



SEASONAL CRAFTS

This is a collection of over 225 crafts at all different levels of difficulty dedicated strictly to our four seasons. There is everything from flowers to leaves to sunshine to snowmen! Everyone in your house is sure to find a craft year-round with this collection!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Just click on the Season you want and it will take you right there!

[Spring](#) ~~ [Fall](#)
[Winter](#) ~~ [Summer](#)

Brought to you by:

Preschool Sunday School Central

Website: <http://www.psscentral.com>

E-mail: psscentral@gmail.com

Copyright 2008 ~ Preschool Sunday School Central

Seasonal crafts

SPRING

Garden Glove Doll

Materials:

1 cotton garden glove
2 12" chenille stems any color
4 pony beads any color
one 1/2' light pink pom pom
two 1/4" and one 1/2" lavender pom pom
two 3mm black pom poms
12" of 3/8" wide lavender satin ribbon
wire cutters
needle, thread to match the glove

Instructions:

1. Trim 2' from chenille stem slide a bead on to the end and twist to secure. Repeat the other end.
2. Do this on two chenille stems Hold them together and twist a 2" piece around the center of the two pieces this will be the neck.
3. Cut across the glove just under the thumb. Cut the cuff off and discard the thumb section.
4. Slide a beaded chenille stem into each of the four glove fingers and gather the cut edge around the neck. Thread the needle and stitch through the gathers.
5. Spread the fibers of the pink pom pom and glue it over the neck and gathered edge.
6. Glue the black pom pom on for eyes and the 1/4" lavender pom pom to the glove for buttons.
7. Use the ribbon to make a ribbon around the neck.
8. Gather one end of cuff for hat and glue on head put pom pom on top of hat.

Homemade Flower Vases

Materials:

Cardboard
Scissors
Paper Mache
Paint
Glue
Newspaper

Instructions:

Cut cardboard into a shape that will be able to stand up. Glue all necessary parts together. Paper Mache the whole vase. Allow to dry. Paint with any color(s). You can then write Dad or Mom on it. Makes a great mother of father's day gift.

(For a neat effect, you can add glitter or for older children, you can sponge paint the vase!!)

Flower Watering Can

Materials:

1 2l Plastic Soda Bottle and Lid
Bright Colored Adhesive Plastic
Scissors
Nail

Instructions:

1. Wash each bottle and lid. Using the nail, poke about ten holes in toward the top of one side of the bottle. Cut the adhesive plastic into shapes such as flowers, sunshine, triangles, and circles.
2. Give each child a plastic bottle and lid. Let each child choose shapes to decorate their watering can.

Macaroni Garden

Materials:

Macaroni and other un-cooked noodles
Glue
White paper

Instructions:

Give each child a piece of paper, glue and some noodles. Let children create their own "garden" by gluing the noodles to the paper in different formations to create trees, flowers, and plants. Different colored macaroni works great to add colorful flowers.

Spring Tote Bag

Materials:

Scissors
Craft glue or glue gun
Wire cutters
Pencil
White Canvas Tote Bag
12 1- inch green pom-poms
4 3/4- inch yellow pom-poms
2 5 mm red pom-poms
1 2-inch yellow pom-pom
4 7mm wiggle eyes
1 package black chenille stems
1 each: brown and yellow fabric marker

Instructions:

1. Make 2 caterpillars by gluing 2 lines of 6 pom-poms (that would be using all the green pom-poms) to the front of the bag. You can place them in any direction that you like. You create the scene.
2. Cut one black chenille stem in half and fold each piece in half. Glue a piece to the top of each caterpillar's head for antennas. Glue a 3/4 inch yellow pom-pom on the tip of each antenna.
3. Cut 10 pieces of chenille stem each about 1 inch long. Fold each piece in half and glue to the bottom of each green pom-pom for legs.
4. Glue on the eyes and glue on a red pom-pom for a nose.
5. Draw a path for the caterpillars on the bag with the brown fabric marker.
6. Glue the large yellow pom-pom on the top right hand corner of the bag for the sun. Draw on sunrays with the yellow fabric marker.

Let's Go Fly A Kite

Materials:

Construction Paper
Streamers
Yarn
Markers
Crayons
Scissors
Hole Punch
Clear Tape
Glue

Instructions:

Give each child a piece of construction paper. Have the children fold the paper in half lengthwise and then open it again. Fold the top corners into the center. Fold the bottom corner over. Fold the other bottom corner over, and tuck it under the excess edge. Glue the Flaps down. Then glue two streamers on as a tail. Put a piece of clear tape on the top point of the kite then use the hole punch to punch a hole through the tape. Tie a piece of 2 foot yarn through the hole.

Spring Pots

Materials:

Clay pots
Tempera paint
Clear varnish
Plant
Dirt

Instructions:

Let your kids paint clay pots and then put plants in them. I used tempera paint and then we sprayed them with a clear varnish. The next day we took a trip to the nursery and I let my daughter pick out plants to put in her pot. She now feels like she has been part of landscaping the yard.

Tissue Paper Flower

Materials:

Variety of colored tissue paper
Scissors
Glue
Construction paper

Instructions:

Cut tissue paper into squares. Cut or draw stem and leaves for the flower. Take tissue squares and scrunch up. Glue the tissue paper to form a flower.

Wheelbarrow Planter

Materials:

Plastic Scoops from laundry detergent
Milk Gallon Cap (or buttons, etc.)
Glue
Potting Soil
Seeds

Instructions:

Take the plastic scoop from laundry detergent (wash it) and glue on each side towards the handle the plastic lid off a gallon milk jug. It makes a little wheelbarrow. I hope I spelled that right. Next add potting soil and let the kids plant seeds in it. I always plant either grass seeds or beans because they grow so fast.

Bird Feeder Puppet**Materials:**

Newspaper
Paper plate (6 inch)
Blue poster paint
Paintbrush
Glue
Scissors
Knit glove
Birdseed
2 blue feathers
Toilet paper tube
Paper bowl (6 inch)
Blue felt scraps
Orange felt scraps

Instructions:

1. Paint the top of the paper plate blue. Paint the outside of the toilet paper tube blue. Let this dry!
2. Glue the tube upright in the center of the plate. Glue the bottom of the bowl to the top of the tube to make a bird feeder.
3. Cut the two fingers next to the thumb out of the gloves, leaving them attached at the base of each finger.
4. Cut two finger-sized holes in the side of the bowl of the feeder. Put the glove fingers on *your* fingers and push them through the holes in the bowl. These will be the birds!
5. Cut a beak for each bird from orange felt. Glue the beaks on each bird, making sure the beak is facing the feeder.
6. Cut eyes and wings from the blue felt for each bird and glue in place.
7. Glue the blue feathers to the back of the birds, forming their tails.
8. Rub the bottom of the bowl with some glue and sprinkle birdseed to let dry.

Spring Hats**Materials:**

paper plates
scissors
collage material
hole punch
ribbon

Instructions:

Take regular paper plates (I glued 2 together) and cut out the center circle so you have a ring. Glue miscellaneous materials onto the ring, such as cupcake papers, crepe paper, pom poms, ribbons, feathers, or anything you can think of. Punch a hole on each side and tie a ribbon through the hole so the hat can be tied under the chin. We used the cupcake papers, crepe paper, raffia, ribbon, pom poms and they are just adorable! The kids had a blast making them, too.

Bold Garden Crow

Materials:

1 - 3 1/2" picket cut to 24" long
2 - 2" pickets or boards
small garden gloves found at craft stores
staple gun
yellow, black and white paint.

Instructions:

1. Cut the 3 1/2" picket to make it 24" long. Single pickets are very cheap and can be found at Home Base or Home Depot. Cut the top to shape the head if you would like. I used the bottom side of the picket and cut two triangles out to form the head shape. If you don't have pickets any thin board will do.
2. Draw in a face with a pencil and paint the eyes, beak, and the body.
3. Cut the two smaller pickets to measure 13" each with the pointed end being the end of the crows wings. Paint them black. When the paint is dry, staple them onto the body.
4. Fill the gloves part way up with sand to fill out the fingers. Paint the gloves to look like the crows talons. When they are dry, staple the talons onto the crow's body about 6" up from the bottom.
5. Place the crow on your fence on in your garden. I had to use two screws to keep the crow from falling off.

Spring Necklace

Materials:

Colored straws
Spring fun foam shapes
String
Plastic lace
Scissors
Glue

Instructions:

1. Cut the straw up into 3/4" - 1 " lengths.
2. Glue a straw cut to the right length behind each fun foam shape you will be using.
3. String the shapes and straw pieces on to a piece of string or plastic lace and tie the ends together when you are finished.

Milk Jug Bird Feeders

Materials & Instructions:

Rinse out an empty plastic gallon milk jug with lid. Cut a window in the front of the jug, and make two small poke holes for the perches. Insert pencils for perches and fill the bottom of the jug with bird seed.

Tulip Hat

Materials:

Construction paper
Scissors
Paint and brushes

Instructions:

Step 1:

Mark off the top edge of a 22- by 5-inch piece of construction paper in 3-inch sections.

Step 2:

Then, cut a deep "V" in every other marked section.

Step 3:

Next, make the tulip's notched tops by snipping three small "V"s along the top edge of the uncut sections.

Step 4:

Paint on tulip petals, stems and leaves, then tape the ends in the back so the crown fits snugly on your child's head.

Flowerpot Chime**Materials:**

5 1/4-inch-diameter plastic flowerpot saucer

Five 1 1/2-inch-diameter clay pots

Clear acrylic finish

Pushpin

Acrylic paint

Scissors

String

Hole punch

Soda bottle

Craft knife

Small bells

Buttons

Instructions:

Step 1:

Paint the saucer and pots. When the paint dries, add a coat of clear acrylic finish. Let it dry.

Step 2:

Using a pushpin, make a hole in the center of the plastic saucer and at four equidistant spots around the side of the saucer. Widen the holes with scissors or a compass point if needed (a parent's job).

Step 3:

Cut five leaf shapes out of the soda bottle (a parent's job).

Step 4:

Cut four 1 1/2-foot lengths of string.

Step 5:

To make each chime, punch a hole in the end of a plastic leaf and tie it onto the end of the string. Next, slip on the bell, tie a knot about 3/4 inch above the bell, thread on a button and then a pot (upside down).

Step 6:

Thread the end of the string out through one of the side holes in the saucer (thread from the inside and make sure the saucer's upside down). To fasten in place, run the string up through one hole in a button and then down through another hole and knot tightly.

Festive Flowers

Materials:

3-inch fabric squares
Rubber bands
Pipe cleaners

Instructions:

Step 1:

Stack four 3-inch fabric squares so that all the edges match up.

Step 2:

Starting from one end, fold the stack accordion style to create 1/2-inch-wide pleats, then tightly wrap a rubber band around the center.

Step 3:

Sandwich the pleated stack between the bend of a folded pipe cleaner, then twist together the ends to form a stem.

Step 4:

Separate the fabric layers to form a round, ruffled flower and remove any shaggy threads from the cut edges.

Flower Crown

Materials:

Florist's wire
Wire cutters
Flowers with longish stems

Instructions:

Step 1:

First, make a ring with the wire to fit on your child's head. Then, cut shorter lengths of wire for fastening the flowers onto the ring.

Step 2:

Gather daisies, dandelions, violets, and other wildflowers and trim the stems to about 4 inches long.

Step 3:

Lay the flowers along the ring and attach the stems with the short pieces of wire. For best results, have your child hold the flowers on the ring while you do this. Continue adding flowers until the ring is covered.

Tips:

Before your child tries on the crown, be sure there are no loose ends of wire sticking out.

Daffodils

Materials:

Yellow Crepe Paper
Yellow Cupcake Paper
Green Pipe Cleaners

Instructions:

Roll up a little ball on one end of the pipe cleaner so that when you stick it through the flower it won't just fall out. First cut the shape of the "back" of the daffodil...or approximately anyway. Put a small hole in the center for the pipe cleaner. Cut the cupcake paper in half. Roll it till you can glue the pleated edges together, making the part of the flower that sticks out in front. Make a hole (or sort of open the one that's there) and put the pipe cleaner through both parts of the flower; glue the "trumpet" onto the back of the flower. You can also add a little edge of orange with markers to make them look like the variations of daffodils.

Bird's Nest**Materials:**

Construction Paper
Glue
Cardboard
Yarn
Markers

Instructions:

Use scissors to cut the shapes of birds eggs from construction paper. Glue the eggs onto cardboard. Glue short strands of yarn under the eggs for a nest allow them to dry completely. Use markers to draw tree branches around the nest and speckles on the eggs. Draw leaves or use real ones, or felt (whatever) to make leaves on the branches. Variations: Wash and dry pieces or real eggshells. Glue them on top of the yard nests. Talk about the kinds of birds that live in your area. Compare their sizes, shapes, and colors. Take a walk and look for nests in trees. Talk about the materials that birds use to build nests and how high or low the nests are in the trees.

Popcorn Flowers**Materials:**

Popped Popcorn
Powder Tempera Paint
Green Construction Paper
Glue
Tagboard or Cardboard

Instructions:

Pop popcorn. Put handfuls of popcorn in plastic baggies and add powdered tempura paint to each one. Shake well to distribute paint all over the popcorn Cut stems and leaves out of green construction paper and glue them to tagboard. Glue on the colored popcorn to make spring flowers.

Colored Sand Vases**Materials:**

Newspaper
Tacky glue
Plastic cup
Paintbrush
Clean glass bottle or jar
Spoon
Colored sand (sold at most craft supply stores)

Instructions:

Step 1:

Cover your workspace with newspaper (this will make it easier to clean up later). Pour 1/4 cup or so of tacky glue into a plastic cup and dilute it slightly with a teaspoon of water.

Step 2:

Show your kids how to use a paintbrush to coat the outside of a clean bottle or jar with the glue solution and then sprinkle spoonfuls of colored sand over the glued surface, rotating the bottle to spread the sand evenly.

Step 3:

Allow the glue to dry completely. Once your kids get the hang of it, encourage them to experiment with multicolored designs. Or they might apply the glue in swirls or other shapes to create interesting patterns.

Spring Butterflies

Materials:

Food Coloring
Coffee Filters
Eye Dropper or Straws
Wooden Clothes Pin
Pipe Cleaner

Instructions:

Color small bowls of water with food coloring Using an eye dropper or a straw, scatter drops of colored water onto round coffee filters and watch the colors bleed and blend. While the filters dry draw eyes and body details on wooden clothespins. Gather each coffee filter up in the center and clip with the clothespin. Make antennae for each butterfly by inserting a pipe cleaner into the end of the clothespin and twisting it secure. Bend the ends of the pipe cleaner to make it look realistic. You can use tissue paper instead of coffee filters for a multi-layered effect. Decorate with sequins and buttons. Make caterpillars from green pom-poms glued to a large paper leaf (with a bite taken out of it) for a before and after exhibit.

Dragon Kite

Materials:

Plastic trash bags
Cellophane tape
Ruler
Pencil
String
Permanent markers
3/16-inch dowel (14 inches long)
Wire clothes hanger (light gauge)
Kite cord
Heavy needle
Large snap swivel

Instructions:**Step 1:**

Slice open a trash bag lengthwise and tape down the plastic sheet. Draw a 14-inch-diameter circle with a centerline and squared-off bottom. (Tip: Use a foot-long loop of string as a compass. Anchor the loop in place with a pencil's eraser end, insert a marker, pull the loop taut, and draw the circle.) Draw a 1-inch margin around the top and sides for tabs. Decorate with markers, if desired. Cut out the pattern and the tabs. Tape the dowel to the centerline of the kite's back.

Step 2:

Straighten the hanger, bend it around the top of the dowel and then down along the perimeter of the kite. Use bricks or books to hold the wire in place.

Step 3:

Starting at the top of the kite, tightly fold and tape the tabs around the wire, alternating from left to right. Trim the excess wire with wire cutters.

Step 4:

Place two pieces of tape (for reinforcement) across the centerline on the front of the kite, 1 inch down from the top and 3 1/2 inches up from the bottom. Use a needle to poke the bridle--a 3-foot length of cord--through the upper piece of tape, alongside the dowel. Loop the cord around the dowel, send the needle back through the plastic on the opposite side of the dowel, then thread the cord back through and around the dowel again. Secure the cord to itself with a triple knot. Repeat this process with the other end of the bridle at the lower taped point. Attach the snap swivel 1 1/4 inches above the bridle's midpoint (figure C). Use a lark's head knot: fold the cord and thread it through the swivel's nonopening end; draw the loop of cord over the entire swivel, then pull tight. Tie the kite cord to the swivel's clasp.

Step 5:

For the tail, tape together five plastic strips (2 inches by 4 bag lengths each), tape them to the kite's bottom and decorate.

Tips:

HOW TO LAUNCH THE KITE: Despite that classic image from childhood, running is not the best way to launch a kite. Instead, release it from your hand as you slowly let out line or have a helper stand 100 feet downwind and release the kite as you reel in the line. (Be sure to be far away from power lines.) In strong winds, move the swivel up 1/2 inch on the bridle; in light, down 1/2 inch. If the kite spins and dives, lengthen the tail.

Spring Flowers**Materials:**

Construction Paper
Scissors
Glue

Instructions:

Trace around 1 hand on yellow paper, and trace around 1 hand on red paper. Cut them out; these will be the flowers. Cut out a long & short stem out of green paper. Cut out four leaves out of green paper. Glue the cut out hands on the stems on brown paper, add leaves.

Wind Socks

Materials:

Paper Lunch Bag
Construction Paper
Crepe Paper
Scissors
Glue
Miscellaneous Craft Supplies

Instructions:

To make a windsock, cut off the bottom of a paper lunch bag. Decorate the bag with glitter paint, neon construction paper, stickers, etc. Then attach crepe paper streamers to one end of the bag. Attach a construction paper handle to the opposite end of the bag.

Rain Sticks

Materials:

Cardboard Rolls - Wrapping Paper Rolls work best
1 1/2 inch nails
Dried Peas
Masking Tape
Stuff for Decorating

Instructions:

Cover the end of the cardboard roll with masking tape and then poke in one and half inch nails randomly all over the tube so that they go all the way into the tube but not out the other side. You'll need to use quite a few to get a good sound effect. Then you put about a half a cup of dried peas in the tube (you really need to experiment with the number of nail and amount of peas to see what produces a good sound) and tape up the other end. Then you let the children decorate the outside of the tube however they like. You can use paper, fabric, leaves, acorns, bark, etc. Some children like to use Indian designs, but others just do their own thing.

Bagel Bird Feeder

Materials:

Bagel
Peanut Butter
Bird Seed
Yarn or String

Instructions:

Have children spread peanut butter on a bagel. When done, dip bagel in bird seed. Attach a piece of yarn and hang outside on tree branches or on fence.

Sunflowers

Materials:

Paper Plates
Construction Paper
Glue
Yellow Paint
Sunflower Seeds

Instructions:

Have children cut out several yellow petals and paste on small paper plate previously painted yellow. Fill center with sunflower seeds.

Cereal Flowers**Materials:**

Paper Plate
Green Construction Paper
Glue
Green Pipe Cleaners

Instructions:

Paste colorful cereals on paper plates in the shape of flowers. Add pipe cleaner stem and leaves cut out of construction paper.

Spring Window Decoration**Materials:**

Potato
Miscellaneous Craft Supplies
Potting Soil
Grass Seed

Instructions:

This week we got sick of the gloomy weather and decorated our big picture window. We made a huge umbrella that the kids decorated collage style, then cut out hundreds of raindrops and taped it all to the window. Then in another window, we made flowers (glue a bunch of cut out petals to a circle and throw on a stem) and hung those up too.

Picnic Baskets**Materials:**

Construction Paper
Crayons, Markers, or Paint
Stapler
Magazines

Instructions:

Make a picnic duplicate picnic basket patterns on white construction paper. Have the children decorate, paint, or color the baskets as they choose. After the children have cut the baskets out, staple around the outer edge so the basket is sealed closed. Then give the children several magazines with a lot of food item pictures to choose from. The children may then choose the food they would like to take with them on a picnic. After cutting or tearing out the pictures and placing them in the basket, have a pretend picnic inside.

Spring Birds**Materials:**

2 Paper Plates
Scissors
Paper
Glue
Markers, Crayons, or Paint

Instructions:

Color paper plates. Fold one paper plate in half. Cut about a 4 inch slit in the center-top of each side to hold wings; cut about a 1 inch slit in the top back to hold tail. Cut second plate in half. Trim one of the halves by 1 inch on the straight edge. Slip into the slit to make the wings. Trim the other half by 1 inch and then cut in half to form a triangle for the tail. Slip it into the tail slot. Cut a small triangle from paper for the beak. Make eyes.

Smelly Flowers**Materials:**

Paper
Cupcake Liners
Glue
Markers, Crayons, or Paint
Perfume

Instructions:

Glue paper cupcake liners on paper. Add stems. Spray some flowery perfume on the flowers. My dcks really liked the smelly part of the project.

Umbrella Pictures**Materials:**

Paper
Baking Cups
Scissors
Glue
Crayons or Paint
Pipe Cleaners

Instructions:

Cut several baking cups in half, these will be the umbrellas. Glue them on a sheet of paper. For the handles, use pipe cleaners or you can draw them. Draw or paint rain drops.

FALL**Pinecone Birdfeeder****Materials:**

Pine cones...fully opened older ones..bigger the better
Peanut Butter
Shallow pie plate
Sunflower and other bird seeds
String

Instructions:

1. Take the pine cone and have child apply peanut butter either with fingers or plastic knife into the layers of the pine cone. This works only with an opened cone.
2. Roll the pine cone in the seeds in the pie plate. If seeds do not stick...have child place seeds with fingers into the peanut butter.
3. Tie string tightly onto the top of the cone...doing this after ensures messy lickable fingers.
4. Hang your peanut butter seed cone outside in a tree or from the bottom of the bird feeder. The birds love it!! So do the children!

Harvest Bags

Materials:

Brown lunch bags
Yellow small pipe cleaners
Magazines
Glue
Candy

Instructions:

Cut pictures of fruit, vegetables and fall items out of magazines and glue them onto the lunch bags to form your harvest bag. When the children have completed the bags fill them with assorted candy to take home!

A' is for Apple

Materials:

Small paper bag
Red and brown Biocolor
Green construction paper
Newspaper
Rubber band

Instructions:

1. Stuff a small lunch bag with newspaper.
2. Tie off the top of the bag with the rubber band making sure to leave some bag at the top for a stem.
3. The area below the rubber is the body of the apple; paint it red. Then, paint the stem brown.
4. Allow the apple to dry. Cut a leaf out of green construction paper and attach it to the apple.

Fall Tree

Materials:

Brown, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red Paint
White Construction paper
Paint brush
Wipes

Instructions:

Paint child's forearm and hand with brown tempera. Print onto construction paper. This makes the trunk and branches for a tree. Leaves can be made Dipping the child's Fingers into green, yellow, orange, or red paint. Then Print them on the branches of the tree. You should do more yellow, orange, and red, then green. This way they look more autumn like.

Leaf People

Materials:

Crayons
A leaf
Glue
Construction paper

Instructions:

Each child chooses a leaf to be the "body". Glue the leaf onto construction paper and have the children add arms, legs, head, etc. with crayons.

Cornflake Tree

Materials:

Brown paint
Crayon or marker
Glue
Paint Brush
Cornflakes

Instructions:

Have the children draw or paint a brown tree trunk and branches. Paint a small leaf area with glue, drop on cornflakes; paint another small area with glue and add cornflakes until the leaf area is covered.
Option: Color the cornflakes with fall colored paints.

Leaf Mobile

Materials:

Fabric
Heavy paper
String
Small branch

Instructions:

Glue colorful and different fabrics to both sides of several pieces of heavy paper. Cut leaves from this. Tie a string on each leaf. Suspend the leaves from a small branch. Hang where the leaves will catch the breeze and flutter.

Fall Face Picture

Materials:

White paper
Glue
Leaves
Markers or crayons

Instructions:

Cut a 4 1/2" circle out of white paper. Have children glue circle on construction paper. Ahead of time collect a variety of leaves. Let children glue leaves on circle for hair. Use markers or crayons to add the facial features. You can also make a leaf collage.

Teddy Bear Cave

Materials:

Large brown grocery bag
Fiberfill
Stapler
Glue
Scissors
White paper
Markers
Small teddy bear

Instructions:

1. Cut 4 in. off the top of the grocery bag.
2. Cut a semicircle opening from one side of the bag.
3. Fold the two sides of the bag together. Fold 1 in. of the edge over and staple along the edge to hold your fold in place.
4. Pop the bag open to form a cave for your teddy bear. Glue some fiberfill on top of the cave to create snow. Do the same at the opening of the cave.
5. Make a sign for your bear cave telling everyone that he is sleeping for the winter. You can decorate the inside of the cave with some leaves, if you wish.

Sponge Painting**Materials:**

Brown paper
Paint
Sponges

Instructions:

Cut a leaf shape on brown paper (paper bags). Let the children sponge paint the leaf with fall colors. These look beautiful on a tree on the wall.

Autumn Handfuls**Materials:**

Brown paper
Yellow paper
Bingo markers

Instructions:

Place child's arm on sheet of brown construction paper (fingers should be spread apart). Trace arm to near elbow and hand and cut out. Glue cutout to a sheet of yellow construction paper and let the children use colored BINGO markers to make leaves for their hand tree. (Red markers would make orange leaves, etc.) These can be used to decorate a bulletin board, or just displayed as art.

Fall Tree Pin**Materials:**

4 brown pipe cleaners
Safety pin
Scissors
20 fall colored flat buttons

Instructions:

1. Hold three of the pipe cleaners together and bend them in half. Twist 3 in. of the folded end of the pipe cleaners together to form a tree base. Spread the ends of the pipe cleaners to form the branches of the tree.
2. Cut the remaining pipe cleaner into 3 in pieces. Wrap the pieces around each branch to make smaller branches.
3. Slide buttons on the different branches to make leaves.
4. Slip the back of the safety pin between the twisted pipe cleaners to form a clasp.
5. Now you can wear your pin or give it as a gift!

Corncob Printing

Materials:

Corncobs
Paper towel
Paint
Shallow container
Paper

Instructions:

Wash corncobs and allow them to dry for several days. Make paint pads by placing folded paper towels in shallow containers and pouring on yellow tempera paint. Have the children first roll the corncobs on the paint pads. Then let them roll the cobs across their papers to make prints.

Variation: Use a serrated knife to cut the corncobs in half. Let the children dip the cutoff ends into the paint and press them onto their papers to make yellow corncob flowers.

Fall Craft Stick Frame

Materials:

8 craft sticks
Glue
Paint or markers
Photo
Cardboard for backing
String for hanging
Leaf or fall cut-outs

Instructions:

Color craft sticks as desired. Assemble two craft sticks on each side with glue and let dry. Glue leaves or fall cut-outs to the craft sticks to make border. Add picture and glue cardboard. Apply string and hang-up!

Fall Friends

Materials:

Various Fall items
Glue
Toothpicks
Markers

Instructions:

In a container, place various fall items (leaves, pine cones, twigs, buttons, Indian corn, fabric, any miscellaneous materials) you may have for the children to use to make their fall friend. You can use toothpicks or glue to place materials onto pumpkin. The children can also use markers to make faces if they prefer.

Scarecrow Rod Puppet

Materials:

2 neckties
White sock
Yellow yarn
Felt and fabric scraps (assorted)
Glue
Yellow cupcake wrapper
2 brown buttons
10-in and 14-in long sticks
Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut a 4-in piece from the toe of the white sock. Cut the rest of the sock into pieces and use them to stuff the cut toe end. This will be the head of the scarecrow. Use a piece of yarn to tie the stuffed head closed around one end of the longer stick.
2. Cut a 12-in rectangle from the wide end of a tie. Fold the piece in half and cut a small slit in the center of the fold for a neck hole. Put the bottom end of the stick down into the neck hole, then slide the tie up under the head of the scarecrow to make the body.
3. Cut a 10-in strip from the thin end of a tie for arms. If you keep the point, cut the other end into a point, too. Slide the short stick through the tie arms to support them. Glue the arms between the top front and back of the body so that they stick out on each side of the scarecrow.
4. Cut a 12-in piece from the thin end of another tie. Trim off the point. Fold the piece in the center to make a V shape. Glue the point of the V between the front and back of the bottom of the body so that the two ends of the tie piece hang down to form legs for the scarecrow.
5. Cut bits of yellow yarn for straw. Glue the yarn pieces sticking out from the bottom of the head and the ends of the arms and legs.
6. Glue the two buttons on the head for eyes. Cut a triangle nose from felt and glue it on. Glue the yellow cupcake wrapper on the head for a straw hat.
7. Cut patches from the assorted felt and fabric pieces and glue them on the scarecrow.

Pumpkin Seed Collage

Materials:

Pumpkin seeds
Glue
Paper

Instructions:

Wash and dry pumpkin seeds and place them in the art area with glue and paper. The children can make pumpkin seed collages.

Autumn Trees

Materials:

Large piece of paper
Crayons or markers
Glue
Leaves

Instructions:

First go for a walk and collect leaves (the more colorful the better). To make a tree outline, trace the child's hand (with fingers spread) and arm (up to the elbow) on a large piece of paper. Color the inside of the outline, that is the tree. Now, glue leaves onto the branches and around the base of the tree. You can also cut out "apples" and glue them on the tree!

Fall Wristbands**Materials:**

Masking tape

Instructions:

Take children outside with a piece of masking tape around their wrist like a bracelet. As they take their hike they can pick up various things that have to do with fall and stick them to their wristbands!

Stuffed Apple (and other fruits and vegetables)**Materials:**

Old white sock

Fiberfill

Red and green poster paint

Green felt scrap

Rubber band

Green yarn

Scissors

Hole punch

Instructions:

1. Cut a 5-in. piece from the toe end of a sock.
2. Stuff the toe with fiberfill to make a round shape of an apple. Close the opening with a rubber band.
3. Paint the round part of the apple red. Paint the part of the sock above the rubber band green for the stem.
4. Cut a leaf from the green felt. Punch a hole in one end of the leaf. Cut an 8-in. piece of green yarn and thread the leaf into the yarn and tie it to the base of the stem of the apple. Wrap the yarn around the rubber band to conceal it. Tie the ends together to hold the leaf and yarn in place.
5. Make several different kinds of fruits and vegetables in the same manner using your imagination. You can create a fruit and vegetable bowl!

Corn Collage**Materials:**

Yellow and green construction paper

Glue

Un-popped popcorn

Instructions:

Cut a "corn cob" and "husks" out of paper. Glue the "husks" around the "cob". Spread the glue on the "cob" and cover it with un-popped popcorn.

Falling Leaves

Materials:

Construction Paper
Paint
Paintbrushes
Glitter
Aluminum Foil
Dixie Cups

Instructions:

Cut construction paper leaves out of red, yellow, green and brown paper. Put leaves in a single layer on aluminum foil. Put glue in Dixie cups. Use paintbrushes to make glue lines on the leaves. Sprinkle with the glitter. When completely dry punch a hole in the "Stem" and hang with fishing line from your ceiling!

One Leaf Picture

Materials:

Leaves
Paper
Crayons or markers
Glue

Instructions:

Glue one leaf onto the center of the paper. Use the leaf as the body; draw head arms, legs, etc. Or make it into any design you want!

Leaf Prints

Materials:

Leaves
Paint ("fall" colors)
Black Construction Paper
Lots of Newspaper

Instructions:

Put down lots of newspaper! Paint one side of each leaf (not too thick). Carefully arrange leaves in one layer, paint side up, on clean newspaper. Place a piece of black construction paper over the top of the leaves and press gently! A little messy, but very fun.

Tissue Apples

Materials:

Round Balloons
Vaseline
Red Tissue Paper
Diluted Glue (or liquid starch)

Instructions:

Inflate balloons to the size of an apple. Cut red tissue paper into strips (about 1" by 4"). Cover the balloon with a light coat of Vaseline. Dip strips of tissue paper into diluted glue, don't let them soak. Stick them on balloons. These take about 24 hours to dry. When they are dry, you can pop the balloon with a pin and remove the balloon.

Fall Wreath

Materials:

Paper Plates
Colored Construction Paper
Hole Punch
Yarn
Scissors
Glue

Instructions:

1. Cut the center out of each paper plate. Cut out paper leaves from the construction paper.
2. Give each child a paper plate. Have the children glue leaves around the plate. After the wreaths are finished punch a hole at the top and lace a piece of yarn through the hole to form a hanger.

Leaf Print Banner

Materials:

Light colored fabric
Dowel
Yarn
Coffee filters
Markers
Scissors
Glue
Paintbrush
Margarine tub
Plastic wrap
Water
Newspaper

Instructions:

1. Cut a square of fabric to use for your banner. Fold one end over the dowel and glue it in place. Tie one end of a piece of yarn to each end of the dowel to make a hanger for the banner.
2. Cut some leaf shapes from the coffee filters.
3. Color the leaves with markers (not permanent markers) making each leaf different colors. Try to use more bright colors, as dark colors will run into each other and look muddy.
4. Mix one part glue with one part water. Paint the colored side of each leaf with this mixture.
5. Place the mixture side of the leaves one at a time, face down, on the banner. Cover the leaves with plastic wrap and rub over it to transfer the leaf pattern to the banner. You can get at least two prints from each leaf. Cover the banner with colorful leaf prints.

WINTER

Marshmallow Sculptures

Materials:

Marshmallows (mini size and large)
Toothpicks or Pretzels

Instructions:

Create sculptures by using toothpicks or pretzels to hold sculpture in place.

Wagon Wheel Macaroni Snowflake Craft

Materials:

Wagon wheel macaroni
White spray paint
Construction paper
Glue

Instructions:

1. Spray paint the noodles white and let them dry.
2. Glue them onto a piece of paper as shown in the picture. When they are dry you can cut them out if you would like.

Sock Snowmen Craft

Materials:

Keds type of anklet socks. (The ones with ribbing around the ankle are best)
White pipe cleaners
Felt (bright colors)
Ribbon (optional)
Large pom poms (white) or colored chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
Glue or glue gun/glue sticks
Polyfil for stuffing
Fabric markers/fabric paint, or small pom poms.

Optional: Plastic salad dressing containers from any restaurant, plus acrylic paint, white cardboard.

Instructions:

1. Turn anklet socks inside out, so the fuzzy side is showing on the snowman. Stuff with three separate balls of stuffing.
2. Tie off the bottom (toe of sock) first with a white pipe cleaner. Cut off excess pipe cleaner. Tie off two more parts to make a snowman with three balls (one for the head, one for the stomach, one for the bottom). Bend and poke the ends of the pipe cleaners into the interior of snowman so children don't get jabbed. (Don't include the heel of the sock - that part will be used for the snowman's hat - Leave it hanging for now.
3. To make the **hat from the sock** fold the anklet part down. Folding the ribbing up about ½" to make the ribbing on snowman's hat). Glue the ribbed part of the hat to the snowman's head. Don't worry how the back looks at this point. Pull the top up to make a pointed hat. Stuff some of the back part of the sock inside to make a triangle shape for the hat. Glue a seam up the back of the hat to enclose the excess part of the sock. Glue a medium-sized pom pom onto the top of the hat.
4. To **make a black magicians hat**. Paint the salad dressing container with black paint. Place the container with the open side down on a piece of cardboard. Trace around the brim. Draw a larger circle around this circle to make a brim for the hat. Cut the larger circle out. Punch a whole in the center of the circles. Cut slits from the center of the circle to the edge of the first smaller circle so that it looks like the cut lines are spokes of a wheel. Paint both sides of the circle. Bend up the parts that have been cut on the circle and glue them to the inside of the top of the hat (painted salad dressing container). Glue the finished hat onto the top of the snowman's head.
5. Glue small pom poms on for eyes and nose on the head; and buttons on the stomach. Glue on 1-1/2" piece of yarn for the mouth - or tiny black pom poms in a smile shape (to look like rocks).
6. Cut a scarf for the snowman out of felt pieces or use ribbon. Tie the scarf around the snowman's neck. Glue it down if needed.
7. To attach the arms, cut two small holes, ¼" apart, on the sides of the snowman, about 1" down from the neck. Insert 4"-5" pipe cleaner strips all the way through both holes, so you have a double pipe cleaner to twist to form the arms. You may want to use large white pom poms for the arms instead.

- Cut out mitten shapes. Glue two mittens together, 1 on each side of the pipe cleaner arms for hands or glue them on to the pom pom arms.

Ice Lights

Materials:

Large metal bowl
Plastic yogurt container
Cupful of small stones or coins

Instructions:

Step 1:

Start by pouring a couple inches of water into the mixing bowl. Place it outdoors to freeze.

Step 2:

Fill the yogurt container with the stones or pennies, then center it on the ice in the bowl. Slowly pour more water into the bowl, so that it nearly reaches the rim of the smaller container, and let it freeze solid.

Step 3:

To remove the lantern from its mold, run warm water on the outside of the bowl and the ice should slip out. Next, dump out the contents of the inner container and pour in warm water to loosen it. Remove the container and place a votive candle in the opening.

Snowy T-Shirt

Materials:

Rubber gloves
Brightly colored cotton T-shirt, prewashed
Plastic trash bags or tablecloth
Plastic grocery bags
Scissors
3 kitchen sponges
Bleach
Small disposable container (such as an empty margarine tub)
Spray bottle
Fabric markers, such as FabricMate or Marvey

Instructions:

Step 1:

To begin, lay the shirt flat on a plastic trash bag or old tablecloth and slip one or two grocery bags flat inside it. Cut the sponges into a star and two circles, one slightly larger than the other. Rinse the sponges with water and wring them out thoroughly.

Step 2:

With a window open for ventilation, pour a shallow layer of bleach into the disposable container and about 2 inches into the spray bottle. Have your child spritz bleach across the bottom of the shirt to saturate it. She should gradually apply less bleach as she moves up the shirt, ending with a thin mist across the middle. Allow the bleach to soak in for a moment to see how it's working.

Step 3:

To build the snowman, help your child dip the larger round sponge into the bleach, squeezing to remove excess liquid, then press the sponge onto the shirt. Lift the sponge and check the boldness of the imprint. She can repeat this step if necessary, but should avoid using too much bleach, as this can obscure the image. Repeat with the smaller round sponge for the snowman's head, then complete the scene with a bleached star. Allow the shirt to dry overnight, then soak it briefly in hot, soapy water, and rinse. When it has dried, your child can use the fabric markers to add the snowman's buttons and facial features.

Tips:

If it's not easily seen, you may want to mark the bleached (snow) and unbleached (sky) portions of the shirt with masking tape to avoid losing your snowman in a blizzard!

Snowstorm Art**Materials:**

Liquid Starch or Glue
Brush or Q-tips
Construction Paper
Rice

Instructions:

Generously brush starch or glue onto paper, then sprinkle rice on the paper. Shake off excess.

Cotton Ball Snowman**Materials:**

Construction Paper
Cotton Balls
Glue

Instructions:

Draw an outline of a snowman on a piece of construction paper. Fill in the snowman with cotton balls. Add details (eyes, nose, etc.) with scrap construction paper.

"Stuffed" Pine Cones**Materials:**

Pine cones
Bird seed
Peanut butter
Ribbon

Instructions:

Collect pine cones, coat them with peanut butter, roll in bird seed and hang them out on the tree branches with ribbon. Easy and inexpensive and the birds will enjoy their winter treat.

Jar Snowman**Materials:**

Plastic jar with a lid
Fiberfill
4 buttons
2 twigs
Scissors
Orange felt scrap
Large red pom pom
Glue
Masking tape

Instructions:

1. Remove label and glue from your jar by soaking in warm water.
2. Stuff the jar with fiberfill for the body of the snowman.
3. Glue two of the buttons for the eyes, two buttons in the center of the jar, the orange scrap for the nose, and the two twigs for the arms on the outside of the jar to form the snowman's body parts.
4. Put the lid on the jar and place a small piece of masking tape on top of the lid to create a better gluing surface. Glue the pom pom on top of the masking tape for a hat.

Frost Pictures**Materials:**

Construction Paper
Crayon or Markers
Salt Glue

Instructions:

Draw a winter scene on the construction paper. Glue on the salt to represent snow.

Pop-Up Groundhog**Materials:**

Adult size brown sock
1 ft. dowel
Glue
2-1/2 in. styrofoam ball
Small round oatmeal box
Wiggly eyes
String
Brown felt
Fiberfill

Instructions:

1. Cut the bottom of the oatmeal box and slide the sock over the box, so that the opening of the sock just fits around the edge of the oatmeal box. The box will be the groundhog's hole.
2. Dip one end of the dowel into glue. Push it into the Styrofoam ball. Push the ball through the oatmeal box and into the toe of the sock with the dowel coming out of the bottom of the oatmeal box. The Styrofoam will be the groundhog's head. Tie a piece of string around the dowel at the base of the ball to make the groundhog's neck.
3. Glue wiggly eyes on one side of the head. Cut ears and a nose from the brown felt and glue in place.
4. Glue fiberfill around the top rim of the oatmeal box for snow.
5. Now you use the dowel to make the groundhog go up and down out of his hole to see if we will have six more weeks of winter!

Birdseed Biscuits**Materials:**

2 cups biscuit baking mix
1/2 cup cold water
2 tbsp margarine
2 tbsp sesame seeds
2 tbsp sunflower seeds

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 425F. Form a soft dough with baking mix and water. Roll out the dough to 3/4" thickness and cut it into shapes with cookie cutters. Using a straw, punch a hole in the top of each cookie. Melt the margarine and brush over dough. Sprinkle the seeds and nuts onto the dough and press it in FIRMLY with a fork. Bake for 15-20 min., or until light brown. When cool, thread brightly coloured ribbon through the hole and hang in a tree.

Coffee Filter Snowflakes**Materials:**

Coffee Filter
Scissors
Blue Tempera paint
Water
Paint brush

Instructions:

Take some blue paint and water it down. Then paint a coffee filter with the paint. Once it dries fold it in half, then in half again, and then in half one more time. Cut it like you would a snowflake. When you open it will look like a blue tie dyed snowflake. Looks great in a window.

Snowman stamping technique**Materials:**

Packing bubbles
Paint
Dark paper

Instructions:

Use packing bubbles to make a snowman. Cut the bubbles in to a snowman shape, then the kids paint the bumpy side with white tempera and press onto dark paper.

Ice Skater**Materials:**

Tongue depressor
Markers
Scissors
Plastic cup
Water
Aluminum foil

Instructions:

1. Use markers to make an ice skating figure on the tongue depressor.
2. Fill plastic cup half full of water.
3. Cover the opening of the cup with aluminum foil.
4. Carefully cut a slit in the center of the aluminum foil and slide the feet of the ice skater through the slit so that it is standing straight up in the center of the cup.
5. Put the cup in the freezer until the water is frozen.
6. Run the cup under warm water until the ice skater pops out of the cup.
7. The ice skater will skate across a bare floor. You can make more than one of these and they can race each other! Do not use skater on wooden floors, so as not to stain the wood!

Snowman mobile

Materials:

Paper
String

Instructions:

Make a large circle out of white construction paper, a medium size circle then a smaller one for the head. Draw on a piece of paper, twigs for arms, eyes, buttons and hat/scarf. Carrot for a nose :-). Punch a hole on the top of the bottom circle and attach with white string to the middle hole. Attach another string from the middle circle to the head. Glue on the eyes, nose and arms.

Poem to be used with mobile:

*I built a little snowman
Who had a carrot nose.
Along came a bunny
and what do you suppose?
That funny little bunny
while searching for a snack
ate that snowman's nose
crunch crunch crunch.*

3-D Snowflake

Materials:

2 white paper doilies per child
White glitter
White ribbon
Glue
Tape

Instructions:

Give each child 2 doilies. Have them spread a little glue on their doilies. Sprinkle with the glitter. Let Dry. Make a cut on each doily, which extends from one outer edge to the middle. Help the children line up the cuts and fit on doily over the other, to create a 3 dimensional snowflake, tape into place. Curl and tape the ribbon to each snowflake and hang them in a window or from the ceiling.

Glitter Painting

Materials:

Dark blue paper
3 T. Liquid starch
1 tsp. Glitter
Jars
Paint brushes

Instructions:

Mix the starch with glitter to make glitter paint. Let each child experiment with glitter paint on dark paper. Talk about the pictures after they dry.

Snowbird Table Decoration

Materials:

Clear plastic cup
Worm style packing foam
Glue
Blue poster paint
Paintbrush
Styrofoam tray
Forked twig small enough to fit in plastic cup above
Wiggly eyes
Scissors
Birdseed
Blue construction paper
Yellow construction paper
Masking tape
Blue decorative trim
Empty cereal box
Fiberfill
Pencil

Instructions:

1. Slide one branch of the twig through one end of the worm packing foam. It will look like a bird sitting on a branch. Secure the bird with glue.
2. Paint the bird on the twig blue. Let this dry in the Styrofoam tray.
3. Cut wings from blue construction paper. Cut a beak from the yellow construction paper. Glue the wings to the back of the bird and the beak on the front of the bird. Glue the wiggly eyes in place.
4. Trace around the opening of the plastic cup onto the cardboard (cereal box) and cut out the circle.
5. Glue fiberfill to the circle for snow. Glue the branch with the bird on top of the snow. Glue some birdseed in the snow in front of the bird.
6. Cover the rim of the cup with a thin piece of masking tape to create a better gluing area. Put glue around the opening of the cup and glue it over the bird in the snow.
7. Decorate the bottom of the cup with the decorative blue trim by placing masking tape around the bottom of the cup and gluing the trim onto the masking tape.

Paint with Ice Cubes

Materials:

Food coloring
Water
Ice cream sticks
Coffee filters
Paper

Instructions:

Put colored water in ice cube trays, put in ice cream sticks to make the cubes easier to handle. Freeze. Let the children paint on the filters with the ice cubes. For something different let them use other textured paper and ask them what happens.

Paper Tube Snowman

Materials:

Toilet paper tube (or half of a paper towel tube)
Paper
Glue

Instructions:

Make snowmen out of white toilet paper tubes (or paint them white). Cut them into sections and then the children can glue 2 or 3 sections together to make a snowman. Add buttons for eyes or whatever, yard for a scarf, etc.

Ice Sun Catcher

Materials:

9-in foil pie pan
Shoelace
Water
Materials such as pine cones, pine needles, and twigs.

Instructions:

1. Fold the shoelace in half and place the two ends across the center of the pie tin.
2. Make an arrangement of the above materials in the tin.
3. Fill the tin pan with water and leave outside to freeze (or use your freezer).
4. When the water is frozen, remove the ice from the tin. Hang your sun catcher from a tree in a sunny place.
5. Keep in mind this craft will last only as long as the ice stays frozen!

Snowflake Headbands

Materials:

Paper
Stickers
Stamps
Crayons
White doilies
Glue

Instructions:

Take a long strip of 3" wide paper decorated it with stamps, stickers, or crayons. Cut up small pieces of a white doilies. Glue the doilies to the strip. When dry fit around the child's head and tape or glue.

Making Tracks

Materials:

Corrugated cardboard box
Ruler
Twine
Pencil
Clear packing tape

Instructions:

1. Draw a large foot shape on the cardboard. Cut out the shape.
2. Use the cut out foot to make another identical foot with the cardboard and cut that foot out, as well.
3. Cover feet with the clear packing tape to protect the cardboard in the snow. Trim off the excess packing tape.
4. Trace your own shoes in the center of the big feet and use a pencil to mark the center of your shoes. Now poke a hole through each mark.
5. Cut a 2 ft. length of twine. Thread each end of the twine through the two holes so that you will be able to tie the cardboard foot to your own shoe. Repeat this for the other cardboard foot.
6. Now you can walk through the snow and leave big prints for everyone to wonder what has come to the neighborhood!

Icicles**Materials:**

Paper
White paint
Iridescent glitter
Scissors

Instructions:

Finger paint with white tempera on a sheet of art paper. Before the paint dries, have each child sprinkle his paper with clear or iridescent glitter. After the paint is dry, cut one long edge of each paper into jagged icicle shapes. Mount the straight edge of each at the top of cubbies or tables.

Inside an Igloo**Materials:**

Blue and white paper
Glue
Scissors
Markers or crayons

Instructions:

Cut out an igloo shape on the blue paper Make the igloo almost as big as the entire paper. Cut doors that can be opened up (like barn doors.). Glue it down to the white paper- make sure that you don't glue the doors shut! The children draw igloo patterns (ice blocks) on their igloo and draw a picture of what should be inside/or might be inside an igloo. Write underneath their writing and put the caption "Inside (child's name)'s igloo..."

Sweater Mittens**Materials:**

Old wool sweater (use only 100 percent wool; tight weaves work especially well)
Paper and pencil
Pins and scissors
Yarn
Tapestry or yarn needle

Instructions:**Step 1:**

Wash the sweater in the hot cycle of your washer three or four times with regular detergent. Then pop the sweater into the drier for about 45 minutes, or until it shrinks and becomes feltlike in texture. Certain sweaters shrink better than others, and the drying time will vary depending on the sweater's thickness.

Step 2:

To make a mitten template, trace around one of your (or your child's) mittens, leaving an extra inch or so around the edge for sewing. Pin the template onto the felted fabric, then cut out four matching mitten shapes.

Step 3:

Pin two of the mitten sides together. Using a contrasting color of yarn, stitch around the edges (a blanket stitch, as used here, looks especially nice).

Variations:

Save any leftover felt to make purses, eyeglass cases, doll clothes, or even a fuzzy collar for your dog.

Tips:

If you don't have any old wool sweaters, check at a local thrift shop (they rarely charge more than two or three dollars per sweater). Keep an eye out for old Fair Isles; the intricate patterns shrink into pretty designs.

Winter Hats

Materials:

Construction paper
Paste
Crayons
Paint
Brushes
Cotton balls

Instructions:

Draw a stocking cap shape for each child on a piece of construction paper. A half circle with a cuff across the bottom and a tassel at the top is simple to do. Cut out shapes. Have the children decorate their cap shapes with crayons or paint, by pasting on scraps of colored paper, or sponge painting. Let them each paste a cotton ball on the tassel area. While the children are working, talk about the changing weather and how hats help keep heads and ears warm. The children may make mittens to match caps.

Ice Castles/Igloos

Materials:

Sugar Cubes
Glue
Paper Plate or cardboard

Instructions:

Glue sugar cubes on plate to make castles or igloos. For a magical touch, paint their creations with gold spray paint.

Snowman Garland

Materials:

2 different-size jar lids (we used one with a 2-inch diameter and another with a 3-inch diameter)
Cardboard
Pencil
4 or more 9- by 12-inch sheets of white craft foam
Puffy paints
Ribbon, fleece, and felt
Small pom-poms
Tacky glue
3 yards or more of thin ribbon

Instructions:

Step 1:

Create a template by tracing the jar lids (the smaller one above the larger one, their rims touching) onto the cardboard and cutting out the snowman shape. Use the template to draw snowmen on the craft foam (we fit six per sheet) and cut them out.

Step 2:

Now your child can use puffy paints to add facial features and buttons. While the paint dries, she can cut out ribbon or fleece scarves (about 12 inches long) to tie around the snowmen's necks, as well as brimmed felt hats or stocking caps--complete with a small pom-pom glued to the end--to glue on their heads.

Step 3:

To string the snowmen into a garland, loop the ribbon once around the back of each of their scarves. Keep the loops loose enough that you can slide the snowmen into place along the strand.

SUMMER

Sun Visor

Materials:

1 1/2 large paper plates
Scissors
Tape
Stapler

Instructions:

Let the children color the half of one paper plate and the rim of the other. When they are done, you will need to cut the rim out of the paper plate and discard the middle section. This becomes the band for there head. You staple one end to the one side of the half plate then the other end to the other side. You will need to check it to make sure it fits the child. You might need to tighten it up a bit. Once you staple it. Take some tape and cover the staples. (Both sides) This way the children do not scratch their face and it is sturdy. We wore them when we went out to play that day.

Sea Shell Candles

Materials:

Half-pint size milk cartons (rinsed out and dried)
Paraffin wax melted over a double boiler at low temp. (One pound will fill approx. 4-1/2 pint size cartons)
Grease or non-stick cooking spray
Small sea shell
Ice cubes
Small birthday candles

Instructions:

Open the top of the milk cartons to form rectangular boxes. Grease or spray inside of cartons. Fill the cartons with the following five layers: shells, ice, shells, ice, and shells. Place a birthday candle in the center of the carton with wick exposed (shells and ice will hold it in place) Slowly pour melted paraffin wax into each carton until the wax is approx. 1/8 inch from the exposed wick. Allow to cool completely, even overnight. Tear away carton. (NOTE there will be water spillage due to trapped water in the carton, so complete this step over a sink or outside) Display the candles.

Sunny Faces

Materials:

Yellow Paint
Yellow streamers
Glue
Markers

Instructions:

Have the children paint large circles with yellow paint. When the paint has dried the children can draw faces with markers. Then have the children glue short yellow streamers around the edges of their sunny faces.

Paint Blob Suns

Materials:

White paper
Yellow paint
Q-tip or straws

Instructions:

Give each child a piece of white construction paper. Put a blob of yellow paint in the center of each paper. The children can use Q-tips to draw the paint out to form rays or give them a straw and they could blow on the paint to make the rays.

Cool Breeze Fans

Materials:

Paper plates
Markers or crayons
Popsicle stick
Glue

Instructions:

Using the centers that you cut from the paper plates, cut the circle in half to make a straight edge. Have kids decorate and glue to a popsicle stick.

Sand Castles

Materials:

1 cup cornstarch
2 cups fine sand
1 1/2 cups cold water

Instructions:

Make Sand Castles the children can take home with Sand Dough. Mix in an old pan. Stir 5 - 10 minutes over medium heat until thick. Cool, then store in a plastic bag or container until ready to use. This should yield enough for 4 -6 children. Give each child a small amount of the sand dough on a paper plate and an assortment of small shells, stones, beads, straws, anything to decorate their castle. These will dry hard is left to set for a few days.

Sand Shakes

Materials:

Construction paper
Glue
Sand

Instructions:

You can use this art project to reinforce lessons in writing letters or numbers. Help each child drip glue on paper to make letters, numbers, or a design; sprinkle sand over paper and shake off excess.

Shell Monsters

Materials:

Shells
Glue
Tempera paint
Paint brushes
Newspaper

Instructions:

Spread the newspaper out on a table. Glue shells together to form monsters or other creatures. Let glue dry then paint creatures.

Sunflower Seed Necklace

Materials:

Dried sunflower seeds
Nylon string
Thin needle

Instructions:

1. Once a sunflower head has gone to seed and started to dry, harvest the seeds to make a pretty necklace.
2. Thread a length of nylon string onto a thin needle and carefully push the seeds onto it, one by one. Push the needle through the fat end of the seed, from edge to edge. watch your fingers !
3. Tie 2 lengths of nylon to the ends of the necklace so that you can tie it around your neck. If you have the clasps from an old necklace, sew these to the ends of the string.

Hydro Bracelet

Materials:

2 feet of clear plastic tubing with a 1/4-inch inner diameter and
3 inches of clear plastic tubing with a 3/8-inch inner diameter (sold in most hardware stores)
Ruler
Scissors
Tiny beads or glitter and water

Instructions:

Step 1:

To make each bracelet, cut an 8-inch-long piece from the 1/4-inch tubing and a 1-inch length from the 3/8-inch tubing (for a fastener). Slide both ends of the 8-inch tube into the fastener, as shown, and have your child try on the bracelet for fit. If it's too big, take it apart and trim it to size, remembering that it will need to slip over her hand.

Step 2:

Remove one end of the bracelet from the fastener. Use a finger to stopper one end while your child drops in tiny beads or pieces of glitter--or anything she likes that fits in the tube and can be submerged in water.

Step 3:

When she's done, slowly fill the tube with water, leaving several inches of air so it has room to move. Carefully slide the free end into the fastener as far as it will go. This should create a snug fit that won't come undone without a good tug.

Funky Flip-Flops

Materials:

Flip-flops
Assortment of small plastic toys
Assortment of different colors of embroidery thread
Wiggly eyes
Glue
Beads or jingle bells
Permanent markers

Instructions:

Step 1:

Attach small plastic toys, such as goldfish, with a hot glue gun.

Step 2:

Wrap the straps with different colors of embroidery thread.

Step 3:

Make a smiley face by gluing pairs of wiggly eyes onto the thongs, then painting your toenails red.

Step 4:

Tie on beads or jingle bells with short strands of embroidery thread.

Step 5:

Use permanent markers to draw on patterns or write your name.

Lickety-Lip Gloss

Materials:

1 tablespoon solid vegetable shortening
1 teaspoon honey
1 packet (.13- to .23-ounce, or enough to make 2 quarts) unsweetened flavored powdered drink mix, such as Kool-Aid
1/4 teaspoon hot water

Instructions:

Step 1:
Combine the shortening and honey in a small bowl.

Step 2:
In a separate bowl, stir together the drink mix and water until the powder is dissolved.

Step 3:
Stir the water mixture a drop or two at a time into the base mixture, until the gloss is colored and scented to your liking.

Tips:

To save the lip gloss for another day, refrigerate it in an empty lip gloss pot or other clean container for up to three days.

Garden Shoe

Materials:

Old boot
Pebbles or aquarium gravel
Potting soil or loam
Small bunch of annual flowers

Instructions:

Step 1:
Remove the lace from the boot or loosen it enough to allow the tongue to be pulled forward.

Step 2:
Fill the bottom of the boot with a layer of pebbles or aquarium gravel to provide drainage.

Step 3:
Pack in a 2-inch layer of potting soil or loam.

Step 4:
Fit in the root base of annual flowers (pansies, marigolds, or impatiens work well).

Step 5:
Gently pack more soil around and on top of the roots.

Tips:

Remember to water the flowers regularly because, unlike those that are planted in the ground, these blooms cannot draw moisture from the surrounding soil.

Hummingbird Feeder

Materials:

Thick carrot
Vegetable peeler
Bamboo skewer
Red yarn

Instructions:

Step 1:

Cut an inch off the top of a thick carrot and then, starting in the center, use the tip of a vegetable peeler to hollow out a well approximately 2 inches deep and 1 inch wide (a parent's job). (This shallow bath is plenty big enough for birds accustomed to bathing in tiny puddles or on dew-laden leaves.)

Step 2:

Push the pointed end of a 4- to 6-inch-long bamboo skewer (sold in grocery stores) through the walls of the carved well about an inch from the top.

Step 3:

Tie a piece of red yarn (hummingbirds are attracted to bright colors, especially red) around each end of the skewer. Then tie the loose ends of the yarn pieces together over a low branch or clothesline. Keep the well filled with water and be sure to check it often for visitors.

Tips:

Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red. To up the odds of viewing a visitor, hang a pot of red flowers near the bath or tie a few red ribbons on nearby branches.

Summer Grass

Materials:

Foil or paper tray
Popsicle or craft sticks
Soil
Grass seed (or bird seed)
Colored construction paper.

Instructions:

Cut out flower shapes on different colors of construction paper. Glue them to the tops of the craft sticks and allow to dry. Fill the tray with soil and scatter the seeds on it. Push the flower sticks into the soil in the tray. Put the tray in a light place and water regularly, then wait for the grass to grow around the flowers.

Amazing Sunflower

Materials:

Paper Plate
Glue
Sunflower Seeds
Yellow Paint

Instructions:

1. Cut around the edge of the paper plate to make petal shapes. Make sure you leave the center big enough to add your seeds.
2. Paint the flower-shaped plate yellow. After the paint dries a bit, squeeze a generous amount of glue into the center of your flower and stick on the sunflower seeds.

Cherry Tree

Materials:

Large Piece of Paper
Crayons
Red Paint

Instructions:

1. On a large piece of paper, trace your hand and forearm all the way up to your elbow. Make sure your fingers are spread apart. The tracing of your forearm will be the tree trunk and your fingers will be the branches! Color it in with brown crayons (or you could use paint or markers). Make leaves on your tree using crayons, markers, or paint.
2. Pour a little red paint on a paper plate, dip your finger in it, and then make fingerprints on the tree branches. You now have a tree full of cherries!

Clothespin Sailboat

Materials:

Spring type clothespins
Toothpicks
White paper
Glue
Scissors
Markers

Instructions:

1. Remove the hinges from the clothespins.
2. Cut a 2 1/2 in. square of paper.
3. Glue the flat pieces of the clothespins together, leaving a hole at one end.
4. Insert the toothpick into the paper forming a "sail".
5. Put glue into the hole and inset the toothpick, and let dry.

A Slice of Watermelon

Materials:

Paper Plate
Green and Red Paint
Watermelon Seeds
Glue

Instructions:

Paint about 1 inch of the outside-center of the paper plate green. Paint the rest of paper plate red. Glue the watermelon seeds all over the red circle to create a "slice" of watermelon!

Another Watermelon Idea

Materials:

Green construction paper
Red construction paper
Black construction paper
Glue

Instructions:

If you don't have a paper plate, you can make a watermelon picture out of construction paper:
Cut a large circle out of green construction paper and a slightly smaller circle out of red construction paper. Glue the red circle in the middle of the green circle. Glue the watermelon seeds cut out of black construction all over the red circle to create a "slice" of watermelon!

Crab**Materials:**

Paper plate
9 Pipe cleaners
1 inch pieces of drinking straw
Hole punch
Markers or paint

Instructions:

1. Punch 8 holes around the edge of the plate.
2. Thread pipe cleaners through these holes and twist to secure.
3. Put 3 pieces of straw on each of the pipe cleaners (represents real leg segments).
4. Bend legs to shape/make look like he's walking.
5. Punch 2 more holes, close together in the "front" and put 1 pipe cleaner through with ends sticking up. Twist to secure and add beads to the end to decorate (if desired) color or paint.

Wave Maker**Materials:**

Clear Plastic Soda or Water Bottle (2.0 liter size is preferable)
Food Coloring (blue and green or colors of your choice)
Vegetable Oil, colorless
Tap Water
Glitter or Metallic Confetti or small Trinkets (optional)

Instructions:

Fill bottle half way full with water and add about 4 drops of food coloring. Confetti or glitter can be added next if desired, a few pinches at a time. Using a small funnel, fill the bottle the rest of the way to the cap with vegetable oil. Add a dab of glue around the threads on the bottle top, screw the cap on tightly to seal. Colored plastic tape can be wrapped around the cap for extra sealing protection and decoration. Tilt and rock slowly from side to side to create action in your wave maker!

Sand Dough**Materials:**

4 c sand
2 c cornstarch
1 tbs + 1 tsp cream of tartar
3 c hot water

Instructions:

1. Mix sand, cornstarch, and cream of tartar in a saucepan.
2. Stir in hot water and cook over medium heat until water is absorbed and mixture is too stiff to stir.
3. Cool until it can be handled.
4. You can use flat molds that are coated with Vaseline or just use your hands. Store in air-tight container when not using.

Bird Nest

Materials:

Strawberry Baskets
Scrap Material and/or Yarn
Shredded Paper

Instructions:

Use the scrap fabric and/or yarn and weave it through the holes in the strawberry basket. Be as creative as you want and experiment. When the weaving is done, fill the basket with shredded paper or you can even use Easter type grass (even though this is a Summer project).

Gravel Mosaics

Materials:

Large Cardboard (could be from cereal box, gift box) about 12" x 13"
Interesting small pieces of gravel (You will need quite a bit)
String or Yarn
Pencil
Simple Coloring Book or personal drawing
White glue in squeeze bottle
Scissors
Crayons (optional)

Instructions:

1. Wash and rinse the gravel. Spread out on towels to dry.
2. On your cardboard, use the pencil to make an outline of a simple drawing.
3. With the glue, trace over the outline.
4. Press string or yard onto the glue lines, cutting where necessary to form corners and angles.
5. Glue gravel onto the picture, filling the spaces. You can use all one color, or use different colors for different areas.
6. If you wish to have a background, use crayons to draw and color one in.