans

### Materials:

Liquid starch  
Rectangles of fabric or lace 10 to 12 x 4 to 5 inches  
Trim Tassels

### Instructions:

1. Saturate your fabric or lace rectangles with liquid starch.
2. Lay out strips of saturated ribbon or fabric to form borders on the edges of the wet rectangles for interesting detail.
3. The starch will act as glue to hold it together. Fan-fold the wet rectangles, making 7-10 vertical folds.
4. Place the wet fans (folded) on a hard surface and weight them with a book until set and dry. (Line the cover of the book with foil to protect it).
5. Carefully open the folds, tying the ends with ribbon and decorating by tying on tassels at the "base" of the fan.

## Shell Flowerpot

### Materials:

Terra cotta flower pots- any desired size  
Craft glue  
Shells

### Instructions:

1. Use the craft glue to attach shells. Start with a ring of shells at the top of the pot (shells should begin higher than the rim of the pot). Work downward, placing each successive row about halfway down the shells on the last ring.
2. If you want your shells to be shiny you can use a water base acrylic glaze. The shells should be glazed before you in the project. Allow to completely to dry before gluing the shells to the flowerpot.

## Shell Mirror Frame

### Materials:

Oval mirror frame, painted white  
Craft glue  
Shells (scallop shells are particularly good for this project)

### Instructions:

1. Choose scallop shells in a variety of colors, all about 1 inch wide.
2. Paint frame white including front, back, and inside edges. Lay shells on frame to determine color arrangement.
3. Dab glue to inside tip and base of each shell, and press onto frame.
4. Allow to dry flat on a table. Hang when completely dried.

## Cereal Box Puzzles

### For Each Puzzle You Will Need:

Colorful cardboard cereal box  
Zipper bag  
Scissors

**Instructions:**

1. Cut out the front of the cereal box.
2. Cut the box front into an eight-piece puzzle.
3. Now put it back together again.
4. Store each puzzle in a zipper bag.

**Rock Paperweight****Materials:**

Rock  
White glue  
Felt material  
Acrylic paints  
Markers  
Water based varnish

**Instructions:**

Find a rock that you love. Preferably large and smooth. Wash rock with warm water and dish soap. Decorate the rock using felt material, markers or acrylic paints. Be creative. Make it look like your favorite person or pet for example. Attach material with white glue. If using paints wait until completely dried before applying varnish.

**Bread Dough****Ingredients:**

4 pieces of bread (remove crusts)  
4 Tablespoons of white craft glue  
Small amount of acrylic paint to color  
Zipper type plastic bag.

**Procedure:**

1. Tear bread in small pieces and place in zip bag, add glue. Mix well until it starts to form a ball.
2. Add paint to color and mix well. It will form a smooth ball collecting all scraps when ready to use.
3. This takes a while so an adult may want to start before time for project
4. Keep stored in zip bag in refrigerator until ready to use.
5. Shape as desired and allow to air dry (depending on thickness of shape and humidity can take several days to cure).

The project can be made without color and finished shape painted if you prefer.

**Handprints****Materials:**

4 cups of flour  
1 cup salt  
Food coloring  
Water to moisten  
Large Bowl

**Instructions:**

1. Mix all the ingredients together in large bowl. Add water to get desired dampness.
2. Take half of the salt dough and gently flatten with palm of your hand. Don't let it get too thin. Keep it thick.
3. Ask your little one to make her handprints in the dough. You can do the same for footprints too. With a toothpick have your child write their name on the back of the mold with the date. Allow to dry for 24 hours.

## Your Postcards

### Materials:

Several pre-stamped, blank postcards (buy at post office)  
1 zipper-seal plastic bag  
Crayons, markers, stickers

### Instructions:

1. Put everything in the plastic bag and take with you on trip.
2. While you are traveling or during free time, take out a postcard. On the stamped side, draw a picture of a place you've been or someone you've seen, leaving room for the address (you can also write the address on the cards before you go on the trip).
3. Add stickers, write a message on the other side, and mail to a friend.

## Felt Bookmarks

### Materials:

Felt squares - any color you want the more the merrier  
Glue gun  
Paper  
Scissors  
Pencil  
Straight pins  
Sequins (optional)  
Fun foam precut shapes (optional)  
Ribbon (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Choose a piece of felt that will be the bookmark. On a piece of paper make a pattern for the mark. Draw a rectangle that is 2 1/2 inches wide and 7 1/2 inches long. I found this wide enough so that the kids could feel free to create their design. Cut out the paper mark.
2. Draw right on the paper pattern what you would like to see on the felt book mark. This way the child can actually see how much space they have to work with. Take the paper pattern and attach it to the felt with the straight pins. Cut along the pattern. Remove the pins and pattern and now you have the basic bookmark.
3. You can use the other pieces of felt to create flowers, geometric shapes, a scene etc. that later will be glued to the felt book mark.
4. After it has been decided how it will be decorated, then start any of the cutting of the felt etc ... for decorating. Have fun with it!
5. Use the glue gun to secure the pieces- sequins can be an interesting touch. After the bookmark is almost finished, then you can glue ribbon around the edges of it. All you need now is a good book!

Tacky glue can be substituted if you don't have a glue gun. Fun foam also comes in sheets and can be found at any craft store. If using sheets you can create your own shapes. It's terrific stuff.

## Travel Tales

### Materials:

1 small notebook  
1 large zipper- seal plastic bag  
A pen or pencil  
Crayons or markers

**Instructions:**

1. Before you go on the trip, write your name, the place you are going to, and the date that you are leaving on the cover of the notebook.
2. At the top of each page, write one letter of the alphabet, beginning with A and ending with Z.
3. Place the notebook, pencil, and crayons in the plastic bag and take them on the trip with you.
4. As you travel, look for special landmarks or things and write their name next to the appropriate letter. For example, lake would be written on the "page with "L" at the top.
5. Then draw a picture of that item on the page, and color the picture with the crayons. You can use blank pages at the end of the book as a travel diary, detailing everything you saw and did on the trip. You will have a full book of your vacation memories!

**Lava Lamp****Materials:**

1/2 cup of any clear cooking oil  
Empty, rinsed out soda bottle with cap  
Powered tempera paints - any color you choose  
Funnel  
Water  
Glitter/ sparkles/ shiny confetti

**Instructions:**

1. Pour the cooking oil into the soda bottle. Add 1 teaspoon of the tempera paint. Add glitter, sparkles, confetti.
2. Add water using funnel or measuring cup with a spout until bottle is filled. Tightly put cap on.
3. Now you have your own "lava lamp". Turn the bottle upside down and see how the colors move and change!

**Melted Crayon Jars****Materials:**

Jar  
Old crayons in bright colors  
Scissors  
Aluminum foil  
Ribbon

**Instructions:**

1. Choose two or three different crayons into small pieces. If you use a large jar, you will need more crayons than if your jar is small. (Three crayons will cover a baby food jar.)
2. Tear off a square piece of aluminum foil. Place the foil outside in hot direct sunlight. Sprinkle the crayons on the foil.
3. The crayons will melt quickly, so be ready with your jar. Do not wait until the crayons are completely melted or they will blend together to make a muddy color.
4. When they have melted, but still have some lumps in them, roll the jar around in the melted crayons to coat it. When you are happy with the design on the jar, take it to a cool place. The crayon will harden and set almost immediately.
5. Tie a bow around the neck of the jar.

## Mosaic Pot

### Materials:

Newspaper  
4 inch terra cotta pot  
1 quart bucket of ready-mixed joint compound (used to patch drywall)  
Ceramic tiles (bathroom or kitchen)  
Large flat-backed "jewels"  
Hammer  
Putty knife

### Instructions:

1. Start by breaking the tiles into small pieces. You can do this outdoors by placing a tile between 2 newspaper sections. If a child is doing this craft have supervision for the child as she hits the tiles with the hammer. Between each hit, take out and save the pieces that are about 1 inch by 1 inch in size. You will create many different shapes and sizes. Throw out the very small and continue to break up the larger pieces.
2. Cover your work surface with newspaper. Place the materials that you plan to use (jewels, shells etc.) in front of you. Using the putty knife "frost" the pot with the joint compound. Holding the pot upside down from the inside, smooth the compound on about 1/4 inch thick. Older kids may be able to do this by themselves.
3. Stick the pieces of the tile and gems onto the pot. Try to space them evenly, not too far apart. Turn the pot from the inside, so as not to disturb the compound.
4. Let dry 24 hours. With a dull knife, scrape off any compound that may have gotten on the tiles or gems. If a tile or gem piece becomes loose, just glue it back on.

## Cardboard Earrings

### Materials:

Cardboard  
Colored paper  
Scissors  
Glue  
Colored pens  
Markers  
Glitter

### Instructions:

1. Draw your designs onto cardboard and cut them out.
2. Cut a "V" in the center of each shape. This is what you use to attach the earring to your ear.
3. The "V" should spring back in place if you use cardboard.
4. Cut matching shapes out of colored paper to cover the cardboard earrings. Glue to one side of the cardboard and decorate.
5. Experiment with different designs. You can make the earrings as simple or as outrageous as you like. Birds, animals, flowers, shapes - it's up to you!

## Swan Puppet

### Materials:

Two 9-inch paper plates  
White adult sock  
Black adult-size sock  
White and orange construction paper  
Scissors  
Black marker  
White craft feathers  
Stapler and staples  
White glue

### Instructions:

1. Fold two paper plates in half. Staple the edges of the two sides of the folded plates together. This will be the body of the swan.
2. Trace your hands on white paper. Cut the hand shapes out for wings. Glue a wing on each side of the plates. Glue some feathers on the wings.
3. Cut eyes from the white paper. Draw a pupil in the center of each eye. Glue the eyes onto either side of the toe of the white sock.
4. Staple the two sides of the open end of the white sock to the inside of the swan body.
5. To make the duckling, fold a piece of orange paper in half. Cut a long beak with the back of the beak on the fold. Staple the beak to the toe end of the black sock and add some white paper eyes.
6. Cut a 2 ½ inch slit in the end of the white sock.
7. Turn the ugly duckling into a swan. Put the black sock on your hand. Slide the white swan body all the way over the black sock, so that the beak sticks out of the cut end of the white sock, giving the bird the black mask of an adult swan.

## Aquarium

### Materials:

Shoebox  
Blue construction paper  
White craft glue or glue stick  
Scissors  
Yarn scraps (green, brown, red, and pink)  
Plastic straw  
Markers  
Thread  
White paper  
Blue plastic wrap (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Line a shoebox with blue construction paper.
2. Glue scraps of green, brown, red, or pink yarn to sides, on bottom, and even hanging from to the top, as coral and seaweed.
3. Draw and color bright fish on white paper, in sizes to fit inside the shoebox. Color both sides if you want. Cut them out.
4. Tape varying lengths of thread, one to each fish, and tape them to the inside top of the box so that they hang down freely.
5. If you can, add real shells and rocks to bottom. Or, shape modeling dough into rocks or starfish. Tape blue plastic wrap stretched across the front of the shoebox.

## Happy Face Veggie Magnets

### Materials:

Bread dough in green, yellow and orange (recipes given use the one you like)  
Small magnets or magnet tape  
Toothpick or craft stick modeling tool  
Wax paper or plastic wrap  
Thick designer tacky glue  
Fine line Sharpie pen to draw faces (Optional tiny glue on wiggle eyes)  
Cover work space with waxed paper or plastic wrap (newspaper will leave print on the bread dough).

### Instructions:

#### Corn:

1. Use yellow and green dough. Roll out small piece of yellow dough to 1/8" thickness and cut to the shape of an ear of corn.
2. Make small balls of yellow and arrange in rows to cover the shape and look like an ear of corn. Leave a small area on each side of the corn without kernels as a place to add the leaves.
3. Roll out green dough to 1/8" thickness. With modeling tool cut out 2 leaf shapes. Arrange one leaf up the right side of ear of corn beginning at the bottom along the edge to the top.
4. Arrange leaf number two so it slightly over laps the first leaf at the bottom of the corn and extends up the left side of the ear of corn.
5. Gently press the outside edge of the leaves into the outside edge of the corn shape making sure no yellow shows along the outside edges. The leave can be curled back to show the kernels. Set aside to dry.
6. Draw a "Happy Face" on the ear of corn and glue magnet to the back.
7. Peas in a Pod:
8. Green dough. Roll out a small piece of dough to 1/8" thickness and cut a pod shape (a long elliptical oval) and set aside.
9. Make 5 small balls of dough and arrange along the center of the shape.
10. Fold both edges of pod shape toward the peas (balls) Pinch both the end together to form the pod with the 5 peas showing in the center. Set aside to dry.
11. Draw a "Happy Face" on each pea and glue a magnet on the back.

#### Carrot:

1. Orange and green dough.
2. Roll out green dough to 1/8" thickness and cut into strips (use 3 or 5) arrange in a fan shape. Lightly clip both sides of each strip to make feathered leaves.
3. Using orange dough, shape a carrot. Place the wide end of the carrot over the green "fan" of leaves and gently press in place. Set aside to dry.
4. Draw a "Happy Face" on the carrot and glue the magnet on the back.

## Coasters

### Materials:

Old CD that is no longer usable (ask mom first) or a plastic canvas circle  
Felt 2 pieces 6" square  
Craft glue  
4 Safety pins  
Darning needle or embroidery needle  
Embroidery floss  
Scissors

**Instructions:**

1. Place glue on one side of the CD and center it on the wrong side one square of felt. Place the second piece of felt right side out on top of the CD. Pin each of the four corners to hold it in place. Cut all around the CD leaving the fabric stick out about 1/4".
2. Place the loose piece of fabric wrong side down on the CD and place a few dots of glue between the fabric piece and the CD to hold it in place. Thread three strands of the embroidery floss in the needle and tie a knot in one end.
3. Make a blanket stitch all the way around the outside edge of the fabric, CD, fabric sandwich. Tie off and clip the threads.
4. With your threaded needle find the hole in the center of the CD and make one stitch down, up, back down and back up again. Tie the two ends of the thread in a knot and clip the threads leaving short tails.
5. This coaster can be personalized with a permanent marker by writing the name of the person on it. You can also draw designs or add buttons. Option: You can cut plastic butter tub lids in a 5" circle instead of using the CD or plastic canvas.

**Windsock****Materials:**

Cardboard core from tissue or paper towel

6 pieces White ribbon 3/8" by 18" (3 yds.)

6 pieces Red ribbon 3/8" by 18" (3 yds.)

6 pieces Blue ribbon 3/8" by 18" (3 yds.)

Craft glue

Paint brush or craft stick to spread glue

Scissors

36" piece of string or cord

Plastic wrap or aluminum foil

Large darning needle

Optional: 18" length dowel stick

You can use 9" lengths of ribbon gluing them in place on just the outside of the cardboard core for a less full Wind Sock.

Scraps of red, white and blue yarn, embroidery floss, torn fabric strips or paper can also be used to replace ribbon

**Instructions:**

1. Cut a 1" length piece from the cardboard core. Spread craft glue to cover the outside and the inside of the cardboard tube. This can be done a small area at a time as you add the ribbons. Fold each ribbon in half, wrong sides together and center it over the cardboard tube piece so it is attached both inside and outside of the core beginning with a red, then a white, then a blue and continue until the cardboard piece is covered.
2. With a small amount of glue on your fingers rub it across the cut ends of all the ribbons to keep them from fraying. Leave your partially finished Wind Sock on a piece of aluminum foil or plastic wrap until it dries thoroughly.
3. Cut your string or cord in three 12" pieces. Thread one end through the darning needle and take a stitch through the ribbon and through the cardboard 1/4" from the top edge of the Wind Sock. Remove the needle and pull the two ends until they are even. This may require adult help to get through the cardboard.
4. Repeat with the other two pieces of cord one third of the distance around the circle. Bring all 6 ends together and tie an overhand knot. This is your hanger and can be used to attach your Wind Sock to the optional dowel stick or you can tie it on the front of your bicycle or hang it somewhere in your room as a decoration.

## Travel Memory Box

### Materials:

Shoe box or small cardboard box with a lid  
Maps, white or colored paper to cover box  
Pictures  
Postcards  
Found objects from trip  
Craft glue  
Scissors  
Crayons, markers or paint  
Small notebook, pencil or pen

### Instructions:

1. Cover the box smoothly with the map or paper or paint the outside of the box.
2. Using a road map of the area traveled, you can mark towns and special places on the trip, Arrange pictures, postcards and found objects along the route or arrange in a pleasing design on the top and sides of the box. Glue in place and allow to dry thoroughly.
3. In the notebook write telling what the items are, where you found them and all the things you did during the summer. Place other collected vacation items inside the box with the notebook and you are ready for show and tell when school starts again.

## Stick Figures

### Materials:

Pine molding or unused paint stick stirrers  
Assorted color markers  
Scraps of material  
Assorted color construction paper  
Glue

### Instructions:

Cut wood molding or sticks into 6" lengths. Smooth off any rough edges with sandpaper. Use a black marker to draw legs and faces. Color in pants and shirts with colored markers. Use scrap material or construction paper to make dresses and other accessories. Hair can be made from yarn or as shown above from strips of paper stapled to the top of the head. Stick puppets are inexpensive, easy and fun to make. You can also make them as a class project. Be creative!

## Wind Chimes

### Materials:

Forks  
Spoons  
Shells  
Sticks  
Pieces of metal  
Aluminum pie pans  
Basically whatever you want that is metal.

### Instructions:

Make wind chimes for children to hang outside. Wind chimes can be made of many different things. See what materials the children suggest. Forks, spoons, shells, sticks, pieces of metal, aluminum pie pans, etc.

## Craft Stick Wall Hanging

### Materials:

5 craft sticks (Craft sticks)  
Beads  
Buttons  
Seashells  
Glue

### Instructions:

1. Glue 5 craft sticks together to form the house shape.
2. You may want to paint the sticks.
3. Glue on beads seashells buttons or anything you want to decorate the house.
4. Make your own saying. Cut it out and glue it on a piece of cardboard.
5. Glue the frame over the saying.
6. Now glue a hook on the back. Use a paper clip opened slightly and glued it on with a glue gun.

## Toilet Paper Roll Binoculars

### Materials:

Two toilet paper rolls  
Paint  
Masking tape  
Hole punch  
String

### Instructions:

1. Just paint the toilet paper rolls and let dry.
2. Tape them together with masking tape.
3. Punch a hole on both sides and add some string.

## Cardboard Mailbox

### Materials:

Small cardboard box for base (approximately 8" x 8" x 6")  
Cardboard gift-wrap tube  
Cylinder oatmeal box  
Poster board  
Red paint  
Paper fastener  
Hot melt glue

### Instructions:

1. Cover the oatmeal box with poster board (any color you wish) to cover the lettering.
2. Cut a flag shape out of red cardboard and fasten it to the oatmeal box with a paper fastener so that it can be moved up and down.
3. Cut away about 3 inches of the lids lip and tape the lid to the oatmeal box at the cut away area.
4. Use a knife to punch a slit in the oatmeal box where you want the mailbox stand to be. Punch another slit across the first one to make a cross. Make two more slits across the first to slits. Push open the cardboard to make a whole. If the tube doesn't fit through make your slits a little longer. Using a hot melt glue gun place glue all around the hole then push the tube inside the hole.
5. Place a heavy rock in the box you are using for the base of the mailbox. Close and tape the box close. Punch a hole in the middle of the box using the same method you used for the oatmeal box. Glue mailbox to the base.

## Box Boat

### Materials:

2 cardboard boxes the same size that are big enough for a couple of children to sit in  
Strapping tape  
Blue and brown paint  
Two wrapping paper tubes (optional)  
Extra cardboard (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Form one box into a triangle shape to form the bow of the boat then glue or tape the boxes together to form the boat. Paint the boat brown and then paint water on the outside of the boat.
2. If you want to make some oars: use a wrapping paper tube for each oar and cut out the paddle part from the extra cardboard and then glue together.

## Cardboard Roll Baskets

### Materials:

Cardboard Rolls - Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels  
Tape  
Heavy Paper or Contact Paper  
Crayons, Markers, or Paint  
Pipe Cleaner

### Instructions:

1. Cover one end of the cardboard roll with heavy paper and tape securely.
2. Cover the outside of the roll with paper or contact paper and decorate as desired.
3. Punch two holes near the top and attach a half length of pipe cleaner Use a pipe cleaner for a handle.
4. Fill with goodies for May Baskets. Also cute for party favors.

## Cardboard Roll Puppets

### Materials:

Cardboard Rolls - Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels  
Pipe Cleaners or Popsicle Sticks  
Large Pompom  
Misc. Craft Supplies

### Instructions:

To make puppets, use the roll as the body. Attach pipe cleaners or popsicle sticks for arms, a ball of foil, large pom-pon, or wad of paper for the head, yarn or paper curls for hair, small round labels for eyes. Two or three fingers will fit into the bottom to "work" the puppet.

## Shake, Rattle and Roll

### Materials:

Cans with Lids - such as formula or oatmeal cans  
Dried Peas, Beans, or Rice  
Hot Glue - Adults Only  
Contact Paper

### Instructions:

Cover the can with contact paper. Put in beans or whatever, and hot glue the lid on.

## Fun Foam Frame

### Materials:

Fun Foam shapes  
Construction paper  
Typing paper (drawing paper)  
Markers or crayons  
Glue  
Ruler

### Instructions:

1. Before class prepare a frame for each child. Fold a piece of construction paper in half so that each half measures 6" x 9".
2. On one of the halves measure and mark one inch all the way around the edge of the paper. Cut out the inside square so that you have a frame on one side of the paper.
3. Cut up different colors of fun foam into small shapes if you didn't buy a package of precut shapes.
4. In class give each child a piece of drawing paper 6" x 9" with a square the size of the inside of the frame marked on it. Have children draw a picture of their family to place inside the frame.
5. When a child is done drawing his family, glue the picture on the back of the frame and fold the paper in half and glue the back closed.
6. Instruct the children to glue fun foam shapes all around the edge of the frame.
7. You may want to add a string to hang up the picture.

## Foamie Watch

### Materials:

Foamie sheets (found at craft stores)  
Paper fastener  
Ruler  
Scissors  
Hole puncher  
Markers  
Stapler

### Instructions:

1. Cut one circle about 2" in diameter or less for the watch face and draw numbers around the edge.
2. Cut one strip for the watch band about 1" x 7" or size to fit child, round off one end of the band and decorate it with markers.
3. Cut two more strips about 1/4" x 2 1/2" for the straps to hold the band together.
4. Punch a hole (just big enough to fit the fasteners in) through the middle of the watch face and through the watchband where you want to attach the face. Push the paper fastener through the back of the band and the watch face to attach. Open up the prongs. You can clip the prongs (the watch hands) shorter for younger children so they don't scratch themselves.
5. Wrap the 1/4" strips around the end of the watchband over lapping the ends around the back of the band. With the watch upside down and the overlapped part of the strips showing, insert the bottom half of the stapler underneath the band and through the loop so that the overlapped part of the strips can be stapled together and to the band. (Hope you got that). OR just staple the loops so you can insert the other end of the band. Put the other strips about a half an inch to one inch above the first depending on the size of the child.

## Refrigerator Photo Magnets

### Materials:

Old photographs or copies of your favorite photos  
Magnetic sheets (the ones with the sticky back is best)  
Spray glue or any kind of glue that will work.

### Instructions:

Cut out around the edges of the people you want to use. Turn over and spray tacky glue on the back. Or if you have the self-adhesive type sheet, just place the pictures on the sheets. Then cut out around the pictures again.

## Card Fan

### Materials:

Old cards  
Things to decorate card with such as Rick Rack, buttons, sequins, ribbon, beads  
4 craft sticks  
Hot melt glue

### Instructions:

Paint four crafts sticks and let dry. When dry glue together to form the bottom of the fan, then glue to the bottom, inside of the card. Glue the card closed. Decorate.

## Sea Shell Paper Weight

### Materials:

Small seashells  
White glue  
Sand  
Paint  
Wilson Tennis ball container  
Fun foam for base

### Instructions:

1. To make the Plaster of Paris mold for the base cut the bottom off the plastic container about two inches from the bottom. Cut another inch off but leave two or three 1-inch tabs sticking up. This mold can be used over and over again.
2. Fill the base with Plaster of Paris according to the directions. Remove the plaster cast when it is dry by lightly tapping the tabs of the mold on a table. The plaster cast should pop out.
3. Cut a 3-inch circle from fun foam and glue it onto the Plaster of Paris base with tacky glue.
4. Paint the base and let dry. If you use watercolors you can add the seashells and sand without waiting for the paint to dry.
5. Add enough white glue to some sand to make it moist. Press a small amount sand into the impression in the base.
6. Arrange the seashell and press them into the sand.
7. Spray the entire paperweight with clear gloss paint.

## Leaf and Flower Print Bandanna

### Materials:

White bandannas or squares of white cotton material  
An assortment of fresh leaves and flowers  
Rubber mallet

**Instructions:**

1. Place waxed paper under your bandanna and then place a leaf or flower between the bandanna and the waxed paper.
2. Use a rubber mallet to pound on the leaves until the color from the leaf or flower comes through the material. Continue this way with other leaves and flowers until the entire bandanna is covered. The bandannas will be washable, but don't use Clorox or a strong detergent when washing it.

**Lip Print Picture****Materials:**

Paper  
Crayons  
Paint  
Lipstick

**Instructions:**

1. Put dark lipstick on your child. Instruct him or her to kiss a piece of paper in the middle of the page.
2. Draw in the face and features around the lips to look like the child. Or have the child draw in his or her own features.

**Doodle Creatures****Materials:**

Paper  
Pencil  
Crayons  
Imagination

**Instructions:**

1. Scribble on a piece of paper with a pencil. Use lots of curves, circles, jagged lines, short lines, and long lines.
2. It takes a lot of imagination to find a picture in a bunch of scribbles. Stare at the scribbles you made. Look for some kind of shape to pop out at you. Try turning the page around to view it at different angles. View it from close up and far away. If you can't find anything after a couple of minutes, try adding some lines. If you still can't find anything, try a new scribble. This takes some practice. Once you find a creature you can add what ever you need to finish the creature. Don't forget to give your creature a name.

**Folded Paper Stained Glass Window****Materials:**

Typing paper  
Crayons

**Instructions:**

Fold a piece of paper at an angle and then unfold making a nice crease with your thumb. Fold again and unfold until you have a good stained glass effect. Color in each shape with a different color crayon.

## Paper Towel Flower

### Materials:

Thick, heavy duty, white, square paper towels  
Glue  
Pretty buttons or gems  
Watercolor paints

### Instructions:

1. Find the center of the paper towel by folding the paper towel in half and then in half the other way. Unfold the paper towel. The lines meet in the center.
2. Fold each corner in towards the center and then fold each new corner in towards the center again. Turn the folded paper towel over and fold the corners in towards the center again. Glue down the four points at the center. Place a button or something decorative in the center and glue it down.
3. To form the flower petals use your thumb to press in on one of the corners while reaching around to the back and pulling up and out on the pointed flap. Do this to all four corners.
4. Then pull the four remaining corners on the back to form four more petals.
5. Paint with watercolors.

## Papier Mache

### Materials:

Newspaper  
1/2 cup of Flour  
Large spoonful of salt  
1 cup of Warm Water

### Instructions:

1. Tear some newspaper into strips. Most projects need strips about 1 inch wide. Remember, paper has a grain. Tear it one way and it will tear straight and evenly; tear it the other way and it's a mess.
2. Placing a plastic bag in your paste bowl is a good mess saver. Mix your paste inside it. When you are finished, throw the bag away and end up with a clean bowl. Mix up paste by putting the flour and salt in a bowl. The salt will help to keep the paste from going moldy. Add the warm water to the flour and salt. Mix it with your hands. It should be like thick, creamy soup. Add more flour to thicken it or more water to thin it. Spread paste on a section of your project. Lay a strip of newspaper on the pasty area. Spread paste on the strip. Lay a second strip overlapping the first one. Spread more paste on the second strip. Continue until the whole project is covered with 43 paper-and-paste layers. To prevent print from the newspaper showing through your paint, add a layer of blank newsprint. Blank newsprint can be bought in pads or in cheap scrapbooks. For some projects, it's easier to dip a newspaper strip in the paste first, removing the excess paste by pulling it through your fingers. Drying can take at least one day. You can tell if the project is dry by touch. If it feels cool, it needs more time.

## Paper Lighthouse

### Materials:

White poster board

1 - 9 oz paper cup

1 - 5 oz. juice/dessert plastic cup (It should be much wider at the top than at the bottom, 1- 6 oz. juice/dessert plastic cup (It should be pretty straight.)

Heavy-duty paper plate

Regular size screw band from a Mason Jar (canning jar)

Acrylic paint

Hot melt glue

Some rocks

### Instructions:

1. Cut the poster board to form the base of the lighthouse. On a piece of white poster board draw a quadrangle. To make the quadrangle draw a rectangle that is 13" wide and 12" high. Measure 3" in from the top on each side of the rectangle (as shown in the illustration). Draw lines from the 3" marks down to the bottom corners as shown in the picture. The top of your quadrangle should be 7" wide and the bottom should be 13" wide. Cut the quadrangle out. Glue the sides together to make a cone shape. Cut the bottom so that it sets on the table flat. (If you are going to add stripes, you may want to paint them on before you glue the sides together.) Glue the bottom of the base to the middle of a heavy-duty paper plate.

2. To make the railing, cut 1" off the top of the 9 oz. paper cup. Discard the rest. Place the screw band and inside the paper cup top so that the rim of the screw band and the rim of the paper cup are both facing up. They should fit snugly together. Glue them together. Slide them down over the top of the lighthouse poster board base. Glue them in place.

3. To make the windows where the light comes through place the 6 oz. plastic cup upside down inside and on top of the screw band and lid and glue down.

4. To make the roof of the lighthouse, glue the 5 oz. plastic up upside down over the 6 oz. plastic cup.

5. To finish paint the lighthouse and base with acrylic paint. Glue on rocks to the base.

## Fish in Water Paper Plate

### Materials:

Heavy-duty paper plates

Fish pictures or fish crackers

Blue and green cellophane or Handi-wrap

Blue and green tissue paper or crepe paper

Leaves

Seashells

Yarn

Hole punch

### Instructions:

Have the children rip up pieces of crepe paper or tissue paper and glue to the paper plate. Show them how to crinkle up sheets of cellophane or Handi-wrap and place on the paper plate. Have them glue on foliage that might look like it came from the sea and small seashells and coral. Have them glue on pictures of fish or use fishy crackers. When they are finished, cover the entire plate with cellophane or Handi-wrap. Punch a hole at the top of the plate and tie on a piece of yarn for hanging.

## Toilet Paper Roll Noodle Neighbor Puppet

### Materials:

TP rolls  
Different colors of construction paper  
Different colors of tissue paper  
Markers  
Glue

### Instructions:

1. Cover each TP roll with construction paper. I used hot melt glue to glue them on.
2. Cut out ears from different colors of construction paper.
3. Draw or use clip art pictures of different shapes of eyes, noses and mouths and make enough copies for each child.
4. Have the children cut out and glue on the face features they prefer. Have some already cut out for those who don't like to cut.
5. Crinkle up a half sheet of tissue paper from the center and stuff it into the top of the TP roll for hair.

## Clay Hand Print

### Materials:

4 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
1 teaspoon alum  
1 1/2 cups water  
fine sandpaper  
acrylic paint (choice of color)  
ribbon

### Ingredients:

1. Mix well in a large bowl. Roll into 1/2-inch rectangle. Press hands into clay. Cut around imprint into the shape you like. Make a small hole for hanging if desired. Bake at 250\* on un-greased cookie sheet for about 30 minutes. Turn over and bake another half hour until hard and dry. Remove from oven to cool completely.
2. Sand with fine sandpaper. Paint both sides. If desired, cover with shellac or clear nail polish. After hand print is dry string ribbon through the hole for hanging.

## Kid's Playdough

### Materials:

2 C Flour  
1/2 C Salt  
2 Tb Cream of Tartar  
2 C Water  
2 Tb Cooking Oil  
Food coloring as desired  
Oil of cloves, wintergreen

### Instructions:

In a large saucepan, add flour, salt, cream of tartar, water and oil. Cook over a low heat until of dough consistency. Let cool, then add food coloring and flavorings. Makes 4 cups.

## Gift Collage

### Materials:

1 piece of construction paper  
Old magazines  
Scissors  
Glue or glue stick

### Instructions:

This creative craft will help your child think about and express why he appreciates the recipient. The making of the collage is more important than the final product.

1. Let your child leaf through old magazines to find pictures, images and, if he's old enough, words that remind him of the person who is getting the gift. They can be pictures of things that person enjoys doing (jogging, skiing, cooking), or things that remind your child of the person.
2. Help your child cut out the pictures. Talk about why he's chosen his selections.
3. When he's found as many as he wants, help him arrange them in a collage on the construction paper. Should certain items be put together? Why?
4. Help your child glue his pictures on the paper. It doesn't matter what the finished product looks like. What's important is that you've created a special time for your child to think carefully and with appreciation about his parent.
5. Encourage your child to present the collage and explain the meaning of the images. Now that's a present!

## Nature Collage

### Materials:

Large Piece of Paper  
Paint  
Glue  
Leaves

### Instructions:

This craft takes more imagination than instruction! Go for a walk and collect a wide variety of leaves - as many different colors and shapes as you can find. Use the leaves to make "drawings". For example, glue one round or oval shaped leaf onto the paper. Using the leaf as the body, paint on a head, arms, legs, etc. Or how about using many different leaves to glue on an abstract design. You are only limited by your imagination!

## Funny Faces Artsy Craft

### Materials:

Head outlines  
One oak tag backing for each group  
Crayons and colored markers  
Scissors  
Stapler

### Instructions:

1. Children create flip books in which eyes, noses, and mouths get all mixed up to produce some very funny faces.
2. Divide children into two or three groups and distribute a copy of the head outline to each child. Tell children that they are going to use their imaginations to draw a funny face.
3. Point to the horizontal lines and explain that these lines are the secret to making the faces really funny. Demonstrate how children should place the eyes above the top line, the nose centered below the

middle line, and the mouth below the bottom line.

4. Encourage children to add anything else they wish to the picture, such as wild hair or a silly hat. After children finish their drawings, have them carefully cut along the horizontal lines.

5. Next, children in each group sort the strips into three piles, eyes, noses, and mouths and then staple each section carefully to an oak tag backing. Children can sit in a circle to pass the flip books around and create funny faces.

### **Paper Animal Finger Puppets**

#### **Materials:**

Paper  
Glue  
Masking Tape  
Wiggly Eyes  
Bits of String  
Twist Ties  
Small Pompoms  
Scissors  
Pinking Shears

#### **Instructions:**

**BODY BASICS:** Use scissors to shape the puppets' midsection from a 3-inch square of craft paper--perhaps a round potbelly for a pig or a rectangular body for an alligator.

For legs, roll and glue four 1 1/2- by 3-inch paper strips into cylinders. Make them wide enough to fit your child's fingers, so she/he can walk the puppet around.

Attach each leg to the midsection with a piece of masking tape, pressing one end inside the cylinder and the other onto the back of the body.

**TALKING HEADS:** A dog, lion, bug, or deer: Draw a suitable head and ears on a piece of craft paper. Then cut out the shape and glue it onto the body. Glue on wiggly eyes and distinguishing details, such as a pompom nose, a mane fashioned from snips of string, waxed-paper wings, or twist-tie antlers.

**A PIGLET:** With a small half circle, form and glue a paper cone. Flatten the tip of the cone with your thumb to create a pig snout. Glue on big floppy ears and attach the head to the body with tape.

**AN ALLIGATOR:** Match up a pair of 2 1/2- by 1 1/2-inch rectangles with the shorter edges at the top and bottom. Glue together the very tops, then fold back the glued portion and make a crease. With pinking shears, trim the sides and bottoms of the rectangles to create a tapered, toothy jaw. Glue the folded edge to the back of the body. Finally, glue on a pair of wiggly-eye stalks.

### **Spinning Blimp**

#### **Materials:**

Paper  
Ruler  
Scissors  
Crayons or markers

#### **Instructions:**

1. Cut a strip of paper about 6 to 8 inches long and 1/2 inch wide.
2. Cut halfway across the strip about 1/2 inch from one end.
3. Turn the strip around and do the same thing on the other end.
4. Slip the slot at one end into the slot at the other end.

You'll end up with something that looks like a little fish That's it! You've made a Spinning Blimp. Hold the blimp high over your head and drop it. It'll spin like mad on its way to the ground. Now you have a blimp that spins through the air.

**Note:** Make the paper strip wider or narrower. Make the tails longer or shorter. Cut the ends of the tails so they're pointy. Try using different kinds of paper. You can also color your paper strip before you fold it into a blimp. That won't make it spin better, but it's fun to watch patterns and colors spin through the air.

### School Picture Magnets

**Materials:**

School pictures  
Juice can lids  
Glue  
Magnet strips  
Ribbon and lace (optional)

**Instructions:**

Take one of those frozen juice lids, you know the round metal ones and cut a school picture to fit, with child's face nicely centered. Glue a piece of magnet strip to the back. Use the ones that come in a long length and you just peel the paper backing off them and they're ready to stick. Try gluing lace around the outside or a ribbon ruffle to dress it up.

### Book Covers

**Materials:**

Brown paper bag  
Scissors  
Baseball cards or comics  
Glue, tape or rubber cement  
Clear, self-adhesive paper (optional)

**Instructions:**

Cut along one of the side seams of the bag and remove the rectangular base so all that is left is a long, flat sheet of paper. Match the height of the sheet to the height of the book by making folds of equal width on the long edges of the paper.

Lay out the sheet with the folded edges up, stretching horizontally in front of you. Set the book on the paper, right-side up and about 5 inches away from the right side of the sheet (for books that are larger or smaller than a standard textbook, use half the width of the cover). Fold the left side of the sheet up and over the book.

Now, trim the ends to about 5 inches beyond the edge of the book. Tuck the two ends inside the front and back covers of the book. Secure them by slipping the book's covers inside the folds.

Your child then can decorate the cover. Add comic strips or baseball cards with glue, rubber cement or tape. For extra durability, cover the work with a layer of clear, self-adhesive paper.

### Sun Catchers

**Materials:**

Wax Paper  
Cheese Grater  
New or Used Taper Candles  
Iron  
Construction Paper (optional)

**Instructions:**

Put Wax paper in the middle of a stack of newspaper. Use the cheese grater to shred the taper candles. Put the pieces of wax in the middle of 2 pieces of wax paper and iron them together. When they are cooled, you can cut shapes, add a frame with construction paper, and a string to hang in the window.

**Ocean in a Jar****Materials:**

Baby Food Jars  
Hot Glue  
Blue food coloring  
Vegetable Oil  
Seashells and anything else you can find

**Instructions:**

Combine a few seashells, some blue food coloring, and a little vegetable oil in a baby food jar with water. Seal the jar with hot glue. The kids shake it to mix the oil and water and then watch what happens....

**Sand Jar****Materials:**

Baby Food Jars  
Salt  
Colored Chalk  
Glue

**Instructions:**

You can have the kids make those (fairly) useless but much loved jars of colored "sand" using salt and colored chalk. Just spread salt on a plate or whatever and rub the color chalk of their choice all over the salt, pour into the jar, use another color. The kids like to slide toothpicks or the end of the spoon down the sides of the jar to create patterns. You will probably want to glue the lid on!

**Rainbow Plates****Materials:**

2 Paper Plates  
Colored Cellophane  
Glue

**Instructions:**

Cut out a large circle in the middle of 2 paper plates. Glue colored cellophane to cover the hole on one plate, and then glue the two plates together. Children look through and see the world as different colors.

**Bubble Pictures****Materials:**

White Paper  
Water  
Liquid Dish Soap  
Food Coloring  
Straw

**Instructions:**

Put a little water in a plastic cup. Squeeze in some liquid dish soap and two or three drops of food coloring. It can be any color you like. Put a plastic straw in the cup and BLOW!!! If you press a piece of white paper on top of the cup very quickly before the bubbles pop you can print a picture of them.

**Circus Trains****Materials:**

Styrofoam Meat Trays  
Construction Paper cut in strips  
Animal cut outs from magazines coloring books etc.  
Milk Caps painted black  
Glue

**Instructions:**

Glue the pictures to the trays then glue (or staple) construction paper strips to the tray to look like cage bars. Then glue the milk caps to the bottoms to look like wheels. I always "connect" the cars and hang them on the wall for a couple of weeks.

**Fingerprinted Paper****Materials:**

Fingerpaint  
Paper

**Instructions:**

Have several colors of paint available. Let the children fingerprint directly onto the art table. When each child finishes, make a print of his creation by carefully laying a large piece of paper over the paint then rubbing the back of the paper. Hold the paper in two corners and quickly lift it up. The child's fingerprinting has been transferred to the paper.

**Spaghetti Pictures****Materials:**

Spaghetti Noodles  
Construction Paper

**Instructions:**

Boil spaghetti until it is way over done. Let it cool, then make designs on colored construction paper (flat, not mounded up). It sticks to the paper after it dries.

**Glitter Shakers****Materials:**

Baby Food Jars  
Glitter  
Glue Gun  
Goodies for Inside the Jar  
Water  
Ribbon  
Felt

**Instructions:**

Baby food jars make great glitter shakers for all occasions. Remove the label from the jar, hot glue goodies (plastic flower, little toy, plastic fish, your choice!) to inside of lid. Fill jar with water (leave room for water level to rise when the goodie lid is added) and add glitter, about a tablespoon, put on lid checking water level, hot glue lid in place, glue ribbon around the edge of the lid, tie in bow, and cut a circle to fit the bottom of felt and glue in place. Shake and watch it sparkle!

**Gift Bags****Materials:**

Paper Lunch Bags or Grocery Bags  
Stickers, Crayons, Markers, or Paint  
See Options Below

**Instructions:**

Decorate a bag to hold a gift! Use stickers (either birthday, Christmas, etc.), color pictures, or sponge paint it (use sponges cut into different shape). For an extra-added touch, after the gift is in the bag, punch two holes through the flap and put a candy cane, sucker, or whatever through the holes to seal it!

**Candle Holders****Materials:**

Baby Food Jar  
Tissue Paper  
Glue  
Small Votive Candle  
Optional - Ribbon, glitter

**Instructions:**

Brush diluted glue on the outside of the jar and stick on tissue paper. Cover the whole jar with one layer of tissue paper. Sprinkle a little glitter on it, and tie a ribbon around the top if you like.

**Wrapping Paper****Materials:**

Paper Grocery Bags, Butcher Paper, or Newspaper  
Crayons, Markers, or Paint

**Instructions:**

If you are using paper grocery bags, cut them open so they can lay flat. Make sure you put the side with any writing down. Decorate as desired!

**Pencil Holder****Materials:**

Clean Can (juice containers work great)  
Construction paper  
Glue or Tape  
Collage Items (scrap fabric, lace, buttons, yarn, etc.)  
Crayons, Markers, Paint, etc.

**Instructions:**

Cut a piece of construction paper to fit around the can. Decorate construction paper as desired. When it is dry, glue or tape it around the can.

## My Favorite Thing Gift

### Materials:

Shoe Box  
Glue  
Paint

### Instructions:

Paint the outside of the box (or decorate as desired). Glue a small mirror on the bottom of the box. Also glue a card on the bottom of the box that reads: "The person reflected is one of the most cherished gifts in my life". Wrap as desired.

## Silhouette Gift

### Materials:

2 Pieces of White Construction Paper  
1 Piece of Black Construction Paper  
Pencil  
Glue  
Tape  
Scissors  
Flashlight or Lamp With the Shade Removed

### Instructions:

Tape a piece of white construction paper onto a wall. Sit sideways in front of the paper, and have someone use the light to cast a shadow of your profile on the paper. Have someone trace the profile. Trace the profile onto the black paper and cut it out. Glue the profile onto the other white paper.

## Desk Organizer

### Materials:

Large Cans - Formula cans work great  
Construction Paper or Contact Paper  
Glue  
Crayons, Markers, or Paint

### Instructions:

Glue two or three cans together, decorate and use as a desk organizer.

## Personalized Shirts

### Materials:

Shirt (new or used)  
Fabric Paint

### Instructions:

Have children paint sweatshirts for Mom, Dad, Grandma...anyone! Family members love to wear sweatshirts with tiny hands that say, "Hugs for Grandma From ...".

## Photo Lids Gift

### Materials:

Juice Can Lids  
Photo of Child  
Glue  
Miscellaneous Craft Supplies

**Instructions:**

We have glued a child's photo to the inside of the lid, "framed" it with those miniature strings of pearls, glued small paper doilies or lace to the back and added magnets for fridge magnets. Great gifts! You could also make several of these using photos of a child doing various activities and arrange the photo lids by hanging them from a short dowel to create a "Me" mobile.

**Spoon Pins****Materials:**

Plaster of Paris or Faster Plaster  
Plastic Spoons  
Hot Glue Gun  
Craft Pin Backing  
Paint or Markers

**Instructions:**

Mix up some plaster of paris. Pour it into the bowl-part of a plastic spoon and let harden. Make sure it is even across the top. Hot glue on a craft pin after it is hardened (or stick it directly in the plaster of paris when it's about half way hardened). After it's completely dry, pop it out of the spoon. It can then be painted or colored with markers. This is a great idea for Mother's day.

**Photo Key Chain****Materials:**

Plastic Key Chain (as explained below)  
Photo of Child  
Paper  
Crayons or Markers

**Instructions:**

Buy a plastic key chain with a place to slip a photo inside. For 1 child family write something like "Happy Mother's Day" or "I love you" or something on a rectangle of colored paper to put on the reverse side of the photo. For siblings put the photos back-to-back.

**Flower Child****Materials:**

Plaster of Paris  
Tiny Clay Pot  
Popsicle Stick  
Brown Felt  
Poster Board  
Photo of Child

**Instructions:**

Put plaster of paris in a tiny clay pot, with a popsicle stick (painted or colored green) sticking up. A brown felt circle (with a slit to fit over the stick) serves as the soil. A brightly colored poster board flower with a photo of the child's face in the center gets glued to the stick and there you have it!

## Bookmark

### Materials:

Poster board  
Photo of Child  
Clear Contact Paper  
Crayons or Markers

### Instructions:

A bookmark-sized piece of poster board with the child's photo glued to the upper part and the words "I'll save your place" below. Laminate or simply seal between two strips of clear contact paper.

## Hugs

### Materials:

Tag Board  
Construction Paper  
Glue  
Photo of Child  
Crayons or Markers

### Instructions:

Glue tag-board cutouts of the child's hands to either end of 2.5"x18" strip of construction paper on which is written, "I love you this much!" Glue a good-sized head and shoulders photo of the child to tag board, then to the center of the strip. "Arms" can fold over one another in front, and when opened, will stand alone.

## Photo Placemat

### Materials:

Photos of Child  
Clear Contact Paper  
Paper  
Crayons or Markers

### Instructions:

Arrange photos of the child between two placemat-sized sheets of clear contact paper. If needed, bare spots can be filled in with messages like I Love You, Happy Mother's Day, You're the Greatest, etc.

## Mom's Apple Pie

### Materials:

Apple Potpourri  
Pie tin (small aluminum)  
Pompoms (red)  
Gold glitter  
Tan Felt  
Glue  
Scissors  
Pencil  
Wax paper

**Instructions:**

Place your pie tin upside down on the tan felt. Trace the shape with your pencil and cut out the piecrust. Pour your potpourri into your pie tin. Don't eat it. It smells better than it tastes. Fill your pie tin with pom-pom "apples". Put a bead of glue around the edge of the pie tin and cover with the piecrust felt. Place a sheet of wax paper on top of the crust and place a book on top until the glue dries. Don't use a really heavy book or you may end up with applesauce. When your pie is dry, decorate the top by drawing lines with glue and sprinkle with glitter.

**Helping Hand Coupon Book****Materials:**

Construction Paper  
Stapler  
Crayons or Markers

**Instructions:**

Trace child's hand onto 5-6 pieces of paper. Staple together to form a book. On the cover write, Helping Hand Coupon book. The kids can color the hands. I drew a hand on the front and wrote H-A-P-P-Y (one on each finger) and Father's Day in the palm. Kids can also think of specific things they want to help with (pick up trash, rake leaves, rub back, etc.) and write these on each page.

**Blocks and Beads****Materials:**

Cardboard Rolls - Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels, etc.

**Instructions:**

Get a lot of rolls. Cut into different lengths, leaving some long. Cover with bright contact paper, covering over the edges a little. Using a sharp kitchen knife, make 4 slits about 1/2 " long on each end, cutting across with the knife so that they are even. Older kids can use these like blocks, interlocking the slits for stacking. Without the slits, they make great "beads" for even the little ones to string onto a long shoelace. (Just watch so they don't chew on them.)

**ABC and Number Blocks****Materials:**

Cans with Lids - such as formula or oatmeal cans  
Construction Paper or Contact Paper  
Crayons

**Instructions:**

Get 26 or 10 cans and decorate with the alphabet or numbers and let the kids put them in order. Can also be used as building blocks!

**Matching Games****Materials:**

Wrapping Paper  
Clear Contact Paper  
Folder

**Instructions:**

Many kinds of wrapping paper have different 'scenes' on it that are repeated over and over. You can cut these out and laminate (clear contact paper works great) or otherwise affix to a folder, and then cut out ones that match, and laminate those, it makes a nice folder-matching game. If you are out of contact paper or laminating sheets- you can use clear packing tape, you just have to be very delicate or you get wrinkles.

**Fishing Game****Materials:**

Dowel  
Narrow Ribbon  
Magnet  
Juice Can Lids

**Instructions:**

Use a dowel (cut in half) and tie a piece of narrow fabric ribbon around one end and tied a magnet to the end of the ribbon to make a fishing pole. Then take a bunch of the juice lids and colored fish, shaped, letters, numbers, and their names on them. What they do is sit on the couch and fish into the carpet (water) and then identify the fish they caught (I caught an "L", or, I caught a red fish).

**Matching Game****Materials:**

Juice Can Lids  
Pictures

**Instructions:**

Find or make 2 different pictures of the same object and glue them on the juice covers. Kids try to find the matches.

**Easy Pinata****Materials:**

Brown Paper Bag, lunch-size or larger  
Several pieces of brightly colored tissue paper  
String or Yarn  
Hole Punch  
Scissors  
Glue

**Instructions:**

1. Cut the tissue into strips about 3" wide. Cut the strips into fringe, leaving about 1" uncut at the top edge. Starting at the bottom of the paper bag, glue the strips around the bag. Glue the next strip so that the fringe comes down and covers the glued area of the first strip. Layer the strips of fringe until the bag is covered. Cut several long streamers of various colors and glue them to the sides and bottom, so they will hang and flutter.
2. With the hole punch, punch holes around the top of the bag about 2" apart. Thread the yarn or string through the holes. Fill the bag with candies or prizes. Pull the strings up securely and knot. Use the lone string ends to tie your pinata where it can be hit with sticks. Something safer maybe rolled up newspaper. Now your ready with a blindfold! Kids take turns swatting at the pinata and have a free for all when it breaks!

## Water Painting

### Materials:

Clean Clorox Bottles  
Cheap Paint Brushes

### Instructions:

Save gallon Clorox jugs and cut one half of the top off leaving the handle. This makes a great pail with a handle. Save enough jugs for all the children and the teachers to have one. Give everyone a bucket and a large, cheap paintbrush. Go outside, fill the buckets with water, and paint everything in sight in sight in the playground with water! The kids LOVE it and it doesn't harm anything - nothing that a little sunshine won't take care of!

## Scoop Ball

### Materials:

Clean Clorox Bottles  
Ball

### Instructions:

Cut away from the bottom and lower side of the Clorox jug, making a scoop. Use tennis balls or small foam balls (4" or so).

## Playdough

### Materials:

3 c flour  
1 1/2 c salt  
3 tbsp oil  
2 tbsp cream of tartar  
3 c water  
Food Coloring

### Instructions:

Mix and cook over very low heat until not sticky to touch. You can add food coloring if you want.

## Goop

### Materials:

2 c salt  
1 c water  
1 c cornstarch

### Instructions:

Cook salt and 1/2 c water for 4-5 minutes. Remove from heat. Add cornstarch and 1/2 c water. Return to heat. Stir until mixture thickens. Store in plastic bag. You can add food coloring if you want.

## Clay

### Materials:

4 c flour  
1 c salt  
1 1/2 c water

**Instructions:**

Mix ingredients well. You can add food coloring if you want.

**Cardboard Squares****Materials:**

Cardboard Rolls - Bathroom Tissue, Paper Towels, etc.

**Instructions:**

Take a plain roll, cut it all the way down one side. Do this to several and flatten them as much as possible. Weight them down with a heavy book or other object for a day or two. You have some nice little squares of cardboard for other projects.

**Bubbles****Materials:**

1/2 cup Water  
1/2 cup Dish Soap  
Cooking Oil

**Instructions:**

Mix together water and soap; add a little cooking oil to help strengthen the bubbles.

**Paste****Materials:**

1 c flour  
1/2 c water

**Instructions:**

Combine and mix until creamy. For a more durable paste and 1/2 cup of flour to 1 cup boiling water, stir over low heat until thick and shiny.

**Kool-Aid Play Dough****Materials:**

1cup sifted flour  
1/2 cup salt  
3 Tablespoons oil  
1 small package Kool-Aid (or other un-sweetened mix)  
1 cup boiling water

**Instructions:**

Mix 1 cup sifted flour, 1/2 cup salt, 3 tablespoons oil and 1 small package of Kool-Aid or other un-sweetened powdered drink. Add 1 cup boiling water. Stir the ingredients together, knead mixture until it forms a soft dough.

**Colored Noodles****Materials:**

2 lb. Noodles (wheels, long tubes) anything that you can string.  
3 bottles Alcohol  
Food Coloring

**Instructions:**

Place noodles in a large container so that there is room for the alcohol. Add the alcohol and food coloring. Make sure all noodles are covered and let stand as long as you wish the longer the noodles are in the solution the brighter the colors are. You can use half a bag for one color and etc. Place noodles on paper towels to dry, it takes a few hours, but when done let children string or sort the noodles.

### Homemade Finger Paint

**Materials:**

2 cups flour  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 1/2 cups cold water  
2 cups boiling water  
Food Coloring

**Instructions:**

Mix 2 cups flour with 2 teaspoons salt. Add 2 1/2 cups cold water. Stir until smooth. Gradually add this mixture to 2 cups boiling water. Boil until smooth and thick. Add food coloring, then stir until smooth.

### Soapy Finger Paint

**Materials:**

1 Cup soap flakes  
1/2 Cup water  
Food Coloring

**Instructions:**

Whip 1 cup soap flakes with 1/2 cup of water. Tint with food coloring or dry tempera. Paint on white shelf paper or waxed paper.

### Sidewalk Chalk

**Materials:**

3 T. Plaster paris  
2 T. Power tempera paint  
3 T. Water  
Mild (see below)

**Instructions:**

Mix plaster paris and tempera paint; add water and mix well. Pour into molds. Allow to dry for 24 hours; remove from mold; and let air dry for 2 days to 1 week depending on size of mold. You can use dixie cups, candy molds, muffin tins, etc. for the molds.

### Sand

**Materials:**

4 cups dried coffee grounds  
1/2 cup salt  
1 cup cornmeal  
1 cup flour

**Instructions:**

Mix all the ingredients together, and let the kids have fun! This one is better than sand because there is no sand "dust" and it is easier to clean/vacuum up.

## Toddler Mud

### Materials:

4 rolls toilet paper  
3 cups Ivory Snow  
1 gallon warm water

### Instructions:

Let toddlers help unroll the toilet paper. Mix soap and water together in bucket. Add toilet paper and allow paper to absorb the soap mixture. This mixture keeps at least one month. With this one there were suggestions that you could color it by using colored toilet paper, or by using food coloring (color the water prior to putting in toilet paper). If you add about 1/4c wallpaper paste to this mixture, if the kids make something (pressed into a mold, maybe) and want to keep it, the wallpaper paste will allow it to harden.

## Puppets for Pennies

### Materials:

Old Stuffed Animals

### Instructions:

Discarded stuffed animals make great, inexpensive puppets, simply open the seam at the bottom of the toy animal, empty old stuffing, and sew a hem around the open seam. By visiting a few yard sales, I have filled my puppet collection box to the top for a few pennies.

## Tunnel

### Materials:

Knit Fabric  
Hoola-hoops

### Instructions:

For anybody wanting to make their own tunnel, buy a length of T-shirt knit fabric. Both edges are knit together making it a tube. Insert hula hoops every few feet and you have a tunnel.

## Paint Pallet

### Materials:

1 large plastic lid  
Milk caps  
Glue

### Instructions:

Glue several milk caps to the inside of the plastic lid. Now you have an instant paint pallet. Fill each lid with a different color. Saves on paint.

## Raisin Elevators

### Materials:

Clear, Carbonated Soda Water  
Clear Glass  
4-5 Raisins

**Instructions:**

Pour clear carbonated soda water into a clear glass. Drop four or five raisins into the glass. After 40 - 60 seconds, the children will observe raisins moving up and down in the glass. Teacher should help the children draw the conclusion that the air bubbles caused the upward movement. Let children observe the glass later in the day when the carbonation has ceased. This will reinforce the role of the air bubbles in lifting the raisins.

**Soda Fizz****Materials:**

1 tsp. of baking soda  
Empty Soda Bottle  
1 tsp. of Vinegar  
Balloon

**Instruction:**

Demonstrate the following activity: Place a teaspoon of baking soda into an empty soda bottle and add a teaspoon of vinegar. The two substances create a gas when they are mixed. This can be demonstrated by placing a balloon over the top of the soda bottle. It will expand from the gas. More of each substance will expand the balloon even more. Allow each child to mix the two substances. Provide a paper plate, small cup of vinegar and a small cup of baking soda. Each child can use a spoon to put the baking soda on the plate and an eyedropper to add the vinegar. The mixture will fizz.

**Wave Maker****Materials:**

Clear, Plastic Bottle (at least 10 inches high)  
Denatured Alcohol  
Blue Food Color  
Vegetable Oil

**Instructions:**

Fill the bottle three-fourths full using denatured alcohol. Add blue food coloring (make it a deep blue). Fill the bottle with cooking oil, leaving a small space at the top. Glue the top on for safety. The substances will not mix and the water will move like a wave over the oil when moved up and down.

**Ice Cube Experiment****Materials:**

Small Glasses  
Vegetable Oil  
Ice Cube

**Instructions:**

Fill glass with oil. Place an ice cube in the glass - the ice floats near the top. Observe your experiment for a while. Notice that as the ice melts, water droplets sink to the bottom. Why? As water freezes, it expands and takes up more room. This makes it less dense and therefore it floats on the oil. Once it has melted, the water is heavier than the oil and it falls to the bottom.

**Explosions****Materials:**

Alka Seltzer Tablets (generic work fine and are cheaper)  
Empty Film Canisters (clear ones work best)  
Hot Water

**Instructions:**

Draw a line around bottom of film canister about 1 cm from bottom (a little less than 1/2" for the metrically impaired). Fill up to that line with warm water. I use tap water that is hot enough to be steaming and fill a coffee mug with cover on it so the kids can pour the water themselves. Place 1/4 of an Alka seltzer tablet in the canister and immediately secure cover, turn upside down and place on sidewalk/driveway or similar surface in open area (BTW, this is an \*outdoor\* activity!) Stand back and wait for "explosion" as the gases build up and the film canister bottom goes FLYING in the air about 20 feet. Be sure to buy lots of Alka Seltzer because the kids want to do this one again and again!!!!

### Crystal Garden

**Materials and Instructions:**

Place broken pieces of brick or terra cotta clay in a glass bowl or jar. Pour the following solution over this:

1 tsp water

1 tsp ammonia

4 tsp bluing

1 tsp Mercurochrome

4 tsp salt

Add more of this solution each day until the crystal garden has grown to the desired size. (Adult supervision required.)

### Air Blowers

**Materials:**

Party Blower

Plastic Baggie

**Instructions:**

Take a party blower (the ones that unfurl as you blow into them) and a plastic baggie. Blow air into the baggie, capturing it as it becomes full. Attach the blower (mouth-end into the end of the baggie) and secure so no air leaks out. By squeezing the baggie, you can blow up the party horn. The child can then control the movement of air, the air takes up space, etc. Lots of principles here!

### Rainbows

**Materials:**

Small Mirror

Small Dish of Water

**Instructions:**

Place a small mirror in a small dish of water. Place in direct sunlight and watch the rainbow form on an adjacent wall. Try moving the mirror in and out of the water and see the differences. Shows light diffraction, etc.

### More Rainbows

**Materials:**

Shallow Dish

Milk

Food Coloring

Liquid Dish Soap

**Instructions:**

Place milk in a shallow dish and add drops of several different food colors around the dish. Add a drop of liquid dish soap and watch what happens! Interesting chemical reaction!

## Potato Prints

### Materials:

Potatoes  
Poster paint or tempera  
Paper, cardboard, or wood  
Sharp knife  
Pencil

### Instructions:

1. Cut potatoes in half or thirds.
2. Draw desired design onto potato with the pencil.
3. Young children can carve their whole design with the pencil but if more detail is preferred, an adult needs to cut around the pencil outline.
4. Place paint in tray or paper plate in a thin layer.
5. Press potato design into paint and firmly press onto paper for impression.

### Don't have Paint?

Coloring with marker onto the potato works as well although it produces a lighter effect. **Mom's Tip:** Practice a couple of times to get the feel for how much paint you want on your print. To accomplish a textured effect try letting layers dry and adding prints on top in different colors.

## And More Rainbows

### Materials:

Jar of Cold Water  
Food Coloring

### Instructions:

Place a clear jar of cold water on the table so it can be undisturbed but observed. Add drops of food coloring and watch the "rainbows" appear. Try varying the water temp, consistency (add oils, etc), stirring and so on. Shows color mixing, properties of matter, etc.

## Egg in a Bottle

### Materials:

Glass Apple Cider or Apple Juice Jug  
Newspapers  
Hard Boiled Eggs

### Instructions:

You need a glass empty apple cider or apple juice jug. Put torn newspapers in the jug and light. As soon as the fire gets going place a hard-boiled egg on top. Soon it will get sucked into the jar with a pop.

## Race to the Top

### Materials:

Pole bean or pea seeds, one per child  
Potting soil  
Dowel rods or sticks, one per child  
Potting cups, one per child  
String lengths, one per child

**Instructions:**

Anchor strings to a hanging dowel rod or hang directly from the ceiling by a pushpin. Let each child plant her own bean/pea in a cup. Tie the end of a string to a stick and insert the stick in a child's cup so the bean can climb up the stick and then on the string. Repeat with all the cups. Water the beans periodically and watch them climb the string.

**Face Painting****Materials:**

Cornstarch  
Cold cream  
Water  
Food coloring  
Muffin tin or small bowl  
Small paintbrushes  
Make-up or new kitchen sponges

**Instructions:**

In each small bowl or each section of a muffin tin:  
Blend together 1 tsp. cornstarch and 1/2 tsp. cold cream.  
Add 1/2 tsp. water and stir.  
Add drops of food coloring until you have the desired degree of color.  
Mix well.

Paint your child's face using small brushes or sponges (avoid eye area).

**Plaster Hands****Materials:**

2 cups all purpose flour  
1 cup salt  
3/4 cup water  
Food coloring  
Aluminum foil  
Cookie sheet  
Rolling pin  
Butter knife, round or heart shaped cookie cutter  
Toothpick  
Oven  
Poster paints (optional)

**Instructions:**

Make Salt Dough Clay: Mix 2 cups all purpose flour with 1 cup of salt and water in a deep bowl. Knead it until it's doughy. Add food coloring or wait and paint finished paperweight. Roll dough into a ball. Put the ball onto a sheet of aluminum foil on a cookie sheet. Roll the ball flat with a rolling pin until it's about 1 inch thick. Spread your child's fingers and press his or her hand into the center of the clay. Use a butter knife to cut a shape such as a circle or a heart around the handprint. You may also use a large round or heart shaped cookie cutter. Write your child's name and the date with a toothpick somewhere on the paperweight. Bake the dough at 200 degrees until it's dry (about 3 hours). Let it cool. Paint with poster paint if desired.

## Back to School Bus

### Materials:

4 Bottle Caps or lids from Milk Jugs  
Black Paint  
Milk Carton (small pint size works the best)  
Yellow construction paper  
Markers  
Glue

### Instructions:

1. To make the wheels of the bus, take the four milk caps and paint them black. Let them dry as you make the body of the bus.
2. Cover the milk carton with yellow construction paper and attach it to the outside of the carton using glue. Let the children decorate the bus with markers. Tell them to include details such as: windows, windshield, doors, bus driver and kids in the windows of the bus.
3. Now you are ready to attach the wheels. Glue the wheels to the side of the bus leaving very little of the cap hanging over the bottom edge. For best results, glue on wheels on side at a time and let it dry lying on its side.

**Note:** If you cannot find milk caps, big black buttons work well for the wheels.

## Crazy Cornstarch Concoctions

### Materials:

Your favorite tempera paints  
Cornstarch  
Warm Water

### Instructions:

OOEY, GOOEY, JIGGLY, WIGGLY! Is it solid or liquid? Is it wet or is it dry? Both children and adults love this crazy concoction. Try it and you'll see why. In a large tub, add 3 cups of cornstarch. Gradually add 2 cups of warm water. Now add approximately 2 tablespoons of tempera paint.

## Crazy Cream

### Materials:

Newspaper  
Waxed paper  
Shaving cream  
Your favorite colors of watercolors

### Instructions:

Cover a table with newspaper and then again with waxed paper.  
Dispense a generous amount of shaving cream and add several colors of watercolors.  
Great tactile activity and makes fun pastel handprints, a terrific gift!

## Chalk Floats

### Materials:

Paper or mat board  
Dishpan  
Water colored chalk  
Cheese grater

**Instructions:**

1. Fill the dishpan with water.
2. Grate or crush chalk sticks into powder. (Use old pieces that were on their way out anyway.)
3. Sprinkle chalk on water in pan.
4. Lay paper or mat board on top of water to soak up chalk design.
5. Gently lift paper off water, and design will stick to paper.
6. Allow paper to dry.

**Flying Fish****Materials:**

2-foot square of lightweight nylon fabric  
Scissors  
4 yards of ribbon  
Pipe cleaners  
Fabric glue  
Acrylic paints  
2-foot piece of string  
Wooden dowel

**Instructions:****Step 1:**

Fold the nylon in half horizontally. Position the fold on the bottom. With a pencil, draw an outline of a fish, letting the fold serve as its belly and making a 5 1/2-inch-wide mouth. Cut the doubled material along the drawn line and glue the seam closed along the fish's back.

**Step 2:**

Twist together the pipe cleaner ends to form a ring that's 10 inches around. Slip the ring around the fish's mouth. Fold the edge of the nylon over the ring and glue it down.

**Step 3:**

Glue six 2-foot lengths of ribbon to the fish's tail.

**Step 4:**

Invert the windssock so that the seams are inside. Then paint on scales and eyes.

**Step 5:**

To ready the carp to fly, use a slipknot to tie the middle of the string to a notch in the dowel top. Snip a small hole into each side of the mouth, push a string end through each, and knot.

**Spray Painting****Materials:**

Liquid tempera paints  
Plastic pump bottle or squirt gun  
Old bed sheet or large piece of newsprint  
Clothesline

**Instructions:**

Step 1:

Fill the pump bottle 3/4 of the way with water. Add just enough paint to color the water--too much will clog the spray nozzle. Tighten the cap and shake well to mix. Adjust the nozzle so that it will shoot a thin, straight stream.

Step 2:

Hang the sheet or newsprint over the clothesline. Then stand a few feet from the sheet and begin painting. (If two or more kids plan to paint at the same time, be sure everyone stands on the same side to avoid mishaps and remind them to aim only at the canvas.)

Step 3:

After creating a masterpiece, try squirting on a signature. Or, hang up a new canvas for a challenging long-distance game of tic-tac-toe.

**Painted Glass Vase****Materials:**

Clean, empty jar  
Acrylic or liquid tempera paints  
Paintbrushes or cotton swabs  
White glue  
Clear glaze (available at craft stores)

**Instructions:**

Step 1:

To make the paints stick to the glass, first mix the colors with some glue. Keep the paint thick so it won't run.

Step 2:

Use brushes or cotton swabs to paint a design on the jar. To erase a mistake, use a paper towel to wipe off the paint before it hardens.

Step 3:

Let the paint dry, then seal the finished design with a coat of glaze.

**Candy Necklace****Materials:**

Plastic wrap  
Individually wrapped candies  
Ribbon

**Instructions:**

Step 1:

Begin by laying out three feet of plastic wrap, cutting it in half lengthwise. Place candies or groups of candies every three inches.

Step 2:

Roll the plastic over and tie bows between each candy using six-inch strips of ribbon.

Step 3:

Tie the two ends of the plastic wrap together and cover the knot with another ribbon.

## Splish-Splash Cards

### Materials:

Cardboard (a cereal box is perfect)  
Pencil  
Craft knife  
White paper  
Newspaper  
Pink or red acrylic paint  
Toothbrush (an old one is fine)  
Markers

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Fold the cardboard stencil, heart side up, over the white paper card.

Step 2:

Lay out plenty of newspaper to protect the work surface.

Step 3:

Squirt some paint onto the bristles of the toothbrush, then, holding the brush over your card, rub your thumb back and forth across the bristles so paint sprays off and spatters through the heart cutout onto the card below.

Step 4:

Let the paint dry, then use markers to write your message.

## Candy Airplane

### Materials:

Thin rubber band  
Peppermint Life Savers  
Smarties  
Cinnamon gum  
Heart-shaped stickers

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Thread the rubber band through the holes of two Life Savers, then balance the roll of Smarties between them, across the rubber band.

Step 2:

For wings, balance the stick of gum on top, perpendicular to the Smarties, and pull the rubber band up and over each side of the gum to hold it all in place.

Step 3:

Decorate the wings with tiny heart-shaped stickers or a message.

## Giggle Shakers

### Materials:

Cardboard plates  
Hole punch  
Yarn  
Scissors  
Beans, rice, or small pebbles  
Tape  
Wooden dowel  
Crayons or markers  
Glue

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Draw giggling faces onto the undersides of two sturdy cardboard plates. Add yarn hair, if desired.

Step 2:

Place the plates together (topsides) so that the rims line up and there is a pocket of space between them. Punch holes along the rims. Then lace a long piece of yarn in and out of the holes, remembering to slip the beans into the pocket before tying the two plates completely shut.

Step 3:

Tape the noisemaker to the end of a dowel or broom handle and give it a good shake.

## Red Barn

### Materials:

Craft knife  
Cardboard box, 15 x 18 x 21 inches  
Cardboard box, 8 x 8 x 13 inches  
Ruler and pencil  
Duct tape  
Extra cardboard  
Small paint roller  
Acrylic paints and brushes  
Paper fasteners

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Using the knife, cut a 4-inch slit down each corner of the larger box (a parents job). Fold the two 18-inch sides in toward each other so that they form a peak (to make them fold in more easily, lightly score the folds on the outside of the box).

Step 2:

Holding the peak in place, raise up the other two flaps to meet the peak. Trace the peak shape on each side flap, then cut away the excess with the knife.

**Step 3:**

Make the ridge pole by cutting out a 1 1/2 by 21 inch strip of cardboard. Cut a small notch in the top center of each side flap. Set one end of the ridge pole in each notch, then fold up the roof so it meets the ridge pole. Tape all the roof edges in place.

**Step 4:**

To make the left Dutch door, measure and mark a 6 by 9 inch rectangle that is at least 1/2 inch from the bottom and top of the front, and 1 inch from the left edge. Cut along the top, right and bottom edges of the rectangle and also cut the door in half. Repeat, reversing the directions, for the right door. Score down the hinged edges on the inside of the box. (If you're using a different sized box, adjust the dimensions to your liking, but leave a 1/2-inch sill above and below the door to maintain the box's stability.)

**Step 5:**

For a four-stall barn, cut doors on the opposite side as well. Cut a 2 by 3 inch window on each side of the barn.

**Step 6:**

Make the stalls by cutting a 4 1/2 by 18 inch and a 4 1/2 by 14 inch piece of cardboard. Make a 2-inch notch in the center of each strip, then interlock them to form a cross. Slip the cross shape inside the barn. Use the roller to paint the barn and the roof; when dry, use the brush to paint on the trim.

**Step 7:**

To make the tack room, fold in the peak of the small box and measure and cut the side flaps as for the barn. Tape in place--minus a ridge pole this time. Cut a door and windows. To attach the tack room to the barn, poke four small matching holes through one sidewall of the tack room and one sidewall of the barn. Slip a paper fastener through each hole and bend it to hold in place.

## **Homemade Felt Board**

**Materials:**

Scraps of colorful felt or flannel material  
Old shoebox or boot box  
Scissors  
Craft glue  
Sandpaper  
Photos, optional

**Instructions:**

**Step 1:**

Cut one piece of felt or flannel to fit on the inside of the box lid and glue it in place (sky blue is a good, neutral color for this background).

**Step 2:**

Cut the scraps of felt into figures, which will naturally stick to the story board. Try making trees, fish, birds, flowers, stars and even letters. People and animals can be made up of several shapes, so be sure to cut out circles for faces and eyes, as well as rectangles for arms and legs. (You can also clip magazine pictures, coloring book characters and real photos for the storytelling board.)

**Step 3:**

Glue the cutouts to cardboard and glue a strip of sandpaper to the back so they will adhere to the fabric.

**Step 4:**

Once you have a variety of characters and props, let the storytelling begin. Make up an imaginary story, retell a traditional fairy tale, or use real photos for true-to-life stories. When the story is done, clear the board and start a new one. When finished, pack up the felt figures and store them in the shoebox.

## Any Kind of Stand

### Materials:

Refrigerator box  
Utility knife  
Twine  
Packing tape  
Yardstick and pencil  
Extra cardboard and boxes  
Paper towel tubes  
Masking tape  
Acrylic paints and brushes  
Paint roller (optional)  
One 10 by 23 by 5 inch box (optional)  
Assorted cereal or cracker boxes (optional)

### Instructions:

#### Step 1:

Open up the top and bottom of the box by removing the packing tape. Using the utility knife (a parent's job), cut all the way down one of the corner seams. Turn the box inside out (this puts the printing on the inside, making the outside easier to paint later on). Poke holes down both edges of the cut corner seam and, as shown, lace it up with a length of twine. Reseal the box top and bottom with packing tape. Cut a 21 by 16 inch window in the box's front, about 36 inches from the bottom, and a 20 by 34 inch door in one side of the box. If desired, cut out other windows, doors or skylights in the store.

#### Step 2:

To make the sloped roof, cut a 30 by 45 inch piece of cardboard and score it approximately into thirds, as shown. Cut four 8-inch lengths of paper towel tubes for roof supports. Use masking tape to attach two supports to each side edge of the roof. Lay the cardboard over the supports as shown and tape in place.

#### Step 3:

Now it's time to decorate. Use the roller to apply large areas of paint to the box or use the brushes for more detailed work, such as stripes, trim, flowers or signs.

#### Step 4:

To make the fruit bin, cut the flaps off an approximately 10 by 23 by 5 inch box. Poke two holes, as shown, in the rear corners of the small box and two holes just under each corner of the store's front window. From inside the store, thread a short piece of twine out through the wall, through both holes in the bin, back through the store wall, then knot both ends of the twine. Repeat for the other end of the bin.

#### Step 5:

Use this same technique to make bins or shelves inside the store. For a mailbox or cash drawer, simply tape cereal or cracker boxes to the walls.

## Car Factory

### Materials:

Empty juice boxes or tea tins  
Egg carton  
Milk jug  
Aluminum foil  
Disposable plastic cup  
Plastic straws  
Plastic spoons  
Markers  
Tape and glue

### Instructions:

#### Step 1:

Empty juice boxes or tea tins work well as basic car bodies. Or, you can cut a more unusual model out of an egg carton or a milk jug. Cover the car body with colored duct tape, if desired. Then glue on chrome headlights made from aluminum foil.

#### Step 2:

WINDSHIELDS: For a see-through screen, cut a small rectangle from a disposable plastic cup or container and attach it to the car with tape or glue.

#### Step 3:

AXELS AND TREADS: To fit your vehicle with wheels, first tape two plastic straws to the bottom of the body for axles. Or, you can use a nail to poke holes in the sides of the body and fit pipe cleaners through the holes. Then cut eight cups from an egg carton. Trim the sides so they are 1/2 inch tall. Use two cups for each wheel, matching up the cut edges and taping them together. Poke a hole through the center of each hub. Now, fit the wheels onto the ends of the axles. Another option for wheels is to use plastic caps; attach them with hot glue or clay.

#### Step 4:

THE AUTO CLUB: For passengers, use markers to draw faces on plastic spoons. Make slits in the car and insert the handles.

## Lighthouse in a Bottle

### Materials:

1.5-liter sport water bottle  
Craft knife  
Aluminum foil  
Red acrylic paint  
Black tape  
Play-Doh or clay  
Flashlight  
White craft foam  
Clear packing tape

**Instructions:****Step 1:**

Use a craft knife (adults only) to cut the bottle in half. Glue aluminum foil inside the cone-shaped portion of the top half (this creates a reflective dome), then use red acrylic paint to coat the outside of the foil-lined section.

**Step 2:**

When the paint is dry, apply 3-inch vertical strips of black tape, spaced evenly, around the unpainted portion of the bottle top.

**Step 3:**

In the bottom half of the bottle, pack a baseball-sized ball of Play-Doh or clay. Stand a flashlight upright in the clay and press down to secure it in place. Cut a notch down from the bottle's edge to allow access to the flashlight's switch, as shown.

**Step 4:**

Next, wrap an 11 1/2- by 10-inch sheet of white craft foam around the bottom half of the bottle (the foam will extend about 4 inches above the bottle) and note approximately where the flashlight switch opening is. Remove the foam and cut out a switch opening. Re-wrap the foam around the bottle and secure the overlapping ends with clear packing tape.

**Step 5:**

Finally, fit the cut edge of the bottle top just inside the foam sleeve and securely tape the foam to the bottle with colored tape.

**Juice Can Puppets****Materials:**

Clean frozen juice cans

Construction paper

Glue

Felt

Wiggly eyes

Assorted decorations (buttons, feathers, sequins, etc.)

**Instructions:****Step 1:**

Cover the juice can by gluing on construction paper or fabric, then place the can upright on a table (with the opening at the bottom).

**Step 2:**

Glue felt arm strips midway down both sides of the can and leg strips to the front of the lower edge.

**Step 3:**

Set out the rest of your decorations and watch as your children create some interesting characters.

## Colorful Cars

### Materials:

Cardboard  
Tongue depressors  
Construction paper  
Markers  
Tissue paper  
Glue  
Scissors

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Cut a car shape out of cardboard. Make sure you cut out holes for windows.

Step 2:

Cover the vehicle with construction paper and decorate with markers.

Step 3:

Glue on tissue paper for the car exhaust.

Step 4:

Cut two circles out of construction paper for the car's wheels and then glue them onto the body of the car.

Step 5:

Glue the car to the tongue depressor.

## Wind Dancer

### Materials:

Hole punch  
4 1/2- by 12-inch piece of craft foam  
Ribbon  
Cut-out foam flowers

### Instructions:

Step 1:

Use a hole punch to make five holes along one shorter end of a 4 1/2- by 12-inch piece of craft foam. Roll the foam into a tube, overlapping the edges, and punch matching holes in the other end. Lace the two ends together with ribbon.

Step 2:

Next, punch a series of holes along the lower edge of the sock and tie a long ribbon from each one. Make two holes in the top and tie on a ribbon hanger.

Step 3:

Lastly, lace on cut-out foam flowers through holes punched in the sock.

## Quick And Easy Child's Apron

### Materials:

1 dish towel  
1 hot pad  
ribbon--grosgrain or long shoelaces

**Instructions:**

- 1) Fold dishtowel in half lengthwise from top to bottom
- 2) Measure 1.5 inches down from the fold and stitch across the towel. This forms a sleeve for the ribbon.
- 3) Place hot pad along the center of the dishtowel's folded edge. Stitch the bottom of the hot pad to the folded edge of the dishtowel, stitching over the stitches already encircling the hot pad. This will be the top of your apron.
- 4) Run ribbon or shoelace through the loop already provided on the top of the hot pad to enable the apron to be tied around the child's neck.
- 5) Pull ribbon through the sleeve you stitched across the towel enabling it to be tied around the child's waist.

## Easy Tie Dye for Kids

**Materials:**

Various colors of fabric dye  
rubber bands  
rubber gloves  
marbles  
tap water  
garments such as t-shirts, cotton shorts, old jeans, etc.

**Instructions:**

1. Begin by rubber banding your garment according to the design you wish to achieve.
2. Prepare dye according to package directions. Be sure to wear rubber gloves to protect your hands! Dye can be just as damaging as bleach to your unprotected skin. Please take the proper safety precautions recommended.
3. Once your garment is ready, place in the dye for at least 15-20 minutes. The longer the garment remains in the dye, the darker and deeper the color will become. Remove from the dye and rinse according to package directions, usually in cold running water. Ring out garment until water runs clear.
4. Carefully remove rubber bands and marbles to reveal your new design! No design will be the same as another and different effects can be reached by combining the different methods mentioned above.

## Paper-Mache

**Materials:**

2 cups of cold water  
1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cups of flour  
Newspaper, cut into strips that measure about 1x15 inches  
Molded clay or balloon to use as a mold

**Instructions:**

1. Mix water and flour in a large bowl with wire whisk until smooth. Mixture should be the same thickness as heavy cream. Coat your mold with one layer of strips, which have been dipped in water. Then dip the strips in flour mixture and lay over the first layer of strips until the mold is well coated in strips. Let stand until strips are dry and hard. Paint over the strips if you like, and decorate. Let your kids get creative and make whatever strikes their fancy.
2. Try self-portraits for a great time! After the paper-mache is dried, paint it the color of skin, and give them a mirror to paint their features. Be sure to take a picture of each child holding the "sculpture" they created of their face.

## Puzzle Frame

### Materials:

Photograph for framing  
Piece of cardboard a little larger than your photo  
4 ice cream sticks  
15 puzzle pieces (will need more or less depending on puzzle piece size)  
Tempera paint in colors of your choice  
Various buttons and doodads for decoration  
Craft glue  
Hot glue  
Scissors  
newspaper

### Instructions:

#### Prep

Using craft glue, adhere the photograph to the piece of cardboard. Use craft glue to attach the ice cream sticks around the photograph as shown in figure 1. Trim cardboard so that it is just larger than the photograph. Set aside to dry.

#### Paint

Lay newspaper down on table and place puzzle pieces face up. Have the children paint the puzzle pieces in the colors of your choice. You may need 2-3 coats for some depending on the color of paint and the darkness of the pattern on the puzzle pieces.

#### Glue

When the puzzle pieces are dry and are the color you want, use hot glue to adhere them to the ice cream sticks. Alternate colored puzzle pieces as desired, work your way around the frame, be sure that pieces overlap and do not leave any gaps between pieces.

#### Decorate

After all pieces are glued in place, use hot glue to adhere small buttons and doodads of your choice around frame.

#### Hang

For a simple hanger, hot glue a piece of sturdy string or yarn across the back of the cardboard.

## Juice Carton Crayon Box

Wash and dry an empty cardboard juice carton and cut off the top. Using bits and pieces of masking tape, have the children tape up the entire carton, covering all sides, the more tape the better. Use crayons to color the masking tape box. The tape makes the box sturdier and will make a great crayon holder for their desk or dresser.

## Coffee Can Wish Bank

Have the kids cut pictures from old magazines or draw pictures of something they want. Decorate the cans with glitter, the pictures, stickers or anything else you have around. Cut a hole in the plastic top of the can for the kids to deposit money. Each time they add money to the can, they are contributing a little bit more to the "wish" item. A great way to teach kids to save money!

## Treasure Shoe Box

Decorate an old shoebox and lid with construction paper, markers, paint, glue and glitter, crayons, wiggly eyes, stickers, lace, doilies, or whatever else you can find. Be sure to put the child's name inside the lid. This box make a great box for treasures found out in the yard, on the way home from school, or anywhere else your children "hunt".

## Shadowboxes

Paint the inside of a shoebox with black or dark blue poster or acrylic paint. Alternatively, you can glue black construction paper inside the box. Using white crayons or stickers, make a night scene with stars and the moon on the black background. Get creative, use small plastic toys to create a scene inside your shadowbox, or make your own with construction paper and glue. Cut out small pictures from coloring books and color and adhere to your scene. Hang a spaceship or shooting star with a piece of string and glue.

## Box Town

### Materials:

Saved boxes or cartons  
Glue or Glue stick  
Scissors  
Construction or wrapping paper  
Crayons or markers

### Instructions:

Cover boxes and cartons with paper, younger children will need help. Carefully cut windows and decorations from construction paper or simply color to decorate. Help cut doorways and tunnels. Now it's ready for play!

For fun make cone trees out of green paper and signs for roads and business. This town works well with building blocks added to it also!

## Straw Sculptures

### Materials:

Bendable Straws  
Tape  
Paper clips  
Cardboard

### Instructions:

Cut straws to different lengths. Snip a slit at one end of some of the straws. Insert straws into each other to form desired shape. Paper clips can be used for angled joints by bending into S & U shapes and inserted into the straws.

To make the "fireworks" cut several slits and curl with scissors as you would do to curling ribbon.

## Toothpick Art

### Materials:

Toothpicks  
Marshmallows or gumdrops

### Instructions:

Stick the toothpicks into the marshmallows. Keep adding on in any shape you wish. The kids can make simple items like a star or hexagon or complex structures like a tall building or a bridge.

## Hot Rod Painting

### Materials:

Poster or Tempera paint  
Plain paper  
A few small matchbox cars  
Paper plates or Styrofoam trays, saved from meat products.

### Instructions:

Spread paint thinly on the bottom of trays. Drive the car through the paint a few times and then onto the paper.

## Colored Rice

**A non-toxic alternative to glitter and sand for the young artist.**

Use with white glue on paper as a collage medium or it can be glued on other surfaces to add texture.

### Materials:

Uncooked white rice  
Food color  
Vinegar

### Instructions:

Place 1/2 cup rice into a bowl. Add ~ 5 drops of coloring and 1/2 tsp. vinegar to set the color. Spread flat onto a baking sheet . Bake at 200 for 45 min to dry. You may wish to make more colors at the same time. Be sure to keep them separate when baking. After they dry they can be packed together.

## Paper Towel Rain Makers

### Materials & Instructions:

Young kids love noisemakers. Color, paint, and decorate paper towel rolls. Cover one end of a paper towel roll with waxed paper and close it off with a rubber band. Pour a handful or two of dried beans (split peas work well) in the open end, close open end the same as the other. Poke toothpicks through the rolls at different intervals to add a "rain shaker" sound.

## Maracas

### Materials:

2 Paper Cups  
Rice  
Masking Tape

### Instructions:

Take 2 paper cups and put a handful of rice in one, tape the 2 cups together with masking tape and you have maracas.

## Bass Fiddle

### Materials:

Coffee Can  
Large Dowel or Broomstick  
String  
Heavy Tape

**Instructions:**

Punch a hole in the bottom of the coffee can, thread string thru the hole and secure on the inside. Tie the other end of the string to the end of the dowel. (You might want to put some heavy tape on it so it doesn't slide down.) To play it, put one can on the floor to hold it in place, rest the end of the dowel without the string on the coffee can or on the floor, which ever is more comfortable for the child, and tilt the dowel back until the string is tight. Then pluck it!

**Kazoos****Materials:**

Cardboard Roll  
Tissue Paper  
Rubber Band

**Instructions:**

Kazoos are very easy to make. Get an empty TP tube and a piece of tissue paper to cover the end. Secure it on with a rubber band. With a needle, poke a small hole near the other end.

**Tambourines****Materials:**

Paper Plates  
Rice or Dried Beans  
Hot Glue or Tape  
Items to decorate the plates

**Instructions:**

Decorate paper plates as desired. Hot glue or tape around the sides; fill with rice or beans before sealing.

**Pan Pipes****Materials:**

Six Straws  
Paper, about 1x8  
Glue  
Markers or Crayons

**Instructions:**

Let the child color/decorate her piece of paper. Cut or have the child cut the six straws so that they are all different lengths. (None of the lengths should be less than 1".) Now, have the child prearrange the straws from longest to shortest, touching side by side. (Great cognitive exercise.) Put glue on the back of the paper so that the straws will stick to it when dry. The straws must be placed across the paper so that both ends of the straw stick out. One end of the straws should lie even while the other end is at different lengths. Now simply wrap the paper around the center of the straws keeping them flat and let dry. Play this instrument by holding it in your hands and gently blowing air over the straws - not through. Lips need not touch the straws.

**Pop Bottle Shakers****Materials:**

Clean, Dry 16 oz. Plastic Soda Bottles  
Rice, Beans, or anything that will make noise  
Hot Glue

**Instructions:**

Use empty, dry, 16 oz plastic soda bottles and fill with all kinds of interesting things, such as popcorn, colored paper clips, water, oil, blue color mixture, old beaded necklace, pasta...on and on!!!! Hot glue the top on! Can also glue paper around it and decorate!

**Bottle Cap Rattles****Materials:**

Metal Bottle Caps  
Small Piece of Wood  
Nails

**Instructions:**

Take metal bottle caps and punch holes in the centers, then nail two back to back (loosely) to a small piece of wood.

**Jingle Bell Gloves****Materials:**

Children's Glove  
5 Little Jingle Bells

**Instructions:**

Take an old or new children's glove, the stretchy kind is best, then you sew a jingle bell to the end of each finger. You can get the jingle bells in different sizes or you can do them all the same size.

**Apple Family Tree****Materials:**

Brown paint  
Green paint  
Red paint  
Large sheet of paper  
Paintbrush

**Instructions:**

Use washable paint. Paint child's arm to the elbow and hand brown. Open fingers and print the arm and hand on a large sheet of paper. Let dry. Sponge paint green leaves on the tree. Let dry. Make a fist and press either thumb end or pinky end in red paint. Press these hand apples onto the tree. Make one apple for Mom, Dad, self, siblings. When dry, add their names.

**Back Pack****Materials:**

Small empty laundry soap boxes  
Collage material  
Markers  
Crayons  
Paint  
Rope  
Construction paper  
Butcher paper

**Instructions:**

1. Have the children decorate the top and front of their box. When done measure each child's back to properly place the holes for the rope. You will need two strands of rope for each child. Different children require different sizes, usually about 12-18 inches each rope. The rope will serve as the child's straps for the backpack, so you want to be sure to place the ropes so that the child can wear the backpack safely. You may want to measure before they decorate.
2. After you have measured, place the four holes accordingly. You may want to use a knife or scissors to cut the holes. You will need a total of four holes that look like this:  
○ ○  
  
○ ○
3. Thread one rope through a top hole and a bottom hole and tie together leaving the knot inside the box. And then do the other side.
4. When finished this box makes a great backpack for walks and field trips.

**Bark Giraffe****Materials:**

Piece of cardboard  
Ornamental bark from a nursery

**Instructions:**

1. Draw a picture of a giraffe on the piece of cardboard, however big you need it.
2. Cut up the bark into small pieces, and then glue it one by one onto some cardboard (as the spots).
3. Break or cut small pieces of grass (thin and dry) and stick them sticking outwards on the back of the giraffe (as a mane). Glue some grass or sand under its feet. Glue a leaf in its mouth.
4. You could paint it a dirty yellowish color first, before putting on the bark spots.

**Basic Shapes Bracelet****Materials:**

1 cup salt  
1 cup flour  
Water  
Toothpick  
Cookie Sheet  
Watercolors  
Embroidery Thread

**Instructions:**

1. Stir together salt and flour, add enough water to form a clay like mixture, should be a little softer than play dough but not runny or sticky. Pat out small pieces of mixture on cookie sheet and cut into shapes (circles, triangles, rectangles, and squares) with the toothpick. Also make small balls to use as beads between the shapes.
2. Use toothpick to put a good-sized hole in each piece. (Big enough to get the embroidery thread through.)
3. Bake in oven on middle rack 1 hour at 200 degrees. Can take up to 2 hours if pieces are thick. Remove from oven and let cool.
4. Paint pieces with watercolors, let dry then string them on the embroidery thread. Tie it big enough to just barely get over child's wrist.

## Birthday Card Placemat

### Materials:

Birthday cards  
Heavy cardboard  
Laminating paper

### Instructions:

Cut a heavy piece of cardboard to the size of a placemat. Make a collage on the cardboard from the cards. Use two pieces of laminating paper (found at any office supply store) for the front and back of the placemat.

## Button Rings

### Materials:

A few neat buttons with a little hook  
Pipe cleaners

### Instructions:

Measure a piece of pipe cleaner to wrap around your finger, and leave some extra length to twist. Slide through button shank and twist ends

**Note:** There are also many variations to this activity that you can make a neat bracelet by adding several buttons. You can also make a necklace by adding a few buttons on a string.

## Card Holders

### Materials:

Two butter tub or formula lids  
1 brass brad  
Phillips head screwdriver or sharp scissors

### Instructions:

- 1) Adult: Punch a small hole in the center of the lids with the screwdriver or scissors.
- 2) Place the lids back to back, with the "lips" of the lid facing out.
- 3) Insert the brass brad through both lids. Tighten, and place cards in the space.
- 4) Now play go fish with your kids and don't worry about too many cards for their little hands!

## Cereal Box Puppet

### Materials:

Empty individual size cereal box  
Scissors  
Construction paper  
Crayons  
Glue

**Instructions:**

- 1) Draw a line around the middle of the cereal box. The line should be across the front and two sides of the box. Carefully cut along this line.
- 2) Fold the box in half so there is a place for your fingers and thumb.
- 3) Cover the sides of the box with construction paper using glue.
- 4) Lay the box flat on a piece of construction paper. Trace the outline of the box.
- 5) Cut along the outline, and glue the paper to the box, this is the inside of the puppet's mouth.
- 6) Cut out other features as you desire, eyes, nose, tongue, ears, etc. Be creative. Add the features, and you have a puppet!

**Colored Sand Pictures****Materials:**

Paper  
Glue  
Different colored sands

**Instructions:**

Either you or your child can squeeze glue on the paper in a picture, design or letters. Then sprinkle colored sand on the glue and shake off excess. Let dry for 1/2 or so and you have a neat picture!

**Film Canister Grouches****Materials:**

Film canister  
Large pompom  
Wiggly eyes  
Stickers  
Markers  
Paint  
Plastic holiday grass  
Glue

**Instructions:**

1. Glue a large pompom to the lid of a film canister, any color. Glue on wiggly eyes, and decorate the canister with paint, markers, crayons or stickers to look like a garbage can, and you've got yourself a Grouch!
2. Add bows, beads and any other "junk" to personalize them. They're great for rainy days, or craft sales!

**Friendship Wreath****Materials:**

Colored paper  
Glue  
Cardboard  
Scissors  
Markers

**Instructions:**

Give children small pieces of brightly colored construction paper to trace one hand on. Cut them out. Once cut out trade the hands with your friends. Once you have one of everyone's hand, glue them in a circle shape onto a circle of cardboard. I used a paper plate rim. Once done, hang up, or give to the children to take home to remember their friends by.

## Goodie Hanger

### Materials:

Empty toilet paper roll  
Tape  
Wrapping paper ends  
Small piece of ribbon  
Small hole punch  
Optional: stickers  
Glitter

### Instructions:

Squeeze one end of toilet paper roll closed. Tape closed. Cover outside of roll with wrapping paper. Punch small hole in each side of the top of the container. Put ribbon thru the holes and tie a bow at the top. Fill with candy, lollipops, pencils, or whatever you choose. Can be hung on a doorknob. You can also decorate the outside with glitter or stickers if you choose.

## Junk Box

### Materials:

Shoebox  
Round oatmeal box  
Contact paper  
Wrapping paper  
Glue  
Miscellaneous craft supplies

### Instructions:

Take a box like a round oatmeal container and cover with wrapping paper or contact paper. Add miscellaneous craft supplies like glitter, markers, buttons, etc. to personalize the box!

## Noisy Shakers

### Materials:

The small Sunny Delight bottles and caps  
Stickers  
Crayons  
Little pieces fabric  
Glitter  
Glue  
Rice

### Instructions:

1. Pour small amount of rice in bottle (enough to make a nice sound).
2. Glue top on with hot glue gun.
3. Children will love to decorate them with the material listed.

## Olympic Medal

### Materials:

Frozen juice can lids or circles of cardboard  
Paper  
Glue  
Ribbon  
Staples  
Markers  
Glitter

### Instructions:

1. Cut a circle of paper a bit smaller than the size of the juice can lid. Glue the paper securely to the center of the lid.
2. Decorate this with markers, crayons and glitter. They can write things like their names, #1, Winner, etc. They can also draw a picture of the Olympic Rings (blue, black, red, yellow, and green).
3. Measure a length of ribbon that will fit around the child's neck. Attach the two ends of the ribbon to the back of the medal and secure with glue and/or tape. You can also use a circle of heavy cardboard in place of a juice can lid, but the lid gives it a little more weight.

## Olympic Torch

### Materials:

Paper towel tube  
Glue  
Red tissue paper  
Yellow tissue paper

### Instructions:

Cut the tissue paper into 8inch x 8inch squares. Hold one piece of tissue paper in the center (point) of the square and gather up the edges. Stick the "points" into one end of the paper towel tube and secure each with tape, staples or glue. Fill with enough pieces of tissue paper to give it a full flame look (alternating red and yellow). You can even add a little glitter on the edges of the tissue to give it a little sparkle! Let dry and you have your own Olympic Torch!

## Paper Dot Mosaics

### Materials:

Paper hole punch  
Colored paper  
White paper  
Glue

### Instructions:

1. Have the children make several paper dots using the hole punch. Keep the colors separate.
2. Then, have them make a mosaic picture by gluing the dots onto white paper. They can make their names, a scene, animal, or just place them at random!

## Rag Doll Crayon Holder

### Materials:

Soup can  
Paint  
Paintbrush  
Yarn  
Fabric  
Hot glue gun

### Instructions:

1. Take the label off the soup can. Paint a flesh color. Let paint dry.
2. Cut yarn into 8in.strips and put in bundles of 10. Tie together. Make enough to go around the can.
3. When the paint is dry, fold the yarn bundles in half and glue around the top outside of the can. When finished with this, cut bangs for above face area. Use a pink color paint to make cheeks, paint eyes, eyelashes, eyebrows, nose, and a smile.
4. When done make one bow out of fabric and cut two pieces of fabric to tie in hair. Take the bow you made and glue it below the face.

## Seascape Pictures

### Materials:

Crayons  
White paper  
Blue watercolor paint

### Instructions:

1. Using the crayons, draw fish, seaweed, sand, and anything else you might see in the ocean. Remember to press hard.
2. When finished, brush entire picture with blue watercolor paint. The paint will only be absorbed by the paper, leaving the color on areas showing through.

## Shadow Box Designs

### Materials:

Box lid or box 3/4 to 1in. deep  
Shells  
Seeds  
Beans  
Popping corn or dry pasta  
Scissors  
Tape  
Plastic wrap  
Glue  
Brushes  
Markers  
Colored paper

### Instructions:

Ahead of time: Glue colored paper to the bottom of the boxes for background.

With Child: Have the child glue the material chosen (i.e. shells) into flowers or butterflies, or whatever design they choose. Have them complete the design using makers to add details. Stretch the plastic wrap over lid to form a glass look, and tape it in place.

## Spool Calendar

### Materials:

3 Large Spools  
Wood or cardboard  
3 wooden dowels or pencils  
Paper  
Glue  
Markers  
Paint

### Instructions:

Paint the spools. Then cut out paper strips to fit around each spool. Print the months on one strip, the numbers 1-3 on the second strip, and the numbers 0-9 on the third strip. Glue one strip to each spool. Cut out three more strips the same size as the first three. Cut out a window in each so that the month or number will show through. Glue the ends together over the first strips. For the base, use a piece of wood or cardboard, and paint. Mark off the three spools will go, and glue on the dowels in the centers. Then slide the spools over the dowels. Now, just turn your spools to the correct month and day!

## Spoon Puppets

### Materials:

Tempra paint  
Paintbrush  
Wooden spoon  
Poster board  
Scissors  
Glue  
Pipe cleaners  
Yarn

### Instructions:

Paint a design on a wooden spoon. Cut legs or ears from poster board or fabric and glue them on. Glue on pipe cleaners or yarn for hair, horns or antennae. Get ready to put on a puppet show!

## Toothpick Cactus

### Materials:

Green construction paper  
Toothpicks  
Glue  
Paintbrushes  
Scissors  
(optional: colored tissue paper sand)

### Instructions:

Trace a simple cactus shape on pieces of green construction paper. Cut out a cactus for each child; older children can cut out their own. Have children glue the cactus onto another piece of paper (any color). Have them "paint" the glue onto the cactus with paintbrushes, then glue on the toothpicks (to make the cactus needles). We made flowering cactus by then having the children tear and squish up small pieces of colored tissue paper to glue on as flowers. To extend this activity, you can have them paint glue under and/or around the cactus and sprinkle sand to look like the desert.

## Toothpick Pot

### Materials:

1-1/2" clay pot  
Tile grout  
Smooth stones  
Acrylic paint  
Toothpicks

### Instructions:

1. Mix a small amount of grout with a small amount of acrylic paint (in an old bowl), to tint the grout. Spread grout on the lip of the small clay pot.
2. Put stones (3-5) on the lip by pushing in. Let it stand for 24 hours.
3. Put toothpicks in the clay pot. It is a very cute toothpick holder!

## Flower Pot Wind Bell

### Materials:

Small clay pot  
Large wooden bead  
String or twine  
Paint  
Flat clay or wooden paddle

### Instructions:

1. Turn the clay pot upside down and decorate with acrylic paints. Be creative! The kids hand prints, a simple picture, fun designs, anything goes! (Hint: paint pens or markers are as easy to use as crayons. Look for the non-toxic type.) (Optional: spray with craft sealant to preserve for years to come!)
2. Loop the twine and make a BIG knot in it. Run the loop through the hole of the pot so that it can be used for hanging your wind bell. Run the other end of the twine through the wooden bead so that the bead will clack against the insides of the pot. Make a hole in the flat paddle and insert the end of the string and tie to keep in place. (This "paddle" can be a flat wooden shape sold at craft stores or anything that will catch the wind - why not paint it, too?!)

Hang your wind bell and enjoy!

## Dream Catchers

### Materials:

Strong paper plate  
String  
Beads  
Crayons or paint  
Paper punch

### Instructions:

1. Cut out the center of the plate to make a ring shape then decorate - either paint or color.
2. Use your paper punch to make 13 holes around the outside.
3. Have the kids weave the string through the holes while putting on beads. You may want to use large beads with the younger kids and wrap tape around the end of the string to help them guide it through the beads. Continue until you've weaved all the holes. Leave two strings hanging off the side and put beads on them also, for decoration. Hang on the wall or in a window.

## Alphabet Boxes

### Materials:

26 baby wipe boxes

Various items to go with each letter (ex. apple magnet for the letter A)

Plastic alligator etc.

Permanent marker

### Instructions:

1. Write the upper and lower case letter on each wipe box, one letter of the alphabet for each box.
2. Fill each box with items that begin with that letter. Some can even be pictures of items. One by one you show the items to the children and pass them around, this captivates the children! One box is used at a time. You don't even have to fill all the boxes at once but fill them as you go through the year.

## Alphabet Soup

### Materials:

Construction paper (various colors)

Ink pad

Alphabet stamps

White paper

### Instructions:

1. Cut a bowl shape out of construction paper, any color. Then make a smaller circle out of white paper. Put the white circle in the center of the colored bowl.
2. Pre-cut some vegetable shapes out of paper: orange circles - carrots; brown ovals - potatoes; yellow triangles - corn; etc. then let each child glue the "vegetables" in the soup. In the left over spaces, allow them to pick several alphabet stamps and stamp the soup. Each child can then name the ABC's in their soup!

Optional: Instead of stamps, you can also glue on dry alphabet pasta. Another idea is that you can also have the children write their names with the letters!

## Soap Crayons

### Materials:

1/2 cup white powder detergent

1 tsp water

Food coloring

### Instructions:

1. Mix together, adding a little water if necessary to make a thick paste. Add food coloring. A lot needs to be used for dark colors. After coloring a rainbow of different colors, put mixture into candy molds of pretty shapes. Airplanes, flowers, trains or anything your child likes. Let dry and pop out of molds. These crayons can be used to wash little bodies, but it's more fun to color on the walls of the bathtub after the little bodies are already clean!

## Spicy Picture

### Materials:

Various spices (salt, pepper, curry, cinnamon, chili powder, garlic, sage, mustard)

Cardboard or poster board

Rubber cement

**Instructions:**

Coat a piece of cardboard or poster board with rubber cement. When it looks dry, but is still tacky, rub on the spices to form a picture or design. Each spice has a different color. Salt and garlic are white. Sage is green. Mustard is yellow. Cinnamon is orange and chili powder is red. Pepper is black. (Make sure the children do not breathe in any of the spices.) At the bottom of the picture, print "Spice Makes Things Nice". When your picture is finished, use your nose to admire it.

### Super Hero Cape

**Materials:**

24" x 26" Piece of Fabric  
Fabric Ribbon  
Felt  
Craft Glue  
Wax Paper  
Scissors

**Instructions:**

1. Cut out a felt diamond shape, and a letter in a contrasting color. Cut a slit in the cape about 1" away from the edge in the top two corners of the cape. Tie a piece of ribbon in the slits of the cape for tying.
2. Have the children choose their felt diamond and contrasting letter. Glue the letter to the top of the diamond. Glue the diamond to the center of the cape. Let it dry on wax paper.

### Trumpet

**Materials:**

Paper Bowl  
Cardboard Paper Towel Tube  
White Construction Paper  
Markers  
Crayons  
Scissors  
Glue

**Instructions:**

1. Poke a 1" hole in the center of the bowl. Push the flaps upward. Put the cardboard tube through the hole, and glue the flaps to the tube. Write the words "Make a Joyful Noise" on the construction paper. Let the children decorate the construction paper and glue it to the tube.

### Sombrero Pinata

**Materials:****This is a 2-day project**

1 – 1/2 inch wide by 3-foot long wooden dowel  
1 – 12 inch balloon  
1 – 24 inch by 24-inch sheet of cardboard (you can tape several small pieces together)  
1 – 2 inches wide by 80 inches long piece of cardboard (you can tape several pieces together)  
3 – 8 oz. paper cups  
1 newspaper cut into 1-inch wide strips  
60 – 20 inch by 20-inch sheets of yellow tissue paper. Tissue should come in folded packets of 10 to 12 sheets  
10 – 20 inch by 20 inch sheets each of red, green and white tissue paper  
1 disposable casserole dish (available at the grocery store)  
1 wire hanger  
1 - 9 inch by 12-inch sheet of red felt  
20 inches of 1/4 inch wide red ribbon

Masking tape

1 - 64 oz. container of liquid starch

Craft glue gun and at least 40 glue sticks or 1 bottle of craft glue

Wire cutters (available at the hardware store)

Craft knife

One hole punch

Fun Size Candy Bars

### **Instructions:**

#### **For the Piñata:**

1. Draw a free hand circle on the sheet of cardboard. Make sure the circle touches all four edges of the cardboard so that it's about 24 inches in diameter.
2. Bend the 2-inch wide strip of cardboard around the edge of the circle at a right angle. Tack it in place with masking tape as you move along the edge. This will form the brim of your sombrero.
3. Once the brim is securely in place, cut shallow curves into it to vary the width of the brim slightly.
4. Inflate a 12-inch balloon and use a ring of masking tape to secure it to the center of the circle. Run 4 or 5 pieces of tape down the sides of the balloon to further secure it to the base.
5. Cut a slit down one side of each 8 oz. paper cup and remove the circular bottom of each cup.
6. Piece the two cut cups together to form a wide cone. Place the wider end of the cone on top of the balloon and secure it with masking tape.
7. Fill the casserole dish with liquid starch.
8. Dip newspaper strips in the starch, one at a time. Wring excess starch off of the newspaper by running it between your fingers before applying it to the surface of the sombrero.
9. Apply strips to the surface, beginning at the crown and working down. It is not necessary to cover the entire underside of the sombrero, but the strips should extend over the brim and onto the underside by at least two inches.
10. Overlap each strip with the next as you go along, being careful to smooth out any wrinkles as they form.
11. Use the paper strips to build out the gap where the balloon meets the brim so that it forms an even cone shape rather than a round balloon shape.
12. Continue layering the newspaper strips until a smooth cohesive surface is attained and the papier-mâché is at least 7 layers thick in all areas.
13. Let the sombrero dry completely overnight.
14. While waiting for the sombrero to dry, remove folded tissue from the package but DO NOT UNFOLD.
15. Cut folded tissue crosswise into 1-inch wide strips. (Reserve one whole tissue sheet of each color to make the pompom for the stick.)
16. Along one cut edge of each 1 inch folded strip make perpendicular 1/2-inch cuts at 1/4-inch intervals.
17. PARENTS ONLY: Unwind a wire coat hanger and straighten, leaving only the original end used for hanging curved. This will be the "hook" that will let you hang your piñata. Use wire cutters to make an angled cut at the other end of the hanger.
18. Make sure that the piñata is completely dry, and then insert the cut end of the coat hanger through the top of the sombrero's crown. This will pop the balloon inside.
19. Keep pushing the hanger until it pokes out of the bottom of the piñata. You may have to take the hanger out, straighten it and reinsert it before successfully piercing the bottom.
20. Continue pushing the hanger through until there is a 5-inch piece showing. Bend it at a right angle and tape it to the bottom of the piñata so that the wire cannot pull back through.
21. Now you are ready to begin applying the tissue paper.
22. Unfold the cut strips and separate them into single layers of tissue.
23. Start by turning the piñata over and gluing one row of yellow tissue to the outside edge of the underside of the brim. Make sure the ruffled edge faces out.
24. Overlap each row as you continue laying down the tissue. Work your way to the center in a circular, spiraling pattern.

25. When the bottom is completely covered, turn the piñata over and begin gluing yellow tissue at the bottom outside edge of the brim. The ruffled edge should be pointing down and meeting the ruffles from the bottom surface.
26. Continue adding overlapping strips of yellow tissue until you reach the base of the crown.
27. Go around the base of the crown 3 times each with the cut green, white and red tissue strips. This will form the hatband.
28. PARENTS ONLY: Use a craft knife to cut a 3 sided, 3 inch by 4-inch flap in the uncovered part of the crown.
29. Bend the flap out towards you and fill the inside of the piñata with candy, like Fun Size Candy Bars.
30. Bend the flap back into place and tape shut with masking tape.
31. Now continue covering with the yellow tissue strips until you reach the top of the sombrero.

#### **For the Stick:**

1. Wind the remaining red, green, white and yellow cut tissue strips around a 3-foot long wooden dowel. Hold the end of each strip in place with a small spot of glue. Each section of color should be about 3-inches wide.
2. When the entire stick is covered, finish the end with a pompom made of all the colors.
3. To make the pompom, fold a whole tissue sheet into a 4-inch by 7-inch rectangle.
4. Cut 6-inch long slits at 14-inch intervals along the shorter side of the rectangle. Repeat with each color.
5. Wrap these strips, one color on top of the other, around the end of the stick. Glue to adhere.
6. Finish by wrapping one last section of ruffled tissue around the glued end of the pompom.

#### **For the Mask:**

1. Cut the red ribbon into 2 – 10 inch pieces.
2. Use the mask template to trace and cut out two mask shapes from the red felt.
3. Punch one hole on either side of ONE of the mask shapes. This will be the front of the mask.
4. Thread one ribbon through each hole and tie into place.
5. Glue overlapping layers of the ruffled tissue left from the piñata to the front of the mask. Vary the colors to give it a festive look.
6. Turn the decorated mask front over and glue the second mask to it. This will cover any tissue edges that were folded over and make the mask more comfortable to wear.

#### **Tips:**

After the sombrero is dry, you may choose to paint the surface using acrylic paints, instead of applying the layers of ruffled tissue. The hatband can still be made from ruffled tissue or you can apply bands of colorful ribbons.

## **Poncho**

#### **Materials:**

1 white or off-white pillowcase  
 Safety scissors  
 Non-toxic crayons  
 PARENTS ONLY – Iron  
 Paper grocery bag  
 Thick yarn  
 Hole punch

#### **Instructions:**

1. Cut along the long sides of the pillowcase so that there is only one seam left at the top.
2. Cut a "v" neck out off the front of the fabric and a scoop neck on the back. You can use your child's t-shirt as a guide for how large you should cut the opening.
3. Using the crayons, allow your child to color a pattern on the front of the fabric. Be sure that they press hard enough so that the colors are bright on the fabric.

4. When they have completed coloring their design, lay out their poncho on an ironing board. Place an open brown paper bag over the entire front, covering the entire design. Place another pillowcase over the paper bag. Press down over the whole poncho with a hot iron. This will melt the crayon wax into the fabric so that it will not be easily scratched off.
5. Punch three holes about 1/2 inch from the bottom of the poncho. One should be in the center, the other two can be about 2 inches from each side of the pillowcase.
6. For each tassel cut 4 pieces of yarn about 12 inches in length. Take 3 of these pieces and thread them through one of the holes so that 6 inches of yarn is on each side.
7. To form the tassel, bring each of the 6 inch pieces of yarn together and tie together just below the bottom edge of the poncho. (see template)
8. Repeat this process at each remaining hole.

**Tips:**

Bright colors work well on these ponchos.

**Bookends**

**Materials:**

Shoe box  
 Scissors  
 Pencil  
 Ruler  
 Tape or glue  
 Markers  
 Wrapping paper  
 Paint  
 Wallpaper remnants

**Instructions:**

1. You do not need the lid of the box to make this craft. Cut away one of the long sides of the box.
2. With the cut away side of the box facing you, mark the center of the opposite long side using the ruler.
3. Draw a line from the center mark straight towards you. Draw another line from the left top corner to your center mark and then one from the right top corner to your center mark.
4. Cut along the lines you have drawn. So that you have two bookends.
5. Tape or glue any loose edges. You are now ready to decorate your bookends. Be as creative as you like using markers, wrapping paper, paint or wallpaper remnants.

**Magic Wand**

**Materials:**

Curling ribbon  
 Straws

**Instructions:**

Cut lengths of different colored curling ribbon. Tape it onto a straw.

**Bean Bag**

**Materials:**

Colorful old socks with no holes in the toe area  
 Sewing needle (can be blunt tapestry or darning needles) and thread, scissors  
 Small grain like rice or lentils, or for more permanence  
 Plastic ball craft  
 Poly-Fil

**Instructions:**

1. Cut the toe of the sock off at a distance from the toe a half inch longer than the width of the sock.
2. Cut out a roughly 2 inch square from the rest of the sock.
3. With a running stitch, gather the open end of the sock toe.
4. Fill sock snugly with rice, lentils, or Poly-Fil. Pull the opening closed and tie off.
5. Place the extra cut out square on top of the gathered tail and stitch down the edges. This is to make the opening area smooth and secured. Add buttons, fabric, ribbons, fabric paint, etc. to make your own unique bean bag baby!

**Candle Centerpiece****Materials:**

Tuna sized cans  
Dried beans  
Candle  
White glue  
Red ribbon

**Instructions:**

Take tuna sized cans and fill them with colorful dried beans. Then put a candle in the middle and fill the can with white glue. It should take about 24 hours to set. Then tie a red ribbon around the base of the candle.

**Jewelry Box****Materials:**

Box  
Wrapping paper  
Modge Podge

**Instructions:**

1. Cut out the designs from the wrapping paper. Lightly brush the back with Modge Podge and place the designs on box.
2. When dry brush Modge Podge over the entire box. You can also sponge the Modge Podge on to give it a really neat, textured finish.
3. You can completely cover the box with the decoupage, or paint the box first then just apply a few decorative designs.

**Paper Beads****Materials:**

Wrapping paper or colorful magazine pages  
Scissors  
Glue stick  
Knitting needle or straw

**Instructions:**

1. Cut triangles from your paper approximately 2 inches or less across the bottom and about 10 inches tall. Each triangle will make one bead. Cut as many as you need.
2. Place the triangle wrong side up on the table. Lay the knitting needle or straw along the wide end of the triangle.
3. Tightly roll the strip around the knitting needle or straw twice.
4. Put glue on the remainder of your triangular strip and continue to roll the paper evenly.
5. To finish the bead, glue down the narrow end and hold in place until the glue sets. Slip bead off of the needle or straw and continue working steps 2-4 until you have as many beads as you want.
6. String beads on heavy thread, a shoelace or wool. Tie ends together.