

Learning through *Crafts*

The complete multi media guide to
educational arts and crafts for kids



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Introduction

Welcome to **“*Learning through Crafts: The Complete Multi Media Guide to Educational Arts and Crafts for Kids*”**.

The concept that arts and crafts is, or should be beneficial for children is not a new one. Traditional educators have long touted the direction following and fine motor development skills that arts and crafts gives to children.

If you read my report **“*Can Crafts for Kids Make my Kid Smarter?*” *How to take win-lose, traditional, copycat arts and crafts and make it win-win*”** then you already know that direction following and fine motor coordination is not the only skill that children should be learning from arts and crafts.

You also know that traditional, copycat arts is not the best at teaching children direction following. You’ve read that crafts like this does great damage to children’s self esteem and other skills.

Many of us already know why we as parents and educators like to give children arts and crafts.

- It allows us to spend quality time together working on projects with them.
- It gives the children an outlet for their creativity.
- It keeps them busy.
- It gives teachers a way to have children remember things they learned.
- It’s a way of celebrating holidays.

Educational arts and crafts takes arts and crafts to a higher level. It is a method of doing arts and crafts with children that raises their confidence and self-esteem, gives them thinking and problem solving skills and skyrockets their creativity.

I would like to recap a few points covered in my original win-win report.

- Adults need to know what to expect from children developmentally at various ages and stages.
- Therefore, we cannot judge children by adult standards. Competent educators know and understand that children develop differently than adults and have expectations that match the children's development.
- Having children copy an adult's idea or model is not beneficial but detrimental for many reasons.

Good arts and crafts project should address the following points-

1. **The projects should help the children develop a good self-esteem.**
2. **Children need to think and solve problems while creating.**
3. **Choices should be available which leads to initiative taking.**
4. **Freedom to decide HOW to decorate helps develop a sense of autonomy and independence.**
5. **Creativity skyrockets when children decide what to create.**

In Educational Arts and Crafts the children incorporate all of the above skills while traditional, copycat, arts and undermines the same.

Educational arts and crafts **does not** mean that you are learning factual information while doing art at the same time.

While looking through various websites for information for this course I came across the term "educational coloring pages". Since coloring pages are not only non-educational but are detrimental to education, I was curious to see what they meant by educational. That is where I discovered that there are many who believe that giving the children coloring pages about particular subjects is educational.

The results of all of this misinformation can be far reaching. Children end up feeling poorly about themselves and even more about their artistic abilities. They are usually the children who grow into the adults who feel "**they cannot draw a straight line**".

They feel that they are not trusted to create on their own. So they lose their initiative and self confidence also because how can one have initiative if one always has to wait for exact directions

The win-win benefits of Educational Arts and Crafts.

- Children feel great about themselves as they get to create their **own** projects.
- The parents and children get a finished project.
- Children get to increase their creativity.
- Thinking, problem solving skills and initiative are used.
- Self-esteem and initiative are encouraged which spills over into other areas.

Before beginning educational arts and crafts it is very important that the adults involved in giving these projects to the children learn how to react to children's artwork so that it enhances their experiences.

I have included a short chapter with some pointers on how to talk to young children about their art.

This course is divided into three sections.

There is a 50 minute audio explaining in greater detail the whys of Educational Arts and Crafts. Everyone learns differently and while you may assimilate information by reading, others learn better by listening.

The second section is this pdf. The bulk of this pdf is the activities themselves and is divided among the various holidays.

There is also an index at the end of the pdf with lists of the activities themselves and the corresponding holidays to find them. This way if you are looking for a craft idea you can peruse the list and find activities that you can do anytime, not just on the holiday is listed under.

The third section of this course is the group of videos. Without going into detail on every activity, each category is demonstrated to give you a clearer idea of how to proceed. Visuals always make the written word clearer.



The Adults Role

The adults' role in children's arts and crafts is varied. It starts with preparing the materials in the most attractive and safest way possible. Encouraging the children to cleanup after themselves is also very important. If there is a place to put their artwork when they are done, they will be more responsible and do it readily if cleaning supplies are accessible.

The next function would be for you the adult, to be a facilitator of growth. Of course, we know that telling a child that his artwork is ugly or no good would be very detrimental to the child.

Even fixing up the child's work to your standards is very destructive as this makes them feel that their work is not good enough.

Holding up another siblings work to show is also inappropriate because it fosters unhealthy competition and inferior feelings in the other children.

Below are some other ways of interacting with children and their art that is unproductive followed by productive interaction with children and their artwork. We present the negative first as it is what most of us are used to.

Of course no one can be tuned-in 100% of the time, and nothing will happen if you react improperly once in a while (so long as it's once in a while . . .).

Types of comments to children and why to avoid them

COMPLIMENTING: “That’s beautiful...” “That’s very good...” etc. Of course, we all do this and think we are doing what is best. However telling a child their work is beautiful all of the time is overused and pat. They are compliments that lack sincerity and really don’t address the child’s efforts. A child may well begin to wonder how it is that his representational man and his sister’s scribbles elicit the same reaction, and will begin doubting your sincerity.

VALUING: “I like that”. Children’s art should not be done to please adults. This shows a value for the product over the process.

QUESTIONING: “What is that?” Many young children who are just making scribbles and free art cannot verbalize what they have made or are not even ready to make representational drawings. Unless they are making a predetermined project it is best to just ask them to tell you about it.

CORRECTING: If the point of educational arts and crafts is to have the child do things according to their level it would not be appropriate to guide them to do things a “right” way.

So what should you say and do?

1. *The adult is there to help the child make choices.*

“Which color would you like to use? Would you like a large circle or a small circle? Are you going to use string or yarn?”

2. *The adult is there to help the children solve problems.*

“You want to put this ribbon on your flag but it is too long, how can we figure out the right size?” What mixtures have you tried so far?”

If glue is not sticking to the paper or they do not get the concept of putting the glue all over the paper the make it stick that is definitely something that can be shown.

If they are having trouble, cutting or figuring out how to fit something in a space you are there to help them think it through.

3. *The adult is there if the children need help or just want to talk about their work.*
4. *The adult is there to comment on their work in order to facilitate growth*

Following are examples of comments that make the child feel that you really care about what he/she does and allows him/her to look at his/her own artwork more critically: These are comments that can be made about any project he/she does and not just a painting or a drawing.

“I see you used 2 colors”

“I noticed you used a lot of blue”

“You made many thick lines alongside some wavy lines.”

“I’ve noticed that you repeated this pattern a few times.”

“You used a lot of white space.”

“You covered the whole paper this time with paint.”

All you really have to do is really look at the artwork and comment on what you see. Many times you can just ask the child “would you like to tell me about it?” and, sometimes, if they want you can write down what they tell you to.

Educational Arts and Crafts Projects

I tried to include as many holidays and special days from around the world as I learned about. If there are some that I missed, please let me know that I can add for future editions.

Once you finish with this course though, you will probably be able to figure out your own crafts for events that are not listed. Or you can use the index at the end to choose one to fit your event.

In looking for art projects to add to this course that fit under the umbrella of *Educational Art*, I sifted through many books and websites. I was even able to adapt arts and crafts from traditional sources for educational arts and crafts.

Some activities are not adaptable. If you are set on doing a specific craft for a particular holiday and cannot figure out how to do it in an educationally appropriate way, give it up and realize you are mired in traditional thinking.

The activities in Educational Arts and Crafts are divided into five categories.

Even though there is a list of materials needed for each project, you can add or subtract from this list according to your own creativity.(or materials you have on hand).

CATEGORIES

1.	Cafeteria style
2.	Process art products
3.	Process art products with prepared shapes (templates)
4.	Decorations
5.	Transformed art from craft techniques

1- CAFETERIA STYLE:

Cafeteria style gets its name from its namesake, the cafeteria. Projects under the category cafeteria offer choices to help create the project in mind.

In cafeteria style activities the adult decides the end product but not the way it should look.

Example: A puppet: The adult has the children create a basic puppet and then a whole array of materials to decorate with, leaving lots of room for creative thought and planning and decision-making. There is no preconceived idea of how the puppets should look and each will look different.

Set up: It is often best to have the materials set up on one table or shelf and another table for the children to work at. If there is not enough room or the children are too young to work that way, then just have all the materials at one table.

Materials: You may want to save the Styrofoam flat containers that chicken, meat and some fruits and vegetable come in to use for displaying the materials.

Of course, if those are not accessible you can use plain paper plates. (or shoebox covers etc.)

It is important to have the materials separated from one another and not thrown together all in a jumble so the children can see what is available and have it nice and organized.

The children should be told what project they are going to make, given the base items and then given the choice of materials to decorate project with. (Once they get the hang of this method they will need very little prompting)

Some children like to use a tray to collect what they will need. Others will keep going back to the main table (or if the materials are right there they can use as needed.)

It is a good idea to start collecting various materials that you can use for these projects and storing them to have on hand.

In the activity section next to each cafeteria style activity I will list some specific materials that I feel are suggestive of that activity. However, it is by no means exhaustive and you should definitely come back to the materials section to look for other ideas that you can present to the children. (Remember it is a creative outlet for you to think of items that can help them be creative)

Also be aware that too much is no good especially for very young children. Do not overwhelm them with too many materials at first.

The older they are, the more you can present and in less finished form.

Younger children may need various papers cut into a few different shapes to choose from...older more experienced children may be able to look at a piece of metallic paper or

piece of velvet, decide what they need out of it and cut it out themselves.

Many traditional arts and crafts projects can be adapted to an educational art approach.

Example: Bumblebees

Instead of designing the picture yourself and then having the children copy what you have created, you can collect many of the materials and shapes that you would have wanted to use, add some more materials and allow the children to create their bumblebees. (In the manner that their age and developmental level will dictate).

You will be amazed at what some children can come up with as long as there is no expectation for the project to come out looking a particular way.

There is a particular activity that can be used for many holidays and units and that is the mural.

Murals are a cafeteria style activity and can be done as a whole group on a large piece of butcher or brown craft paper or they can be done individually by children on larger sheets of paper.

There are two different ways of making murals.



Murals

The first way of making murals is by painting the background two different colors, one for the sky and one for the ground.

After that is dry, the children would paint in the various pictures and objects they want to add to the mural.

The second way of doing murals is multi media.

The theme of the mural is decided. It can be a seasonal mural, a holiday scene or something from an educational unit.

It usually makes sense to have the children paint the background of their papers or the large paper the proper colors for that scene. Blue and brown for a beach and green and blue for a spring scene etc.

You would normally draw a line showing the children where the sky is painted and where the ground is painted.

Once the background is painted the children can draw with markers and crayons different scenes on their own pieces of paper for the mural and then cut them out. The pictures are then added to the background of the mural along with extra materials that fit the scene. When children can't think of what items to draw, you may want to discuss with them what happens in that particular scene. Example: what do you do in the spring...ride bikes, fly kites, go on trips etc.

Below is a list of materials you can refer to when deciding the different materials you want to present the children with for their cafeteria-style projects.

Of course, you can add your own ideas these materials.



MATERIALS:

	Doilies		Tissue paper
	Felt and felt pieces		Material swatches
	Yarn		String
	Ribbons of all types		Trimnings
	Rick rack		Sequins
	Googly eyes		Aluminum foil
	Buttons		Crafts sticks
	Small tiles		Wood shapes
	Cotton balls		Q-tips
	Bubble wrap		Beads
	Pom poms		Feathers
	Coffee filters		Cupcake holders
	Corrugated cardboard pieces		Egg boxes
	Paper towel rolls		Wallpaper samples
	Pipe cleaners		Wax Paper
	Crafts sticks		Lace

2-PROCESS ONLY ART PRODUCTS

Process only art is when the children do art that is only for the process of the activity itself not the product. Much painting and drawing has no end goal in mind other than enjoyment and aesthetic awareness. There are many educators that believe that any projects with an end goal should not be done with children and that children should only do process only art.

The problem is many parents and educators and children themselves need projects sometimes and there is a way to combine process only art with projects.

These activities allow the children to do activities that are process art like all of the different wonderful painting activities out there, yet once the children are done these art activity projects can be made into cards, placemats, wall hangings etc. Children get to use their creativity and sensory skills and then have a real project.

When you see an activity that says ***process only art product*** go to the list of Process Only Art activities and choose from that list.

3-PROCESS ONLY ART PRODUCTS WITH TEMPLATES

This is almost exactly as the category above with a little twist.

Instead of doing the activity first and then making it into something, this way you give the child a paper in the shape of whatever you want the project to be and they then do the process only art activity on this paper.

This is often done when the adult wants to give a holiday activity and does not want to make a traditional arts and crafts project. She therefore uses a shape from the holiday for the children to do process only art on.

The shape must be large enough to give the children room to work. Especially if it is something complicated like a menorah but even simple shapes like circles and triangles can be used.

4-DECORATIONS:

There are a few holidays and themes that call for decorations. These decorations can include some of the process art and various ornaments to string and hang. There are holidays like Christmas that need decorations for trees and houses and holidays like Sukkot that need wall hangings and stringing decorations.

Activities like mobiles which are purely for decorative purposes are included in this category.

5-TRANSFORMED ART

(from craft techniques)

A word about crafts in general and crafts techniques.

I need to make something very clear. Crafts for adults has nothing to do with crafts for children. Crafts for adults includes some of the most wonderful techniques and activities like basket weaving, woodworking, macramé, stained glass, etc.

The problem is when adults want children to create crafts like adults that children are not developmentally ready for. That is how copycat crafts was born. Adults wanted children to make the same kinds of beautiful things the adults were making. They did not understand that children are not adults and are not ready for adult activities.

There is a way though for children to use some of these craft **techniques** without resorting to the adult projects. This way is by using some of these techniques to create transformed art.

These are activities where you take any old box, juice can, glass plate, things made out of wood etc and then use one of these crafts techniques to transform the box or can into piece of artwork that you can actually use.

This way the children are concentrating on the technique itself without worrying if their project will come out exactly the way the adults does (Some crafts people call these activities altered art.)

Though I have about 8 crafts listed I mostly use three of them in my activities section: Decoupage, paper mache and mosaics.

In doing transformed art you need to be aware that if one technique is not working you can always shift over to another one.

1-Embossing

This is a technique which creates a raised, or 3-dimensional, image on a piece of paper or cardboard. There is: dry embossing and heat embossing.

Dry embossing, also called relief embossing, is done using a stylus, stencil, and a few other supplies. Heat embossing, also called Stamp and Heat Embossing, is done using special powder, ink, and a heat source.

Both of these embossing techniques are easy and the results are stunning! You can find ways of using embossing techniques once you learn more about it.

You can use embossing for wrapping paper, cards and pieces of artwork.

2-Printing

Printing in this case is not writing but printmaking. With simple printmaking, you cover one item (usually an item with texture) with thick paint or ink and press it onto another item (such as a piece of paper, t-shirt, etc.) to make a design.

You can use a variety of supplies to print patterns and pictures onto different items. Of course, you can go out and buy yourself an assortment of print supplies; however, I would suggest you start out by using your imagination and objects laying around your house to try your hand at printmaking!

You can make great printing plates or stencils using cardboard. Below are some suggestions.

- * Cut your cardboard into simple shapes, cover the shape with paint or ink, and print away!
- * Make a more complex printing plate by cutting shapes or pictures out of one piece of cardboard. Glue the shapes into a pattern or design on another piece of cardboard. This will give you a printing plate with a raised design. Cover the design with paint or ink and press!
- * Cut a base out of cardboard and glue other items to it to make your own creative printing plate. Try string, noodles, etc.

3-Jewelry making

There are many jewelry-making techniques you can learn, and they are pretty easy and fun to do. Plus, there are many beautiful jewelry creations you can make without using any special techniques. Bead Jewelry is one of the easiest.

There are a variety of shapes and colors you have to choose from. There are also many

different kinds of beads to choose from. There are ones made out of semi-precious stones aside from lots of fake ones.

You can also make jewelry out of clay that is made into beads and strung.

4-Tie-dyeing

You can create colorful tie-dyed t-shirts or other articles of clothing. You can tie dye a piece of material and then make something out of it.

It is easy if you follow these simple tie-dye directions.

You gather, fold, and tie your t-shirt (or other item) with rubber bands or string and soak it in fabric dye. Of course, there are a few more steps but these will vary depending on what kind of dye you use.

Here are some basic directions for tie-dyeing along with some helpful hints and tips.

1. Before you dye your item, you should wash it to remove any sizing from the manufacturer or anything else that may have gotten on it.
2. Lay your shirt or other item out flat first and then fold and tie as desired. Depending on how you fold and tie will determine the patterns made. You can also use rubber bands to make ties.
4. Cover your work area so the dye does not stain it. You can lay down a few large garbage bags and then put newspaper on top of that.
5. Prepare your dye as directed by the manufacturer. You should carefully follow all instructions. While preparing the dye and dyeing your item, you should wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from staining and the hot water.
6. Pre-treat your item if necessary. With some dyes you will have to soak it in soda ash and with others, like RIT, you simply need to dip it in hot water.
7. Start dyeing! It is usually best to start with the lightest color if you are using more than one color. Rinse or wait between colors as directed by the manufacturer. Make sure to follow all directions carefully when it comes to dyeing and rinsing your items. Some dyes require you to rinse immediately and others require you to let the item sit for at least 24 hours.
8. When your dyeing is complete, make sure to clean all containers immediately with hot water and soap or cleanser.
9. Be careful washing your tie-dyed items! Most should always be washed in cold water. The first few times they are washed, they might bleed, so wash them with like colors or alone.

Again, the exact directions you follow will vary depending on what brand of dye you use. Read all instructions and precautions carefully.

There is one thing you should remember while you tie-dye no matter what brand of dye you use: There is not a wrong or right way to do this! Every tie-dyed item will turn out different no matter what technique and colors you use.

Here is a list of other supplies you may need:



Rubber Gloves - To protect your hands from the dye.



Large Pot or Bucket - Used to mix the dye - it should be able to hold 3 - 5 gallons and it should be old so you don't care if it gets stained.



Squirt or Spray Bottles - Can be used to apply some brands of dye.



Long-Handles Utensil - An old spoon, B-B-Q tongs, etc. to stir the dye.



Soda Ash - This is sodium carbonate which is used with some dyes to pre-treat the item you are tie dyeing to help create more vibrant colors.



Salt - Used with RIT dye to help make darker colors more vibrant.



Plastic Bag - Some dyes require the dyed item to sit in plastic bag for approx. 24 hours.



Newspaper and/or Plastic Garbage Bag - Used to protect your work area.



Rags, Paper Towels, Cleanser - For quick clean up

Remember, these items are listed just to give you an idea of what you may need. Read the package your dye came in to see which supplies you will definitely need.

5-Sewing

Sewing is an activity that kids love and don't usually care if they make something out of it or not.

Once their sewing is done, you make it into a wallet as seen below or into a wall hanging. If you decide beforehand that you want the children to make something smaller like bookmarks then just cut the piece of material into that shape and the children can sew that small piece.

The type of sewing I am talking about here uses flat pieces of hard plastic material with large holes, large, blunt, darning needles different colored yarn.

The needles they sell in craft stores are often plastic and are pretty junky. Years ago we used to buy the thick blunt silver needles but today most of the embroidery needles do have a bit of a sharp point to them. When shopping for needles check if they have the large, blunt aluminum ones before getting the plastic ones.

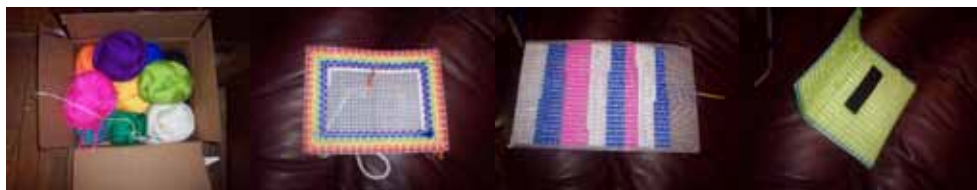
For this activity, you cut the plastic pieces that they sell in embroidery sections of art stores into any shape or size depending on the age of the child and what the purpose of the activity is.

If they want to make a wallet from it then you would need to make it large enough to fold over when done but if child just wants to be able to finish this quickly then you make it smaller.

You must thread the yarn through the needle for the children and show them how to sew.

They can choose to sew either all around as in the second picture below or in lines as in the third picture. They can also decide when they want to change color yarns.

Make sure you do not do this with a large number of children if they cannot thread and knot the yarn on their own.



6-Decoupage

Decoupage is the art of decorating objects with cutout pictures and printed designs, then adding a glasslike finish to cover, sealing, and protecting the pictures.

The pictures or paper are glued onto the object you want to transform and then covered by a few layers of glue or a special substance specific for decoupage that gives it a very shiny, glassy, decorative finish.

When doing decoupage you will use all sort of picture from many sources:



Photographs



Tissue paper



Pictures from magazines



Cellophane



Wrapping paper



Wallpaper scraps



Pretty napkins



Any pretty and attractive pieces of paper that you may like.

You can use slightly watered down regular white glue to gloss over your items or you can purchase something more commercial like Modpodge.

Getting Started

All kinds of surfaces can be decoupage: Wood, tin, paper mache, ceramics, bamboo, candles, and more!

1. Prepare the surface

Be sure the surface is clean, smooth, and dry. Sand wood, terra cotta, or tin surfaces. If desired, base coat in a coordinating color.

2. Prepare Prints

Cut out prints with small sharp scissors. You can also use embroidery scissors, cuticle scissors, or decoupage scissors with curved blades.

3. **Glue prints to surface**

Apply glue to the back of the print using brush, or foam brush or fingers. Position print on surface and press with fingers to work out any air bubbles. Let print set up a few minutes, then clean up edges with a damp paper towel. Let dry.

4. **Apply Finish**

Apply decoupage finish to the entire project using a flat or sponge brush. Allow to dry, sand, and apply a second coat of finish. Two are sufficient, but if you want a more traditional look apply 4 - 6 more coats, sand, and then polish with steel wool.

Older children will plan more carefully but each child has to look at the item and then at papers she or he has chosen to use and then glue each individual piece of paper onto the chosen container. They should glue the pieces onto the backs of the papers themselves and then and press onto the container or boxes. It does not matter if the pictures overlap.

The sandpaper can be used to smooth down any rough edges of paper sticking up. Once done have the children use either slightly watered down glue or decoupage medium let them paint over whole item with glue.

Here's where patience comes in.

The items need a few coats of glue and need to dry in between so make sure you do not choose this activity when you want something finished immediately. Each coat must be perfectly dry before the next coat gets put on.

You will know it is done until you can run your hand over the item and not feel the surface of the papers or when you like the way it looks

7-Mosaics

Mosaics have been a creative way to enhance decor as long as people have been collecting rocks and breaking pottery. Some of the earliest mosaics can be traced back four thousand years B.C. when people pushed clay into their walls for decoration and protection.

In our modern times architects and designers use computers to create mosaic patterns and envision their effect in homes and buildings. However, it is still rare to find two identical mosaics.

For our purposes we are not going to be using the traditional craft of mosaics that need real grout and hard pieces. We will be substituting for the most part seeds, tissue paper pieces or other items that you can think if you do not have small tiles or colored pieces of stones.

When I say mosaics I am referring to the idea of using very small items and arranging them very close together to form a design.

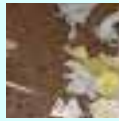
To decorate various item you can use-



Seeds



Small pieces of tissue paper crumpled up



Tiny pieces of different types of cut up papers



Small beads



Crushed eggshells with food coloring added

This is just another way to transform regular everyday items into beautiful usable items that can often be given for gifts.

8-Paper Mache

With paper mache you can create many items. OR you can use it to cover over old items to transform them into objects.

It can take a while to make as you need to allow layers to dry before going on to the next one. Often a project can take up to a week. (It's great if you want an ongoing project but not if you need something quick)

To make basic paper mache you need three basic things. Paper, some form of mold and some kind of paste.

For paper you can use:

- Old newspapers cut into strips
- Paper towels cut into strips
- Brown paper towels cut into strips

You can use a few different pastes.

1. Regular glue mixed with glue. One part water to two parts glue.
2. Wallpaper paste. Just follow directions and use a drop less water than instructed. If too thick add bit more water
3. Liquid starch
4. Mix one part flour with about 2 parts of water until you get a consistency like thick glue. Add more water or flour as necessary. Mix well to get out all the lumps. Add a few tablespoons of salt to help prevent mold!

Or you can even use strips of adhesives from the medical supply store, just wet them and apply.

Use this recipe to make a pulp mixture to make fine details on paper mache projects.

Materials Needed:



Newspaper



Salt



Water



Glue

Instructions:

A pulp mixture is great for making smooth, fine details in your paper mache creations, or for creating small objects. It would, take a lot of it to complete a larger project.

Tear the newspaper into tiny pieces and put them in a large bowl. Add just enough warm to hot water to completely cover the newspaper. Let soak overnight.

Once your newspaper has soaked for several hours, get your hands into it! Play with it, mix it, and squeeze it through your fingers until it looks like oatmeal! Try to get as many lumps out as possible. If necessary, add a bit more water and let it soak a little more.

Once you have it as smooth as possible, add a few tablespoons of salt to help retard mold. Mix it again with your hands. Once mixed thoroughly, squeeze out any excess water and add a few tablespoons of glue. Now you are ready to use your paper mache pulp. Form jewelry, ornaments, etc. After drying, objects may be painted with acrylic paints.

Molds

You can create your own mold by crushing a bunch of newspapers or aluminum foil into a shape and then paper macheing over it.

You can use any old item you'd like and paper mache over it.

You can create your own forms for your paper mache projects easily. Here are some suggestions for items to use to create forms for your paper mache projects. Some can be used as bases for the projects, while others can be used to add specific details.



Balloons - All sizes and shapes are great for bases to rounded designs.



Cardboard - Corrugated cardboard is great for bases to projects; and lightweight cardboard, like from cereal boxes, works well for details.



Chicken Wire - Use this as a base for large projects. How about making a paper mache animals or people



Masking Tape - Great for holding all the other things together while you apply the paper mache.



Newspaper - Besides being a key ingredient in holding your paper mache creation together, you can use it for creating details. Try rolling it to make an arm or leg, or crumple it up to make smaller parts!



Shoe Boxes - Cover with paper mache to make a fancy box, or use as a base for a bigger project.



Toilet Tissue and Paper Towel Rolls - Great for adding details like arms and legs.

Other ideas for molds:

- Aluminum Pie Pans
- Blown Eggs
- Bottles or Jars
- Cardboard Ice Cream Containers
- Detergent Boxes
- Egg Cartons
- Frozen Juice Cans
- Juice Boxes
- Oatmeal Containers
- Paper Cup
- Plastic Margarine Bowls
- Soda Pop Bottles
- Styrofoam Meat Trays
- Tin Foil

If you are using the technique for blowing up a balloon and then paper macheing over it you must wait until it is thoroughly dry before busting it. Sometime directions call for inserting things like beans or other sound making items into the balloon before paper macheing.

Directions:

- Tear newspaper into strips.
- Dip one piece of newspaper at a time into prepared paper mache paste.
- Hold the strip over the paste bowl and run it through your fingers to squeeze off excess paste.
- Dip one piece in paste at a time squeeze off excess and smooth down over mold with fingers completely cover your creation with a layer of newspaper strips. They should all be over-lapping.
- After one layer is applied, let it dry about 24 hours.
- Add another layer of newspaper strips and let dry another 24 hours
- Repeat this process until you get the desired effect, but you should have at least three layers.
- Paint, decoupage or decorate.

Tips

Tear the newspaper into strips -- do not cut it!

Be generous when dipping the newspaper strips into the paste -- you want each piece thoroughly saturated!

Let each layer dry completely before adding another.

Process only art activities

The activities in this section can be used for the projects labeled process only art activities.

As I already said, there are educators that believe that the art done with children should be process only art and project focused.

These activities are not product focused but concentrate on the process of the activity itself. However these pieces of artwork can then used to be made into projects like cards, wall hangings, placemats, book covers, wrapping paper etc.

There are many more activities than what I have listed here. Some of my resources were the website www.kinderart.com a website where you can find lots of wonderful art activities. Another one was www.kid-at-art.com. I believe that Mary Ann F. Kohl is the queen of process only art. So check out all of her books.

I try to use either white or manila colored heavier tag board (cardstock) for many of the projects because they are thicker and hold up much better. There are two sizes the standard 8x11 and the larger ones are about 11x18.

Unless you are only using simple construction paper or other light papers, glue works better than glue sticks. The children can use small glue brushes, sometimes paintbrushes if they are cleaned very well afterwards, crafts sticks or their fingers to put the glue on.

If they use their fingers be aware that they spend a lot of their time peeling off dried glue from their fingers.

If you'd like there is always the option of glue straight from small glue squeeze bottles.

Blotto Art



MATERIALS:



Paper (the thicker the better) about 11x18



Small pieces of paper cut into squares and rectangles



Tempera paint



Scissors



Glue



DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut a number of paper squares and rectangles of various sizes. 5" by 5", 7" x 8", 3" by 2" etc.
2. Crease each paper square in the middle so that later you can fold them easily.
3. Sprinkle a few drops of paint onto one side of the crease.
4. Fold the paper on the creased line with the paint inside.
5. Press down with your hand.
6. When the paper is opened, strange and interesting shapes will appear.
7. Work with the blottos and arrange them into a larger picture, allowing whatever comes into your mind to take over.
8. Glue the blottos down onto a larger paper if you wish to create a big blotto work of art!

Crayon Crackle Painting



MATERIALS:



White copy paper



Crayons all colors



Paintbrushes



Water



Black paint a bit thinned



Glue



DIRECTIONS:

1. Have the children make drawings and picture on the white copy paper
2. When done let them crumple the pages and then smooth them out.
3. Have them then paint over their pictures with the watered down black paint. The paint will fill in all the white spaces and give a crackle effect

Scratch Art



MATERIALS:



Manila tag board



Crayons



Black paint



Wooden skewers



DIRECTIONS:

1. Have children color entire paper with bright colors
2. Cover entire picture with black paint. Make sure its not too thick so that it will not crack when it dries
3. Once paint is dried each child can take a wooden sewer and scrape off a design.
4. It might make it easier for the children to see what they are scratching off if they make the design first with a pen and then scratch off over the pen marks.

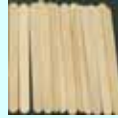
Spreading paint with a Popsicle stick



MATERIALS:



A few bowls with different colored paint



Popsicle sticks (2)



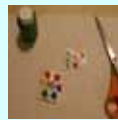
Spoons for bowls of paint



Masking tape



Wax paper



White construction paper
(large is better)



DIRECTIONS:

1. Put construction paper on table
2. Have children choose some paint from bowl and drop a few teaspoons of paint onto paper.
3. Cover paper with wax paper that is larger than construction paper and tape to the table.
4. Let the children mush the different colors on the wax paper creating designs on the construction paper
5. Throw away the wax paper
6. If paint is too runny mix with a bit of flour and some sugar.
7. If you don't have wax paper you can use plastic bags

Soda Straw Weaving

The ancient craft of weaving is found in countries all over the world. People have woven yarn and fibers to make useful items such as clothing and rugs as well as beautiful tapestries which hang in castles, museums, and churches.






Most weaving is done on a machine called a loom. Before the actual weaving process can begin, the craftsman or weaver must first string the loom. These threads are called the warp, and the yarn that is woven over and under them is called the weft.

Weaving does not have to be done on a traditional loom, however. It's possible to weave on anything that can be strung with the warp threads. This includes recyclable items like cardboard, an old picture frame, or sticks you collect in your yard or along a river bank.

We can even weave on soda straws! You may have a few unused straws from fast food restaurants in your car's glove box or a kitchen drawer. Help save landfill space by recycling them to make a simple loom.



MATERIALS:

-  Three of four plastic soda straws
-  Yarn scraps
-  Masking tape
-  Scissors
-  Large needle (optional)



DIRECTIONS:

There are many items you can weave on a soda straw loom. You may want to make a bracelet or a bookmark. If you are making a bracelet, cut all the straws so they are about 4 or 5 inches long. The straws for a bookmark should be about 6 or 7 inches long.

Now you are ready to warp or thread the loom. Measure the length of a straw and add 5 or 6 inches to this number. Cut one piece of yarn this length for each straw in your loom. Thread the straw by dropping the yarn through it. This may be easier to do if you shake a threaded needle through each straw.

With their ends even, tie an overhand knot in the strands of yarn. Push the straws up to the knot, and tape them together at the top by running the tape around the straws, front to back. Now you are ready to weave! Tie one end of the yarn onto an outside straw just below the tape. Start weaving by going over that straw and under the next.

Continue the over-under pattern until you want to change colors. Knot the yarn onto an outside straw, and cut it off from the ball or skein. Begin a new color as before, and continue weaving. Tuck loose ends inside the weaving. If you use yarn made of several colors (variegated), you will need to tie only the knots at the beginning and end, because colors will change automatically.

When you come to the end of the soda straws, tie off the yarn and cut it. Remove the masking tape. Hold the weaving lightly in one hand as you pull out the straws, one at a time. Push the weaving up to the knot, and finish it by tying another overhand knot in the other end just below the weaving. If necessary, trim the ends so they are even.

It's possible to weave something longer, like a headband or belt, with a soda straw loom. Just make sure the warp threads, the ones that go through the straws, are long enough to tie around your head or waist. Don't cut the straws, because you will need all the length and then some.

When you are weaving a longer item and you come to the end of the straws, remove the masking tape. Then move some of the weaving off the straws and up onto the warp threads. Do this by pulling the straws partially out of the weaving, being careful to leave the last inch or so attached to the straws. Repeat this process as often as necessary, and continue weaving till you come to the end.

Tips and tricks:

Weaving on straws with a large diameter, like milk shake straws, will be easier to thread. You can recycle used straws for this project, but be sure to rinse well before using. This loom is small, so you can take it with you on car trips and to doctor appointments. Probably the best thing about the soda straw loom is that it can be used over and over and over again

Tissue paper dye painting



MATERIALS:



White construction paper or white manila tag board



Paint or glue brushes



Pieces of colorful tissue paper cut up into different squares



Water in cup



DIRECTIONS:

1. Have the children arrange the tissue paper on the larger white paper as if they were going to paste it on
2. Then have them paint over the tissue paper with the water and the paintbrush
3. When done they can remove the tissue paper. The dye from the tissue paper will remain on the white paper.

Crumpled Tissue Paper Art



MATERIALS:



Piece of construction paper



Paint or glue brushes



Small pieces of cut up square tissue paper



Water in cup



DIRECTIONS:

1. Have children crumple up pieces of tissue paper and glue down crumpled pieces
2. They can use these pieces for mosaics
3. Let them either first make a design or they can do it free hand

Sponge painting



DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut out regular sponges into different shapes and let children stamp with those on paper
2. If you use something called miracle sponges they are very thin and easy to cut out and the children can make their own designs, cut them out and use them.

Straw painting



DIRECTIONS:

Put little bits of paint on paper and allow children to blow through straws to create designs.

String painting



MATERIALS:



White or colored construction paper



String cut in 2 feet pieces



Paint in different colors



Paper plates for paint (or trays)

A covered surface



DIRECTIONS:






1. Lay out a piece of paper and have the child fold it in half, then open it back up laying it flat on a covered surface.
2. Next have the child take a piece of string and submerge $\frac{3}{4}$ of it in the paint leaving an end free of paint to hold on to.
3. Next lay the paint covered string on one side of the folded paper in any type pattern, leaving the clean end of the string out so you can hold on to it.
4. Then fold the paper back together and put your hand on the paper so you can feel the string through the paper and begin pulling the string out moving it around the edges of the paper.
5. It's really fun to have more than one string with different colors pull the strings out and open up the paper and what a beautiful creation!

Dip all but two inches of a fourteen-inch length of string into acrylic, poster paint, ink, or watercolor. Lay it across a piece of paper, leaving the “clean” part hang over the edge. Place another paper on top of the first one, and holding your hand on top of the paper and string, pull the string back and forth and then out. Repeat with other colors, if you wish. Be sure to use a clean string for each new color!

Alternate way of making cards



MATERIALS:

	Magazines		Glue stick
	Construction paper		Markers or colored pencils
	Scissors		

How to:

Look through magazines to find colorful, interesting type styles. Begin by cutting out whole words. Then cut out each letter separately, being careful to leave some of the background color attached. Keep the letters organized by filing like letters together. There's no need to separate capitals from lower case letters, however. Mixing letters is part of the charm of making a ransom-style card.

After you've collected a good supply of letters, it's time to make your valentine. Fold the construction paper in half. You may wish to illustrate or draw a picture on part of your valentine, or the lettering can appear on both the outside and inside of the card. Write your message or verse on a scrap of paper, and begin looking for the letters you'll need. When you've assembled the letters, arrange them on your card, and glue them in place.

Tips and Tricks:

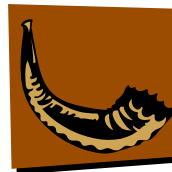
In addition to magazine pages, consider using brochures, junk mail, flyers, or any printed material with large letters like those found in magazine ads and articles.

It will be easier and more fun to make your valentines if you keep the letters organized. Reuse a couple of egg cartons to hold and keep your letters in alphabetical order.

Decorate your card with hearts, cupids, arrows, and other valentine symbols cut from scraps of construction paper. Instead of using new construction paper for the card portion, use scraps of paper to make a smaller card or obtain preconsumer waste paper from your local printing company.

Don't wait till next New Years, Mothers Day or Valentine's Day to use cut paper letters again to make cards. Create them for any occasion, including birthdays and other holidays.

The Holidays And Their Activities





Rosh Hashanah

IDEA: NEW YEAR CARDS

Category: Process only art product



MATERIALS:

- Large white or manila tag board
- White computer paper or construction paper (for the inside). Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on that is larger than drawing paper

See list of process only activities to choose



DIRECTIONS:

Use a large white or manila tagboard for the activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the New Years cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what New Years wishes he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tagboard.

IDEA: HONEY DISHES

Category: Transformed art (decoupage)



MATERIALS:

- Small containers or any small cups you can buy in any paper goods store.
- Glue for gluing paper and glue thinned down a bit for the decoupageing (or modge podge).
- Glue brushes



DIRECTIONS:

See decoupage page for detailed directions.

Have the children choose the papers they want to use. You can have them use more than one kind of paper. Give them the choice of using one style paper or a combination.

Transform small dishes into honey dishes to use for the holiday.

IDEA: BUMBLEBEES

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large white or manila tag board
- A few different shapes of oval-like yellow pieces of construction paper
- Googly eyes
- Thin strips of black ribbon and black yarn
- Thin pieces of yellow papers in various sizes



DIRECTIONS:

The goal of this is to give the children as many materials as you can that SUGGEST bumblebees. You can have bumblebee books lying around and then tell them that they can make one or more bumblebees on their tagboard with the materials available.

IDEA: SHOFAR OR LARGE APPLE

Category: Process only art with prepared shapes



MATERIALS:

- Large cut out shape from a large piece of construction paper
- Finger-paint paper or newsprint.



DIRECTIONS:

Choose activity to do on top of this shofar or apple from list of process only activities on page.

You can always back this with another piece of paper as a frame.

IDEA: APPLE SEED MOSAICS

Category: Process only art activity (don't need to look at list for this one)



MATERIALS:

- Apple seeds
- Glue
- Construction paper or manila oak tag
- Markers or pencil



DIRECTIONS:

Draw a shape on paper and have the children fill in with apple seeds. Make sure the shapes they draw are not too large, as they will have a hard time filling all it with so many apple seeds.



Sukkot

IDEA: DECORATIVE ART PIECES

Category: Process only art



MATERIALS:

See list of process only activities to choose



DIRECTIONS:

Any beautiful piece of artwork can be use to hung in the Sukkah.

After activity is done, frame artwork on a piece of construction paper larger than the artwork to give it a larger frame around the edges. If you can have it laminated it will be more durable. Try to choose a color for the frame that will complement the artwork.

IDEA: STRINGING ITEMS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Long piece of string or yarn.
- Pieces of cut up straws
- Pieces of peanut Styrofoam if you have left over from any deliveries
- Pieces of aluminum foil cut up
- Buttons
- Anything else that the kids can string



DIRECTIONS:

Make a big knot at the end of the yarn or string. Using either very blunt embroidery needles or a piece of tape at the end of the yarn, let the children create a decorative string that can be hung in the Sukkah.

The aluminum foil gives it a tinkly sound. If you have any old bells or anything else that makes a little noise, you can add them on.

The hardware store has things that can be used.

The pieces of straws help divide the various items that you will use for stringing.

IDEA: GARLANDS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towel rolls
- Straws
- Small plates
- Cup cake holders
- Paint and/or decoupage materials to decorate the cut up rolls



DIRECTIONS:

Cut up paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls and have the children decorate them. When they are dry they can be used for the garlands.

They can be decoupage with tissue paper or other pieces of paper, they can be painted, or even have stickers put all over them.

The preparing of the pieces of cut up rolls can be done as a separate activity, and then when they are all ready and dry, use them to make the garlands. You will also need to decorate some small paper plates that will be used to separate the rolls.

For stringing you can use yarn or string and use a small plate or cupcake holder to separate the pieces from each other. Keep on stringing and adding pieces until you feel your garland is long enough or you run out of stuff.

IDEA: GLUE SQUIGGLIES

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Wax paper
- Glue in glue squeeze bottles
- Paint
- Needle with string
- Paint, OR colored glue



DIRECTIONS:

You can do one of two things to color the glue.

You can put some paint in the glue to make colored glue or you can paint the glue after it has dried.

Using a glue bottle, squeeze glue all over onto wax paper and do not stop until you have a long squiggle.

Make long squiggles with the glue.

Wait until the glue is dry and hard. If you did not color the white glue then paint the glue squiggles on the wax paper.

After it is dry, tie a thread to one end of the squiggles and lift it off the wax paper. They will hang and be very decorative. If you'd like, you can hang them onto dowels or branches.

Make sure the string or yarn is long enough.

IDEA: CHAINS

Category: Decorations



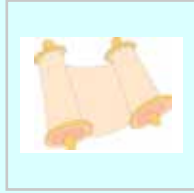
MATERIALS:

- Strips of construction paper
- Strips of shiny paper
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Take short strips of paper and make it into a circle. Put another strip through the circle and glue it to itself. Continue adding strips and gluing until you make the chain as long as needed. You can add a whole bunch of decorative papers or ribbons to the chains



Simchat Torah

IDEA: FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Hard Manila paper (Preferably 8x11) (If you'd like, you can give the kids pre-cut paper with the triangle cut out at the end that makes it look more like a flag or can leave them rectangle shape.)
- Glue
- String
- Cellophane paper pieces
- Feathers
- Ribbon
- Sequins
- Tissue paper

See materials page for more ideas.

Depending on how old the child is will determine how cut up the pieces should be. Older children with more experience do not have to have many cut up pieces as they can cut pieces themselves from the larger pieces available. Younger children would do better with smaller pieces in various shapes of the different materials.



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children decorate the cut out rectangular piece of tag board. You may need to help teach them how to measure if they want to use any ribbons or yarn.

You can then give them a larger Holiday symbol to put on the flag to tie it together if they want.



Harvest Festival

IDEA: PAPER MACHE FRUIT

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Small pieces of newspaper
- Paper mache paste
- Paint



DIRECTIONS:

You can create your own fruits by crushing a bunch of newspapers or aluminum foil into a shape and then paper macheing over it.

OR

Soak pieces of paper (about 1" square) overnight in warm water till soft. Follow directions on wallpaper paste for mixing. You can also use the glue and water mixture.

Add a small amount of paste to the paper mixture and stir. Strain excess water from a handful of the pulp. With your hands, gently squeeze out most of the water and place it in the plastic container.

Now the pulp is ready to work. Form different shaped fruits to be used with the fruit bowl to be made afterwards. After drying, objects may be painted with acrylic paints.

IDEA: PAPER MACHE FRUIT BOWL

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Strips of newspaper
- Paper mache paste
- Large balloons that have a round shape
- Paint



DIRECTIONS:

Blow up balloons.

Rip strips of newspaper and pull each strip through the paste. Cover $\frac{1}{2}$ of the balloon with the newspaper.

When paper mache is dry, bust the balloon with a sharp pin. It will have the shape of a bowl and you can then have the children paint it.



Halloween

IDEA: PAPER MACHE MASKS

Category: Cafeteria Style with Process Art



MATERIALS:

- Stuff for paper mache
- Sequins
- Ribbon
- Glitter pens
- Balloons
- Feathers
- Spangles
- Elastic

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Blow up balloon (round ones) and put the paper mache over the balloon doing a few layers.

When dry, cut the balloon in half with a utility knife

Cut out holes for eyes from the half of the balloon that you are using

Have the children decorate it using decorative materials

Use elastic to attach to the sides of the mask so they can slip it over their heads.

IDEA: PUPPETS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Pieces of scrap materials
- Fake hair
- Some cut out shapes
- Shiny paper
- Pieces of yarn
- Felt
- Googly eyes
- Straws
- Pieces of leather
- Pieces of ribbon etc

(If you want them to make royal people, add crowns, witches- add black triangles and pieces of brooms etc.)

When they are done, tape a dowel to the back of the puppet. If you don't have dowels, roll up a piece of newspaper so that it looks like a dowel and attach that. Let them make a puppet show.

These are some of the shapes you may give them in cardboard to use to attach together.

IDEA: BAGS FOR TREATS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large brown paper bags
- Googly eyes
- Pom poms
- Straws
- Pieces of yarn
- Ribbons
- Yarn
- Feathers
- Pieces of cellophane
- Pieces of ribbon etc

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

You can have the children decorate the bag as a scary character or just decorate using one of the process only art techniques on page 30-40

IDEA: HALLOWEEN MURAL

Category: Group Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large piece of brown craft paper
- Black, white and orange yarn
- Pieces of white gauze
- Straws
- White chalk
- White drawing paper
- Glue
- Black, white and orange ribbons
- Googly eyes
- White and orange feathers
- Pieces of cellophane
- Black and white paint
- Scissors



DIRECTIONS:

Tape a large piece of brown craft paper to the wall or place on the floor.

Divide the paper in half and have the children paint the top half white and the bottom half black.

Then have the children create all kinds of Halloween symbols on their drawings. They can draw ghosts, witches, houses, broomsticks

Make sure to give many suggestions if they need any help.

Have them cut out these pictures.

After the paint is dry, have the children arrange their pictures and the other materials on the mural.

You may want to divide it up into sections and discuss with the children what they are going to do.

Some may want to do houses wrapped in gauze, others, witches flying in the sky.

You can always choose other colors to paint the craft paper or can choose to leave it unpainted. The children can also use white chalk on top of the black paint.



Melbourne Cup Day

IDEA: HATS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Hard Manila paper cut out into a circle with a hole in middle to fit on the head. (If you would like, you can give the kids already cut paper with the triangle cut out at the end that makes it look more like a flag or you can leave them rectangle shape.)
- Glue
- String
- Cellophane paper pieces
- Feathers
- Ribbon
- Sequins
- Tissue paper
- Elastic

See materials page for more ideas.

Depending on how old the child is will determine how cut up the pieces should be. Older children with more experience do not have to have many cut up pieces as they can cut pieces themselves from the larges pieces available. Younger children would do better with smaller pieces in various shapes of the different materials.



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children decorate the cutout circle to create a hat for Melbourne Cup Day. They can even be encouraged to hang strings or ribbons from it.

When done, you can staple elastic to the sides so the hats can fit on the children snugly.

IDEA: DECORATIVE CUPS

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Any type of large hard plastic cup either with a stem
- A hard plastic plate.
- Use materials you would use with mosaics or decoupage, see page 25-28



DIRECTIONS:

Do either a decoupage or a mosaic style decoration over the cups and plates. You can use the colors of the Australian flag in the items you give them to decorate the cups with.



Diwali/Festival of Lights

IDEA: EMBROIDERED DOOR HANGING

Category: Crafts techniques/Sewing



MATERIALS:

- Material for sewing- either hard plastic embroidery sheets or a piece of white cotton
- Yarn or embroidery thread
- Large blunt needles



DIRECTIONS:

As the custom is to make an embroidered door hanging, it can be done in one of two ways. The children can do a sewing project listed under the crafts section in techniques and then add a piece of yarn to hang it over the door.

This will take more than one session so you must make sure to start the project well in advance.

You can also give the children a piece of white cotton material. Have them make designs on it with a pencil and then give them the blunt needles with embroidery thread and have them create their own designs.

IDEA: RANGOLI FLOOR MATS

Category: Crafts Techniques/ Mosaics



MATERIALS:

- Large piece of tagboard
- Small pieces of different shiny materials
- Glue
- If you decide to use tiles then make sure you have a thick piece of cardboard or a thin piece of wood



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children create mosaics for these welcoming mats whether from the small papers or the tiles and they can create their own designs.

They can also use large pieces for the mosaics if the small ones are too time consuming.



Thanksgiving

IDEA: TURKEYS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Feathers of more than one size
- Small pieces of paper cut into circles
- Craft sticks
- Straw
- Sequins
- Pieces of felt, oval and round sizes
- Thin pieces of paper
- Pieces of felt cut like a hand

The point is to give pieces that are suggestive of a turkey and they will, of course, make their pictures according to their level.



DIRECTIONS:

Discuss with the children what a turkey is and what it basically looks like and then just let them create one from their materials.

IDEA: BLESSING BOXES

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Box
- Papers for decoupage or mosaics, see page 25-27



DIRECTIONS:

Either decoupage, paper mache or make a mosaic on any box that you can find, i.e. a shoe box.

Have the children either dictate or write their own blessings and put them in the box.

IDEA: PUMPKIN SEED MOSAICS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Pumpkin seeds
- Tag board
- Markers
- Paints
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children draw broad outlines of pictures on tag board. Tell them they will be filling in the outlines with the seeds. Put the seeds into a shallow dish and paint them a few different colors. When dry, let them create mosaics inside the lines of the drawings.

IDEA: DRUMS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Containers or round boxes like oatmeal containers or coffee cans
- Rubber bands
- Sequins
- Pom poms
- Felt
- Stickers
- Piece of canvas or cut up piece of balloon to cover top
- Ribbons
- Feathers
- Leather pieces
- Beads

See materials page for more ideas.



DIRECTIONS:

Stretch the piece of canvas or cut up piece of balloon across the top of the container and use rubber bands to secure.

Use materials provided to decorate and then give them dowels or sticks to bang on drum when finished.

IDEA: NATIVE AMERICAN NECKLACES

Category: Process only along with Decoration



MATERIALS:

- Paints
- Straw to make holes in clay
- Paint
- Grey clay
- Small brushes



DIRECTIONS:

Clay is actually a great medium to use for Thanksgiving, as that is what the Indians used to make their jewelry and dishes with.

After they play with the clay, the children can make a large number of small balls with the clay. Before drying them, make one hole in each of them

Allow them to dry and when dry, the children can paint them with the small brushes. If you want to hang up Indian symbols, they may want to copy some of those onto their clay pieces. When dry, you can either shellac them or leave as is. Put a piece of masking tape on the end of a long piece of yarn and have the children string the beads to form a necklace and then knot when done.



Chanukah

IDEA: 2 DIMENSIONAL MENORAHS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large manila tag board or large construction paper
- Ribbon
- Wood pieces
- Buttons
- Cellophane pieces
- Tiny oval pieces in yellow or gold paper.
- Lots of long thin strips out of a few types of paper
- Yarn
- Colored tissue paper pieces
- Feathers
- Metallic pieces of paper
- A few sizes of large long rectangular pieces of construction or shiny paper



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children view a few real menorahs so they can see the basic shape.

Tell the children they will be making menorahs. Present the materials, discuss what a classic menorah has and then let them create.

IDEA: FRAMES/VASES/MEMORY BOXES/ PENCIL HOLDERS (AS GIFTS)

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Boxes
- Containers
- Glue or mod podge
- Cans
- Papers or tiles

See page on transformed art craft techniques



DIRECTIONS:

Choose various sizes of small to medium containers that can be used to create gifts like pencil holders, keepsake boxes and vases and have the children use whichever technique you decide, to transform these boxes and containers into special gifts for the holidays. If you choose to make frames, you can cut the frame out of sturdy cardboard for the children to transform.

Either do mosaics or decoupage or you can even create one of these containers by covering it over with paper mache.

IDEA: DREIDLE ART

Category: Process only art product with prepared shapes



MATERIALS:

See page for list of process only art activities



DIRECTIONS:

Give the children a large cutout dreidle and let them create artwork on it from the list of art activities that you have chosen.



Christmas

IDEA: GARLANDS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Paper towel rolls
- Toilet paper rolls
- Straws
- Small plates
- Cup cake holders
- Paint and/or decoupage materials to decorate the cut up rolls



DIRECTIONS:

Cut up paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls and have the children decorate them. When they are dry, they can be used for the garlands.

They can be decoupage with tissue paper or other pieces of paper or they can be painted or even have stickers put all over.

The preparing of the pieces of cut up rolls can be done as a separate activity. When they are all ready and dry, use them to make the garlands. You will also need to decorate some small paper plates that will be used to separate the rolls.

For stringing, you can use yarn or string and use a small plates or cupcake holders to separate the pieces from each other. Keep on stringing and adding pieces until you feel your garland is long enough or you run out of materials.

IDEA: WINTER SNOWMAN COLLAGES

Category: Cafeteria Style

For those of you who live down under and there is no snow on Christmas, you can make flower collages using the same concepts.



MATERIALS:

- Blue or black construction paper
- White circles of different sizes cut out of a few kinds of white paper
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Small shapes of different colors cut out from construction paper

See materials page for materials for other ideas that seems wintry to you



DIRECTIONS:

Arrange materials for them to make beautiful snowman collages

IDEA: GLUE SQUIGGLES

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Glue in glue squeezes bottles
- Wax paper
- Paint
- Needle with string
- Paint OR colored glue



DIRECTIONS:

You can do one of two things to color the glue.

You can put some paint in the glue to make colored glue or you can paint the glue after it has dried.

Using a glue bottle, squeeze glue all over onto wax paper in squiggle shapes and don't stop too often as the longer the squiggle, the better.

Wait until the glue is dry and hard. If you did not color the white glue, then paint the glue squiggles on the wax paper.

After it is dry, tie a thread to one end of the squiggle and lift it off the wax paper. They will hang and be very decorative. If you'd like, you can hang them onto dowels or branches.

Make sure the string or yarn is long enough.

IDEA: MOBILES

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Small boxes of various sizes
- Small colored pieces of glass
- Sequins
- Buttons
- Small squares of colored tissue paper

Or other materials found on materials page



DIRECTIONS:

Decorate each box with a different item or else each side of a box with a different item. Make a hole and hang each box from a dowel or a hanger. Hang on tree.

IDEA: WREATHS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Big, empty circles cut out from cardboard. Give choices of a few sizes and don't make the holes too big. You need room to decorate them to make them into wreaths.
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Sequins
- Tissue paper
- Raffia
- Trimmings
- Cellophane paper



DIRECTIONS:

Let kids wind a lot of materials around the empty circles. They can use more than one type of material to make their own variety of wreaths.

Add a piece of ribbon at the end to hang the wreath.

IDEA: CHAINS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Strips of construction paper
- Strips of shiny paper
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Take short strips of paper and make into a circle. Put another strip through the circle and glue it to itself. Continue adding strips and gluing until you make the chain as long as needed. You can add a whole bunch of decorative papers or ribbons to the chains.

IDEA: SEASHELL ORNAMENTS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Sea shells
- Tiny rosebuds (silk or real)
- Sequins or other shiny, small beads or tiles
- Clear nail polish
- Paper towel rolls
- Gold Gilt or silver and gold paint
- Pearls
- Glue gun
- Very thin gold or silver ribbon or cord



DIRECTIONS:

Gilt or paint your shells and let them dry. (You can also leave the shells plain and cover them with clear nail polish if you prefer).

Glue rosebuds, pearls, small tiles, beads or anything else decorative in the well of the shell. The children can even add markers or rickrack if they want.

Glue a loop of the thin ribbon or cord on the top to hang it with. You can cover the base of ribbon or yarn hang with rosebud , pearl , or a bow.



Kwanzaa

IDEA: KINARA

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Strips of construction paper that are black, red, and green
- Paper strips from tissue paper
- Foil paper
- Cellophane paper
- Crepe paper
- Small pieces of yellow and orange paper cut into small ovals (suggestive of flames)



DIRECTIONS:

Have them make their own kinara after showing them a few pictures or real live ones (a seven-branch candlestick)

IDEA: CARDS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

See list of activities by process only art pages 30-40



DIRECTIONS:

Use a large white or manila tagboard for the activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the New Years cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what New Years wishes he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tagboard.



New Years

IDEA: NEW YEARS CARDS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

See list of activities by process only art



DIRECTIONS:

Use a large white or manila tagboard for the activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the New Years cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what New Years wishes he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tagboard.

IDEA: NEW YEARS HATS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Paper plates
- Ribbons
- Crepe paper
- Trimmings
- Yarn
- Lots of dangly stuff
- Sequins
- Feathers

See materials page for other materials ideas.



DIRECTIONS:

Allow them to decorate as they'd like and then attach ribbon on two sides of the plate and put on their heads and tie.

You can also use a piece of elastic to tie to the plate instead of ribbon.



Chinese New Year

IDEA: SCRATCH ART FIREWORKS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Manila tag board
- Crayons
- Black paint
- Wooden skewers



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children color the entire paper with bright colors.

Cover the entire picture with black paint. Make sure it's not too thick so that it will not crack when it dries.

Once the paint is dried, each child can take a wooden sewer and scrape off a design.

It might make it easier for the children to see what they are scratching off if they make the design first with a pen and then scratch off over the pen marks.

IDEA: FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Hard manila paper, preferable in the 8x11 size in red and orange shades (If you'd like, you can give the kids already cut paper with the triangle cut out at the end that makes it look more like a flag or you can leave them the rectangle shape.)
- Glue
- Many different size stars that are yellow and gold out of different materials like cellophane paper, shiny paper, tissue paper, etc.



DIRECTIONS:

Let them decorate flags with above materials.

IDEA: CHINESE FIRECRACKERS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Cut-up pieces of tubes from paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls
- Red, orange and yellow paint
- Sparkly materials like sequins, shiny ribbons, pieces of aluminum foil
- Glue
- String for stringing



DIRECTIONS:

Have the paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls cut up into a few different pieces. Have children paint them in shades of red, orange and yellow.

When dry, let them decorate with the glittery materials.

When the materials are all on and dry, use the long pieces of yarn to thread 3-5 pieces of the tubing and tape the yarn to each piece.

These can be hangings and are like Chinese firecrackers.



Australia Day

IDEA: SCRATCH ART FIREWORKS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Manila tagboard
- Crayons
- Black paint
- Wooden skewers



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children color the entire paper with bright colors.

Cover the entire picture with black paint. Make sure it's not too thick so that it will not crack when it dries.

Once paint is dried, each child can take a wooden skewer and scrape off a design.

It might make it easier for the children to see what they are scratching off if they make the design first with a pen and then scratch off over the pen marks.

IDEA: AUSTRALIAN FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Hard manila paper, preferably the 8x11 size. (If you'd like, you can give the kids already cut paper with the triangle cut out at the end that makes it look more like a flag or you can leave them rectangle shape.)
- Glue
- Ribbon/ red, white and blue
- String or yarn/ red, white and blue
- Cellophane paper pieces/ red, white and blue
- Tissue paper/ red, white and blue
- Feathers red, white and blue

Depending on how old the child is will determine how cut up the pieces should be. Older children with more experience need not have too many cut up pieces as they can cut pieces themselves from the larger pieces available. Younger children would do better with smaller pieces in various shapes of the different materials.



DIRECTIONS:

Let them decorate flags with above materials in the colors of the flag.



Mardi Gras

IDEA: CONE CUP PIÑATAS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Paper cone cups (pointed bottoms --- like the ones used for water dispensers)
- Crepe paper
- Bright metallic papers
- Goodies to put inside, (You could also leave the piñata empty and pretend.)
- Pipe cleaners
- Tissue paper
- Glue (or needle and thread - for older students)



DIRECTIONS:

You need two cups for each piñata.

Insert the ends of a pipe cleaner through the pointed end of one of the cups. Spread the ends of the pipe cleaner inside the cup and leave enough on the outside. This will be the hanger.

If you decide to put treats inside the piñata, do this now. Make sure you don't use any food that can spoil because once the piñata is complete, you probably won't want to break it open. In fact, you can just use popcorn kernels or dry split peas instead of candy.

Place the rims of the cups together. Younger children can glue the cups together, while older children can sew the cups together using needle and thread.

Decorate the piñata cafeteria style.

You could decorate using just magic markers.

You could paint the piñata with tempera, watercolor or acrylic paint.

You could use glitter, buttons and other materials on the piñata.

MARACAS

Category: Transformed Art (paper mache)



MATERIALS:

- Newspaper
- Flour (best if wheat-based but can use any kind)
- Water
- Balloons
- Paint
- Seeds/rice
- Unsharpened pencils
- Masking tape



DIRECTIONS:

Cover table with newspaper. Pour flour into bowl in middle of table.

Pour in water (enough to make thin, oatmeal consistency).

Everyone put hands in and mix. Pick a balloon (already inflated).

Dunk balloon in paste, covering it completely, or use hands to smear paste on. Put balloon on table, wipe off hands.

Paper with newspaper squares (1 in x 1 in). After finishing two-three layers of newspaper, leave to dry.

Next, fill maracas with seeds or rice. Attach a pencil to the base with masking tape (using thin strips). Paint the entire maraca, including masking tape and leave to dry.

IDEA: MARDI GRAS NOISE MAKER

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- 2 Paper Plates
- Crayons, Markers or Paint
- Crepe Paper or other streamers
- Purple, green and gold ribbons and rick rack
- Shiny sequins
- Dried Beans
- Stapler or tape
- Craft sticks
- Tape



DIRECTIONS:

Decorate the back sides of the paper plates with all of the purple, green, and gold materials available (these are traditional Mardi Gras colors). Tape or staple 1 - 2 foot long pieces of ribbon, streamers, yarn, etc., around the outside edge of one of the decorated paper plates (attach them to the non-decorated side).

Put the paper plate with the streamers on the table with the right side (non-decorated) up. Tape a craft stick to the rim of the plate, leaving out part of the stick for a handle. Place the other paper plate on top of the first one, right side down. This will make a gap in the middle.

Start stapling the edges together, leaving an opening of a few inches wide. Slide a handful of dried beans in between the paper plates. Finish stapling them shut and your festive noisemaker is complete!



Valentines Day

IDEA: MIRROR HEARTS

Category: Process only Hearts with Prepared Shapes



MATERIALS:

- Large heart cut out of manila tagboard or construction paper folded in half
- Paint
- Small paintbrushes



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children paint some design only on one side of the heart.

Fold the paper over to create a mirror of the other side.

Place heart once finished on another colored piece of paper to frame it.

IDEA: CARDS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

Use a large white or manila tagboard for the activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the Mothers Day cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what Mothers Day wishes he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tagboard.

IDEA: HEART COLLAGES

Category: Process only Art with Prepared Shapes



MATERIALS:

- Make heart templates of a few sizes out of cardboard
- Different pieces of fabric and materials
- Ribbon and other trimmings
- Scissors
- Tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children use the different templates to trace over the different kinds of fabrics and then have them cut them out.

You can use other types of paper also. You will then have a whole array of hearts which they can use to collage with and they can use the ribbon and other trimmings to beautify their pictures.



Candlemas Day

IDEA: REAL WAX CANDLES

Category: A Crafts Technique



MATERIALS:

- Block of paraffin
- A burner (be very careful around children)
- String
- Cup or can of cold water
- Some old pieces of crayons
- An old coffee can
- Wax paper



DIRECTIONS:

This activity must be closely supervised.

After you purchase a block of paraffin from your grocery, put it into the empty coffee can and place on burner.

Let it melt into a liquid wax.

Add small bits of crayons to add color.

When the wax has cooled down a bit, take a piece of string and have a child put it into the can of wax and then into the can of water.

As this is done repeatedly, wax will form on the string creating a candle.

When it is thick enough, have the child roll it a bit on the wax paper and then leave it to dry.

You may have to wait until the paraffin has cooled considerably because the cooler it is, the easier it will be to form a candle.

IDEA: 2 DIMENSIONAL CANDELABRAS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large manila tag board or large construction paper
- Lots of long thin strips out of a few types of paper
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Wood pieces
- Colored tissue paper pieces
- Buttons
- Feathers
- Cellophane pieces
- Metallic pieces of paper
- Tiny oval pieces in yellow or gold paper
- A few sizes of large, long rectangular pieces of construction or shiny paper



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children view a few real candelabras so they can see the basic shape.

Tell the children they will be making candelabras. Present the materials, discuss what

a classic candelabra has and then let them create.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

IDEA: PLACEMATS (to be used when eating pancakes)

Category: Process only Art Products



MATERIALS:

- Leaves and flowers of all colors
- Pine needles
- Flowers and other outdoor collected nature stuff
- Large manila tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Glue all of the found outdoor leafy things in a pleasing arrangement on the tag board and then decoupage over a few times.

Once it's done, you can laminate it or cover with contact paper and use for a placemat.

If you frame it with construction paper before laminating it, it is much prettier.

IDEA: STUFFED PANCAKE DOLLS

Category: Cafeteria Style PLUS Crafts Technique



MATERIALS:

- 2 pieces of felt cut in circles
- Needles
- Thread
- Stuffing
- Googly eyes
- Ribbons
- Sequins
- Fabric glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children sew the two circles of felt together leaving a small opening.

Turn it inside out. Stuff it with stuffing and help them sew it closed.

Create the dolls of their choice with the materials that are available for them to decorate their pancake dolls.



Tu-B'Shvat

IDEA: 2 DIMENSIONAL TREES

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large background of manila tag board or large construction paper (can be brown or green to set the mood)
- Corrugated pieces of cardboard (the kind teachers use for borders on bulletin boards)
- Cotton pieces
- Fall colors of tissue paper
- Ribbon
- Small pom poms
- An assortment of rectangles in various shades of browns and greens
- Various types of papers in various shades of brown and greens
- Fake green grassy stuff
- String
- Yarn

See list of materials on materials page for more ideas.



DIRECTIONS:

You can first show the children many pictures of trees so they know that there are many types of trees.

Have them then choose what they will use for the base of the tree and let them glue it down. They can also cut it out their own.

Then, allow them to choose the materials they will use to decorate their tree.

IDEA: LEAF ART PLACEMATS

Category: Process only Art Products



MATERIALS:

- Leaves of all colors
- Pine needles
- Flowers and other outdoor collected nature stuff
- Large manila tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Glue all of the found outdoor leafy things in a pleasing arrangement on the tag board and then decoupage over a few times.

Or once it's done, you can laminate it or cover with contact paper and use for a placemat.

If you frame it with construction paper before laminating it, it is much prettier.

IDEA: LEAF CRUMBLES

Category: Process Art Products with Prepared Shapes



MATERIALS:

- Large cut out leaf from tag board (any type of leaf)
- Leaves, bits of flowers and stems collected from outside



DIRECTIONS:

Crumble up leaves and other bits of flowers and mix into glue.

Use this mixture and have the children paint it onto their leaves.

It will be an artsy, gluing, decoupagey look.



Purim

IDEA: GRAGGERS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Containers of various sizes for the children to choose from (old shampoo bottles, Pringles cans, laundry detergent containers, smaller boxes etc.)
- (felt, shiny paper, construction paper, material)
- Yarn
- Sequins
- Pom poms
- Large pieces of paper of choice to cover containers
- Cellophane paper
- Ribbon
- Feathers

See page of materials for more ideas.

If you want them to make people, give googly eyes and objects that are suggestive of people or small crowns etc.



DIRECTIONS:

Have them choose a container first (unless they already chose the one they want to use). Then, let them choose a material to cover the container with and glue it over carefully.

They can then decide which materials to use to decorate it with. Before sealing the container, add beans, small stones or gravel to fill the container to make the noise it needs.

IDEA: PERSIAN RUGS

Category: Process only Art Product



MATERIALS:

- Large or small papers
- Paint
- Paintbrushes



DIRECTIONS:

Fold a paper in half. On one side, paint or drip paint.

Fold the paper over onto painted side and the empty side will get the same pattern as on painted side.

You can cut out fringes on the ends of the paper to give it that Persian look or in the beginning, you can give the children paper that has fringes on it already.

This activity can also be done with wax paper and colored glue.

Use the wax paper as a paper and the glue as paint and they can then be used as stained glass window decorations.

IDEA: STICK PUPPETS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Pieces of hard cardboard cut into longer and shorter rectangle plus pieces of cardboard cut into a few different shaped squares and maybe rectangles if you're ambitious.
- Strong glue or stapler to connect pieces
- Pieces of velvet
- Pom poms
- Cellophane paper
- Ribbon
- Googly eyes
- Swatches of material
- Sequins
- Feathers
- Pieces of yarn
- Some small cut out crowns



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children choose from the pieces of cardboard a piece for the body, head, arms and legs and then help them connect them. Let them choose from the array of materials to decorate and to make any kind of puppet they want.

When finished, use either a dowel and attach to the back of the body part of the puppet with tape or take a piece of newspaper and roll up until it can be attached and used as is.

Pieces of materials, felt (for clothing), fake hair, googly eyes, some cut out shapes, straws, shiny paper, pieces of leather, pieces of yarn, pieces of ribbon etc. can be used to make the puppets into different characters. (If you want them to make royal people, add crowns; for witches, add a black triangle and pieces of brooms etc.)

When they are done, tape a dowel to the back of the puppet. If you don't have dowels, roll up a piece of newspaper so that it looks like a dowel and attach that. Let them make a puppet show.

IDEA: SIMPLE PAPER PLATE MASKS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Feathers
- Yarn
- Sequins
- Small stickers
- Markers
- Small pom poms
- Pieces of cut up aluminum foil
- Elastic

See page on materials for more suggestions



DIRECTIONS:

Give the child a paper plate that has two holes already cut out and let them decorate with an assortment of materials like ribbon, buttons, feathers and sequins.

Attach a piece of elastic for them to put it on.



St. Davids Day

IDEA: SHEEP MURALS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Feathers
- Yarn
- Pieces of cut up aluminum foil
- Green and blue paint
- Cotton balls
- Markers
- Crafts sticks

See page on materials for more suggestions



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children paint the bottom part of their picture green and the top blue.

When dry, let them create a sheep scene on their page with cut-out pictures that they draw along with the materials you present to them. Discuss making a sheep scene.

IDEA: DAFFODIL PLACEMATS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

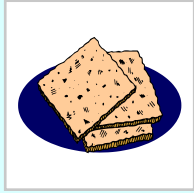
- Either use real daffodils or cut up various size yellow and green shapes that can stand for daffodils.
- Craft sticks
- Long straws



DIRECTIONS:

Have children arrange flowers on tag board or construction paper.

Then, either frame picture on complementary paper and laminate or leave as is for a placemat.



Pesach/ Passover

IDEA: AFIKOMAN BAGS

Category: Process only Art Product



MATERIALS:

- Piece of white cotton material
- All kind of flowers and leaves from a walk outside
- Hammer
- Needles
- Thread



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children arrange the flowers on the floor, preferably outdoors. Lay the white materials on top of the flowers and pound them with a hammer.

The colors and shapes of the flowers and leaves will come through.

When the material is as colorful as they like, place two pieces together inside-out and sew them along the edges. Make sure the side you want on the outside is on the inside when sewing.

When done, turn inside out.

If you want, you can write AFIKOMAN on the bag.

IDEA: TIE DYED MATZAH COVERS

Category: Process only Art Product with Craft Technique



MATERIALS:

- Either use RIT brand dye for this or you can cook up beets or onion skins to get natural dye.
- Trimmings for edging cover
- Rubber bands
- For second method you will need glue



DIRECTIONS:

2 methods.

1- For first method using rubber bands take up small pieces of material in bunches in a few places and tie them up with rubber bands. When done dip the material in the dye solution. If using commercial dye. Follow manufactures instructions very carefully. With vegetable dyes just make sure it's not too hot when using.

After material dried a bit take out rubber bands to see die dye a effect

2- Use glue to paint patterns on material. When dry dip in dye. After that is dry, stick material in cold water to remove glue and to see effects of dye.

Use pieces of trimmings to finish off the edges of the matzah cover.

See page on tie dying for more extensive directions.

IDEA: WINE CUP AND WINE PLATES

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Any type of hard plastic cup either with a stem or not and a hard plastic plate.
- Use materials you would use with mosaics or decoupage, see page 25-28



DIRECTIONS:

Do either a decoupage or a mosaic style decoration over the cups and plates.



Easter

IDEA: BATIK EGGS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Hard boiled eggs
- Masking tape
- Crepe paper dye



DIRECTIONS:

First, make crepe paper dye by putting a strip of crepe paper in a bowl and adding hot water to the bowl. Take the crepe paper out and add about 1 tablespoon of vinegar to help the dye set, (Do a few colors in a few different bowls).

Take some pieces of thin masking tape and put a bit over the egg. Dip it in bowl if dye is cooled.

Remove the tape when egg is dry, add more tape to a different area and dip into a different color bowl.

IDEA: BASKETS

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Baskets or boxes found or bought in art supply store
- Papers for decoupage
- Glue or mod podge



DIRECTIONS:

See page on decoupage for more explanations

IDEA: EASTER HATS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Paper plates
- Ribbons
- Crepe paper
- Trimmings
- Yarn
- Lots of dangly materials

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Allow them to decorate as they'd like and then attach ribbon or elastic on two sides of the plate. Put on their head and tie.



Anzac Day

IDEA: WREATHS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Big, empty circles cut out from cardboard. Give choices of a few sizes and don't make the holes too big. Need room to decorate them to make them into wreaths.
- Ribbon
- Raffia
- Yarn
- Trimmings
- Sequins
- Cellophane paper
- Tissue paper



DIRECTIONS:

Let the kids wind a lot of stuff around the empty circles. They can use more than one type of material to make their own variety of wreaths.

Add a piece of ribbon at the end to hang wreath.

IDEA: LEST WE FORGET CARDS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

See list of activities that are process only pages 30-40.

Large, white or manila tag board for activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards,



DIRECTIONS:

Use a large white or manila tagboard for the activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the Lest we Forget cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what They don't want to forget that he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tagboard.



St. Georges Day

IDEA: BRITISH FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- White manila tag board, either in rectangle shape or already cut out with triangle.
- Materials that are all shades of blue, red and white
- Dark blue and light blue ribbons
- Yarn
- Dark and light blue pieces of tissue paper
- A few size triangles in large blue sizes and smaller sizes



DIRECTIONS:

Have them look at some pictures of the British flags and let them decorate the flag using the blue and white materials available.

Place a dowel on the back of the flag along one edge and attach with strong tape to hold.

IDEA: CROWNS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- White Manila tag board cut into the shape of a crown
- Sequins
- Rhinestones
- Shiny ribbons
- Pieces of aluminum foil in small shapes



DIRECTIONS:

Have them decorate them and then measure the crowns on their heads and staple closed.



Earth Day

IDEA: LEAF PEOPLE CRAFT

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Tag board
- Pieces of yarn
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Ribbons
- Trimmings
- Markers
- Leaves collected from outside



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children collect all kinds of leaves from outside.

Give them hard tag board as a background. Arrange the materials cafeteria style along with the leaves and tell the children that they should use the leaves and the other materials to make leaf people or one big leaf person.

After finishing, you can leave it as is or you can use some glue that is a bit watered down and glue over the whole picture, which will keep the leaves from drying and crumbling up.

You can also use contact paper or laminate over the picture to make them into placemats.

IDEA: LEAF MOBILE

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Ribbons
- Pieces of yarn
- Trimmings
- Glue
- Leaves collected from outside



DIRECTIONS:

Collect fresh, well shaped leaves.

Collect two or three branches about two feet long.

Lay the leaves flat between the pages of a large book, or a newspaper, then place a book on top.

Leave the leaves for about 3 days, until they are dry and flat.

Shellac leaf surface with watered down glue on one side and let dry, then repeat on the other side.

Tie the branches together in the middle so that they cross one another.

Cut different lengths of string and ribbon (8" to 18").

Glue the shellacked leaves to one end of the string.

Tie strings and ribbons to the ends and middle of the branches.



Yom Haatzmaut

IDEA: ISRAELI FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- White Manila tag board, either in rectangle shape or already cut out with triangle.
- Materials that are all shades of blue
- Dark blue and light blue ribbons
- Yarn
- Dark and light blue pieces of tissue paper
- A few size Stars of David



DIRECTIONS:

Have them look at some pictures of the Israeli flag and let them decorate the flag using the blue and white materials available.

Use a dowel on the back of the flag along one edge and attach with strong tape to hold.



St. Patrick's Day

IDEA: GREEN COLLAGES

Category: Process Art Product



MATERIALS:

- Any kind of materials that is green
- Buttons
- Leaves
- Paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Stickers

See page 22 for more material ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Let them collage using only green items of different shades.

IDEA: SHAMROCK PEOPLE

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Cut out a whole bunch of shamrocks all sizes.
- Googly eyes
- Ribbon
- Sequins
- Manila tag board
- Strips of paper
- Yarn
- Buttons

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Let them make shamrock people.

IDEA: GREEN ON GREEN RESIST

Category: Process only Art Product



MATERIALS:

- Green construction paper
- Green crayons
- White paint
- Paintbrushes
- Water
- Containers



DIRECTIONS:

Let them draw a design on green paper using green crayons, pressing hard, as it is hard to see the green on green. Then paint over the picture with white tempera paint.

If the paint is too thick, water it down a bit.



May Day

IDEA: GARLANDS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Paper towel rolls
- Toilet paper rolls
- Straws,
- Small plates
- Cup cake holders
- Paint and/or decoupage materials to decorate the cut up rolls



DIRECTIONS:

Cut up paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls and have the children decorate them. When they are dry, they can be used for the garlands.

They can be decoupage with tissue paper or other pieces of paper or they can be painted or even have stickers put all over.

The preparing of the pieces of cut up rolls can be done as a separate activity, and then when they are all ready and dry, use them to make the garlands. You will also need to decorate some small paper plates that will be used to separate the rolls.

For stringing, you can use yarn or string and use a small plate or cupcake holder to separate the pieces from each other. Keep on stringing and adding pieces until you feel your garland is long enough or you run out of materials.

IDEA: REAL FLOWER COLLAGES

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Leaves
- Flowers
- Manila tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have them collage beautiful real flowers and leaves and other flowery materials on tag board. Laminate or cover with contact paper for placemats when done.

IDEA: MAYPOLES

Category: Cafeteria Style Art



MATERIALS:

- Vines if you can find
- Flowers
- Yarn
- Shiny pieces of material
- Long wooden tubes (ones used for mailing posters)
- Ribbons
- Sequins
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have them decorate these tubes with lots of ribbons and vines all over to become their very own maypoles.



Mothers Day

IDEA: CARDS

Category: Process only art



MATERIALS:

See list of activities that are process only pages 30-40

Large white or manila tag board for activity itself and then use white computer paper or construction paper for the inside. Whatever paper you decide to do the art activity on should be larger than the drawing paper.

See list of activities to choose which one you will use for these cards.



DIRECTIONS:

After you choose the activity you will use as a base for the Mother's Day cards, have the children do the activity and then put them aside to dry.

Then, take a piece of drawing paper and have the child dictate to you what nice things about their mother he or she wishes to put on the paper. If they are old enough, they can write them out themselves.

Take the written words and staple them to the inside of the artwork. When the card is folded, you can see outside artwork.

If you want smaller cards, use the smaller tag board.

IDEA: PLANTS WITH TRANSFORMED ART VASES

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Containers
- Coffee cans
- Milk cartons or whatever can be use to make a vase and to plant in



DIRECTIONS:

Decoupage or mosaic a container. See pages 25-27. Fill with dirt and plant some beans in it. Do this project a week before Mother's Day to give the beans a chance to sprout.

IDEA: PLACEMATS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

Either nature collections or see pages 30-40 for art activities



DIRECTIONS:

Laminate when done or cover with contact paper and use for placemat.

IDEA: GLUE SQUIGGLE NECKLACES AND BRACELETS

Category: Decorations



MATERIALS:

- Wax paper
- Glue in glue squeezes bottles
- Paint
- Needle with string
- Paint or colored glue



DIRECTIONS:

You can do one of two things to color the glue.

You can put some paint in the glue to make colored glue or you can paint the glue after it has dried.

Using a glue bottle, squeeze glue all over onto wax paper in little globs and don't stop too often as the longer the squiggle is, the nicer.

After you make the globs with the glue and they dry, use thread or yarn to make necklaces and bracelets.



Shavuot

IDEA: FLOWERS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Cut off tops of egg boxes to use
- Cupcake holders
- Coffee filters
- Chenille stems otherwise known as pipe cleaners
- Toothpicks
- Pieces of styrofoam
- Buttons
- Pieces of tissue paper

See materials page for more materials ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Allow the children to make any types of flowers they'd like.

They can then make some vases using transformed art on containers to put the flowers in. They can use the pipe cleaners as stems.

IDEA: PLACEMATS

Category: Process only Art Products



MATERIALS:

- Collected flowers and leaves from outside
- Tissue paper
- Cellophane paper
- Other delicate pretty materials



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children decorate hard pieces of manila tag board with the materials provided and then laminate or cover with contact paper.

IDEA: MT. SINAI MURAL

Category: Cafeterial Style



MATERIALS:

- Manila tag board or other choice of background
- A few different sizes of large humplike pieces that look like mountains cut out from brown and green pieces of paper
- All kinds of materials that suggest spring and flowers
- Tissue paper
- Cellophane paper
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Fake grass pieces
- Shiny pieces of material
- Buttons
- Strip of white paper

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Have them create scenes at the mountain



Queens Birthday

IDEA: CROWNS

Category: Cafeterial Style



MATERIALS:

- White Manila tag board cut into the shape of a crown
- Sequins
- Rhinestones
- Shiny ribbons
- Pieces of aluminum foil in small shapes



DIRECTIONS:

Have them decorate the crowns, then measure them on their heads and staple closed.

IDEA: STICK QUEEN PUPPETS

Category: Cafeterial Style



MATERIALS:

- Pieces of hard cardboard, cut into longer and shorter rectangles plus pieces of cardboard cut into a few shape squares and maybe rectangles if you're ambitious.
- Strong glue or stapler to connect pieces
- Swatches of material
- Pieces of velvet
- Sequins
- Pom poms
- Feathers
- Cellophane paper
- Pieces of yarn
- Ribbon, maybe some small cut out crowns
- Googly eyes
- Small crowns



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children choose from the pieces of cardboard: a piece for the body, head, arms and legs and then help them connect them. Let them choose from the array of materials to decorate and to make any kind of puppet they want

When finished, use either a dowel and attach it to the back of the body part of the puppet with tape or take a piece of newspaper and roll it up until it can be attached and used as is.

These materials can be used to make their puppet into character they want: pieces of materials, felt (for clothing), fake hair, googly eyes, some cut out shapes, straws, shiny paper, pieces of leather, pieces of yarn, pieces of ribbon etc.

When they are done, tape a dowel to the back of the puppet. If you don't have dowels, roll up a piece of newspaper so that it looks like a dowel and attach that. Let them make a puppet show.

These are some of the shapes you may give them in cardboard to use to attach together.



Father's Day

IDEA: PAPERWEIGHT ROCK WITH DECOUPAGE

Category: Transformed Art



MATERIALS:

- Either a rock found outside or crumbled up aluminum foil



DIRECTIONS:

If you can't find a rock, take some aluminum foil, crumple it up, paper mache over it and then decoupage on top.

IDEA: T-SHIRT

Category: Process only Art with Craft Technique



MATERIALS:

- Old, white T-shirt of Dad's
- Rubber bands
- Fabric dye
- Fabric dye in a spray paint bottle



DIRECTIONS:

Bunch up pieces of the tee shirt with rubber bands. Stick it in the dye or spray it with the dye from the spray bottle. Remove the rubber bands and it will be tie dyed.

Check out the page on tie dying for more details.

IDEA: FRAMES

Category: Transformed Art with Craft Technique



MATERIALS:

- Cut out cardboard frames
- Decoupage materials

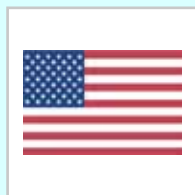


DIRECTIONS:

Either mosaic or decoupage frames. See pages on crafts techniques for more explanations.

Can also wrap various materials around like ribbon and trimmings to decorate the frame.

Actually, you can use any material to decorate the frames. You can give children the chance to choose how they would like to decorate. Make sure to give them at least 3-4 choices.



July 4th

IDEA: AMERICAN FLAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Hard Manila paper, preferable the 8x11 size. (If you'd like, you can give the kids already cut paper with the triangle cut out at the end that makes it look more like a flag or you can leave them in the rectangular shape.)
- Glue
- Ribbon; red, white and blue
- String or yarn; red, white and blue
- Cellophane paper pieces; red, white and blue
- Tissue paper; red, white and blue
- Feathers; red, white and blue

See materials page for more ideas.

Depending on how old the child is will determine how cut up the pieces should be. Older children with more experience do not have to have many cut up pieces as they can cut pieces themselves from the larger pieces available. Younger children would do better with smaller pieces in various shapes of the different materials.



DIRECTIONS:

Let them decorate flags with the above materials.

IDEA: SCRATCH ART FIREWORKS

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Manila tag board
- Crayons
- Black paint
- Wooden skewers



DIRECTIONS:

Have the children color the entire paper with bright colors.

Cover the entire picture with black paint. Make sure it's not too thick so that it will not crack when it dries.

Once the paint is dried, each child can take a wooden skewer and scrape off a design.

It might make it easier for the children to see what they are scratching off if they make the design first with a pen and then scratch off over the pen marks.



Fall

IDEA: 2 DIMENSIONAL TREE

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large background of manila tag board or large construction paper (can be brown or green to set the mood)
- An assortment of rectangles in various shades of browns and greens for the children to choose as a base for tree
- Corrugated pieces of cardboard
- Fake green grassy stuff
- Cotton pieces
- Various types of papers in various shades of brown and greens
- Fall colors of tissue paper
- String
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Small pom poms

See materials page for list of more ideas.



DIRECTIONS:

You can first show the children many pictures of trees so they know that there are many types of trees.

Have them then choose what they will use for the base of the tree and let them glue it down. Then allow them to choose the materials they will use to decorate their tree.

IDEA: LEAF ART PLACEMATS

Category: Process only Art Products



MATERIALS:

- Leaves of all colors,
- Pine needles
- Flowers and other outdoor collected nature stuff
- Large manila tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Glue all of the found outdoor leafy things in a pleasing arrangement on the tag board and then decoupage over a few times.

Once its done you can also laminate it or cover with contact paper and use for a placemat.

If you frame it with construction paper before laminating it, it is much prettier.

IDEA: LEAF CRUMBLES

Category: Process Art Products with Prepared Shapes



MATERIALS:

- Large cut out leaves from either construction paper or manila tag board
- (Give kids a choice of which background leaf they will use.)
- Leaves and bits of flowers and stems collected from outside.



DIRECTIONS:

Crumble up leaves and other bits of flowers and mix into glue.

Use this mixture and have the children paint it onto their leaves.

It will be an artsy, gluing, decoupagey look.

IDEA: COLLAGE WITH LEAVES AND ALL THINGS LEAFY

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Leaves and other stuff from outside
- Tag board
- Clear, thinned glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have them collage on tag board and then treat as decoupage and paint over picture with glue a few coats.



Winter

IDEA: WINTER SNOWMAN COLLAGES

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Blue or black construction paper
- White circles of different sizes cut out of a few kinds of white paper
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Small shapes of different colors

See materials page for other ideas.



DIRECTIONS:

Arrange materials for them to make beautiful snowman collages.

IDEA: WINTER CHALK PICTURES

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Black or blue paper
- Chalk



DIRECTIONS:

Have them create pictures using chalk on black or dark blue paper.

IDEA: BLACK PAPER AND IVORY SNOW PICTURES

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Black or blue construction paper
- Ivory snow
- Glue
- Paintbrushes



DIRECTIONS:

Have them glue on the paper with glue brushes or paintbrushes and then sprinkle ivory snow on top of the glue. Wherever there is glue, the ivory snow will stick.



Spring

IDEA: FLOWER COLLAGES

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Manila tag board
- Coffee filter
- Pipe cleaners
- Cupcake holders
- Buttons
- Ribbons

See materials page for more ideas



DIRECTIONS:

Just tell them these are for spring pictures and let them create.

IDEA: REAL FLOWER COLLAGES

Category: Process only Art



MATERIALS:

- Leaves
- Flowers
- Manila tag board
- Glue



DIRECTIONS:

Have them collage beautiful real flowers and leaves and other flowery stuff on tag board. Laminate or cover with contact paper for placemats when done.

IDEA: KITES

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Pieces of manila tag board cut in kite shape to work on
- String
- Sequins
- Paper scraps (e.g. wallpaper)
- Glue
- Stapler
- Ribbon
- Feathers
- String
- Streamers
- Scissors



DIRECTIONS:

Decorate kites cafeteria style and then let them choose ribbon for the tail and give them bunch of string for the front of the kite.

When all of this is done, it is time to make the kite's tail.

A piece of string and different colored pieces of streamer secured by a staple to the kite's bottom (tie a knot for extra security) will make the kite's tail.



Summer

IDEA: INDIVIDUAL UNDERWATER SEA MURALS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Large manila tag board
- Lots of markers
- Different shades of blue paint
- Brown paint
- Green paint
- Construction paper
- White copy paper



DIRECTIONS:

Have them paint the bottom part of the tag board as water or sand and the other part as beach or grass.

Let them make many different pictures of the things they think they will find underwater and on top of the water. Then let them cut out and paste these items in the proper places like coral and octopuses, and boats and sun and birds etc. Brainstorm with them. The great thing about this is that they don't have to use the picture if they don't like them; they can just cut something else out.

IDEA: BEACH BAGS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Piece of canvas or burlap
- Fabric glue
- Yarn
- Ribbon
- Pieces of felt cut into different shapes
- Fabric markers
- Needles
- Thread
- Long pieces of rick rack or trimming



DIRECTIONS:

Give the children two equal size pieces of burlap large enough for a bag.

Have them decorate the bag with the above materials.

Turn inside out.

Sew along three edges.

Turn back to the right side.

Help the children attach long pieces of trimming for handle.

IDEA: BEACH MOBILES

Category: Decoration



MATERIALS:

- String
- Shells or other finds
- 2 pieces of dowel rod, about 1 foot length
- Glue
- Yarn or string or ribbon
- Glue
- 2 pieces of dowel rod about a foot long



DIRECTIONS:

Use string to make dowels into an 'X' shape. Glue shells onto several different lengths of string.

Let it dry about a day.

Tie the string with shells to the dowel rods at all four corners and some in between.

Hang somewhere as a decorative piece.



South African Festivals

IDEA: DRUMS

Category: Cafeteria Style



MATERIALS:

- Containers like oatmeal round boxes or coffee cans
- Piece of canvas or cut up piece of balloon to cover top
- Rubber bands
- Ribbons
- Sequins
- Feathers
- Pom poms
- Leather pieces
- Felt
- Beads
- Stickers

See materials page for more ideas.

IDEA: MARACAS

Category: Transformed Art (paper mache)



MATERIALS:

- Newspaper
- Flour (best if wheat-based but can use any kind)
- Water
- Balloons
- Paint
- seeds/rice
- Unsharpened pencils
- Masking tape



DIRECTIONS:

Cover table with newspaper. Pour flour into bowl in middle of table.

Pour in water (enough to make a thin, oatmeal consistency).

Everyone put hands in and mixes. Pick a balloon (already inflated).

Dunk balloon in paste, covering it completely, or use hands to smear paste on. Put balloon on table, wipe off hands.

Paper with newspaper squares (1 in x 1 in). After finishing two-three layers of newspaper, leave to dry.

Next, fill maracas with seeds or rice. Attach pencil to base with masking tape (using thin strips). Paint entire maraca, including masking tape and leave to dry.

IDEA: CLAY NECKLACES

Category: Crafts Technique (Jewelry Making)



MATERIALS:

- Grey hardening clay
- Straw for making holes
- Lanyard or string for stringing
- Paint and small brushes



DIRECTIONS:

Have children roll the clay into little balls. Before drying them, let them make holes in them with the straw (needles will make holes that are too small).

When dry, have the children paint them using colors that match the African symbols. When dry, string and make necklaces.

Cross Indexing of Projects

Another way of finding projects is by looking at the list of projects and then finding out how to do them by going to the holiday they are listed under.

Listed below are some of the educational arts and crafts categories and underneath are lists of the crafts that can be done from those categories and which holidays you can find them in.

You can also use this list to find craft activities that you would like the children to do without applying it to a holiday.

Here is a list of some of the projects throughout this guide that use the cafeteria style. You may be able to adapt some of them to other events

You can also mix and match. Just because one activity is listed under one holiday doesn't mean you can't use it for another occasion.

Cafeteria Style Arts and Crafts

Flags	Simhat Torah, July 4 th , Australia Day, St. David's Day, Yom Haatzmaut, St. Georges, Chinese New Year
Masks	Halloween, Purim
Puppets	Halloween, Purim, Pancake day, Queen's Birthday
Treat Bags	Halloween, Birthdays
Turkeys	Thanksgiving
Drums, Musical instruments	South African Festivals, Thanksgiving, Purim, Kwanzaa, Australia Day
Menorahs, Candelabras	Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Candlemas day
Wreaths	Christmas, Anzac Day
Hats	New Year's day, Melbourne Cup day, Easter
Trees	Christmas, Tu-B'shvat, Fall, Spring
Shamrock people	St. Patrick's Day
Kites	Spring, Summer
Scene murals	Spring, winter, fall, summer, Shavuot, Halloween, Christmas, family and school trips
Crowns	Queen's Day, Purim, St. Georges Day
Pancake stuffed dolls	Shrove Tuesday, Pancake day
Maypoles	May Day
Chinese firecrackers	Chinese New Year

Decorations

Paper chains	Sukkot, Christmas
Ornaments	Christmas, Sukkot
Glue squigglys	Sukkot, Christmas, Mother's Day
Mobiles	Christmas
Decorative stringing	Sukkot, Christmas
Garlands	Sukkot, Mayday, Christmas
Firecracker hangings	Chinese New year

Process only art Activities

Cards	Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentines, Day, Rosh Hashana, Queen's Birthday
Placemats	Spring, Fall, Shavuot, Valentines Day, Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day), Harvest Festival, May Day
Wall hangings for framing	Mothers Day, Valentine's Day, Sukkot
Wrapping paper for gifts	Chanukah, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day

Templates for Process only Art Activities

Apple, Shofar, Large leaf, Tree, Heart, Dreidle etc.

Transformed Art Activities

Either decoupage, mosaics, paper mache, tie dying, sewing

Baskets, Bowls	Easter, Purim, Halloween, Harvest festival
Dishes or cups	Rosh Hashanah, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Passover, Melbourne Cup day
Blessing boxes	Thanksgiving
Vases	Mother's day
Paperweights	Father's day
Frames	Chanukah
Paper mache fruit	Harvest Festival
Matzah covers	Passover
Tee shirts	Fathers Day
Jewelry(clay necklaces)	South African Festivals
Candles	Candlemas day
Embroidered door hangings	Diwali/Festival of Lights
Rangoli floor mats	Diwali/Festival of Lights

Tips for Crafts at Birthday Parties

Arts and crafts at a birthday can be wonderful or it can be a disaster.

You can follow some of the guidelines from the previous page.

For Birthday Parties:

- You must be very well prepared beforehand.
- You may want to consider doing a craft technique if you want the kids to go home with a finished object from the party.
- If you decide to go with a transformed object project, you can choose from the list of craft techniques and then you can purchase a large number of either boxes or vases or whatever it is you decide to do. Jewelry boxes, pencil holders and picture frames are just some of the common items used for activities like this.
- Decoupage might be the easiest for a large group (paper mache would be much too messy and time consuming for a birthday party).
- Cover the tables very well and have everything you will need on hand ready to go.
- Read through the section on what the adult's role is so that you are prepared to admire the children's' work accordingly.
- If you are more ambitious and have more time or are a bit more artsy, you may choose to have the children create a mural of their own. This would call for a cafeteria style setup in which case you can have a few different places set up so the kids don't all attack it at once.
- Another activity would be card making for the birthday child in which case you choose the process only art activity you will use for this and then they make them into cards with a message for the birthday child either written by them or dictated to the adult.
- If you decide on a theme and want to do a crafts project around the theme, just make sure it fits into the Educational Art mold or you will find yourself in the same old traditional arts and crafts projects very quickly.

Letter for teachers to send to parents to help explain the change in the arts and crafts program

Dear Parents,

Welcome to _____. We look forward to sharing a wonderful year together. As the year is just beginning, we thought it would be a good time to share with you some insights into the way we will be running our arts and crafts program this year.

Many of you who have been through pre-school with other children are used to your children coming home with traditional copycat art projects. This year, the majority (or all) of the children's projects will be done by the children and by the children only, and may not look as picture perfect as you are used to. Some of their projects may very well be recognizable and others may look like very abstract, and we would like to give you a short explanation of why we will be doing art this way.

Our art program this year will be a child development-based one. We call it Educational Art and the projects are educational arts and crafts. This means that since young children are not developmentally ready to think up so many of those cute crafts ideas themselves, they are not appropriate for their age level. By allowing the children the freedom, within a definite structure, to create what they are able to at their ages, we are accomplishing a number of important goals:

1. We are encouraging good self-esteem in the children. When children see that we trust them enough for them to create at their own level PLUS they can tell which project is theirs among many, this makes them feel good about themselves. Everyone knows that children who feel good about themselves function at a higher level and feel more confident in any task they may take on.
2. We are encouraging **thinking and problem solving skills**. As children learn to create on their own with very subtle guidance from teachers, they are learning to think for themselves. Even a young child who has to decide what to do with collage materials is making beginning choices that will only encourage more advanced choices and learning as s/he grows.
3. We are also allowing for release of energy, tension and creative expression through real art and not copycat art.

If you would like a few tips on how to respond to your child's new artwork, we can suggest the following two good ways: 1) ask your child to tell you how it was made or 2) comment on an attribute of the project or painting, etc. Ex: "Oh, I see you used a lot of red"; "You used a lot of wavy lines here," etc. Look hard at the piece of artwork and you will see many things to comment on, which, in turn, makes the artwork seem very important in your eyes to your child.

**Thank you very much
for purchasing this Guide to Educational Arts &
Crafts.**

I would love to hear from you.

I would love to hear about the changes you have made, how the children reacted to this way of crafts and if you yourself come up with any new twists, I would love to include your ideas in future editions.

You can reach me at:

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(pronounced Fay-gee with a hard g)