

INEXPENSIVE PLAY IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

INDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITIES



Junk Art

All sorts of natural and everyday objects can be put to good use as materials for junk art. Try paper plates, plastic containers, twigs, used match sticks, egg boxes. Provide paints, felt-tips, crayons and glitter so your children can decorate their artworks.

Cardboard Boxes

Given the chance, children will turn these into all sorts of things – a pirate ship, a shop, a puppet theatre – you name it! Let them paint and decorate their creation if they wish.

A Bus of Your Own

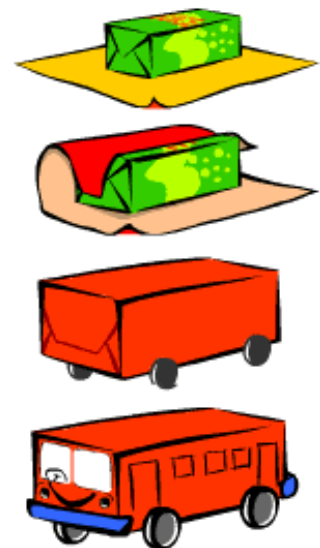
Shiny vehicles on a shop shelf are inviting, but how about making a shiny red bus, much like the ones you see on the roads. What's more, you can give a new life to things that are being readied for the dustbin at this very instant!

The things you need:

1. Empty juice carton
2. Felt paper (any colour of your choice)
3. Black marker pen or pen
4. Four bottle caps
5. Glue
6. Cardboard

Step 1: Paint the four bottle caps to make the wheels for your bus.

Step 2: Cut the felt paper to cover the entire outer part of



the juice carton. Stick the paper with glue.

Step 3: Now, using the marker, draw the details of a bus - windows, door, windshield, etc. Give your bus the design you want!

Step 4: Attach the four 'wheels' on both sides of the carton, using glue.

Step 5: To make a bumper, take a strip of cardboard, painted black around 1 cm wide, and measure its length according to the width of the front portion of the bus. Colour it and stick it in front.

You are now the proud owner of a bus!

Making Music

If you are interested in making music, why not start by making a music instrument from things easily available at home?



The things you need:

1. An empty toothpaste pack
2. Three rubber bands
3. A sheet of coloured paper
4. Glue
5. A blade or paper cutter



Step 1: Cover the entire pack with a coloured paper. Use glue to stick the paper.

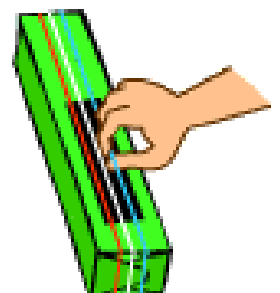
Step 2: Draw a rectangle of 1 inch x 2 inches on the upper side of the pack. The rectangle should be in the middle of the pack.

Step 3: Cut out this rectangle with a blade or a paper cutter.



Step 4: Take the rubber bands and place them around the pack, along the length. They are the strings of your musical instrument. Pluck the strings and hear the sound! Also decorate the instrument the way you want to.

Your tango is ready to be played. The rectangular hollow in the middle of the instrument will ensure that any sound you create by plucking the strings, will enhance the sound. Now all you



have to do is get ready with a song. And let the music say the rest!

Shaker

Do you want to belt out a song, but need an instrument that will keep the rhythm and add to the effect? Why don't you try making a 'shaker' that will do the trick?

Just remember, you will be making a valuable addition to the range of percussion instruments that are used for their rhythm and the texture of their sound - like the maraca (a rattle like instrument in the shape of a gourd, that contains dried seeds, pebbles or lead shots).

So what are you waiting for!

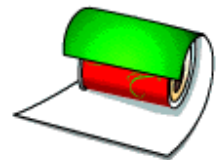
The things you need:

1. An empty soft drink can
2. A few pebbles
3. Coloured paper
4. Marker



Step 1: Put the pebbles inside the can.

Step 2: Cover the opening of the can by sticking a piece of chart paper across it.



Step 3: Take coloured paper of a size that is enough to cover the entire can. Stick it over the can with glue.

Step 4: Decorate the can the way you want to. You can draw flowers, cartoons, faces or whatever catches your fancy.

Try your hand at making shakers of different types. With paper plates, for instance. Place pebbles in a paper plate. Cover this with another plate. Now, stick them together with glue. Add decorations with felt pens or markers.

Perhaps you can think of more ideas to make type of shaker.

Your shakers are ready for the music!



your

Paper Lanterns

Paper is one thing that can be used for a variety of purposes - crafts, packaging, storage, stationery...the uses are countless. Here is one of the things that you can make.



The things you need:

1. Chart paper
2. Scissors
3. Adhesive

Step 1: Take the chartpaper and cut it into a rectangular piece (12 inches x 6 inches).

Step 2: Fold the paper lengthwise into half.



Step 3: With the help of a scissor make slits all along the length from the folded side.

Stick the opposite widths of the paper.

Step 4: Cut a strip (1 inch x 8 inch) from the remaining chart paper. Stick the two ends of the strip to the cylindrical lamp to make the handle. Colour or decorate it the way you like.

The lamp shade is ready to adorn your house. To light the bulb, just extend the electrical wire with a socket to the place where you are going to hang the lamp shade. Fix a bulb and put the switch on.



Sock Puppets

Take out those old socks that have been lying in your cupboard. With these puppets you can actually hold a puppet show for your friends and family.

The things you need:

1. Old sock
2. A needle and thread
3. Poster colours
4. Brush
5. Red coloured paper



Step 1: Put your hand inside the sock, take hold of a part of the front of the sock and pull it in. While still holding the front part, turn the sock completely inside out.

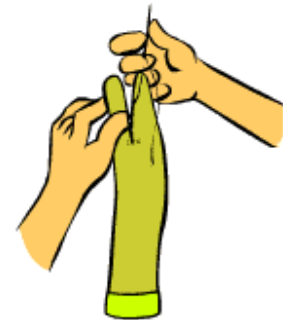
Step 2: Use the needle and thread to sew that part of the that you are holding. Now turn the sock out again.



Step 3: The sewn part of the sock forms the mouth of the puppet. You can open and close the mouth with your hand.



Step 4: Cut the red paper in the shape of a tongue and s to the edge of the mouth. Use poster colours to draw eye nose and other facial features above the mouth.



Your puppet is ready. You can introduce your new friend friends.

With your imagination and creativity, you can make lots c interesting characters for the show. All you need to do nc to comb through your wardrobe for worn and torn socks.

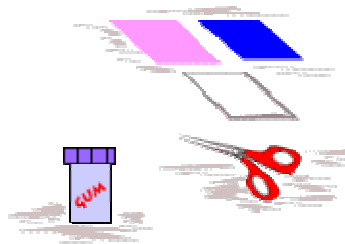


Shape Puzzle

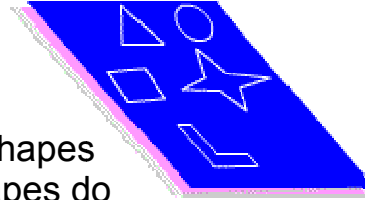
If there is a party in your house then you can make a game yourself and play it with everyone.

The things you need:

1. Coloured paper (Any two colours).
2. Adhesive.
3. Scissors.
4. White card sheet.

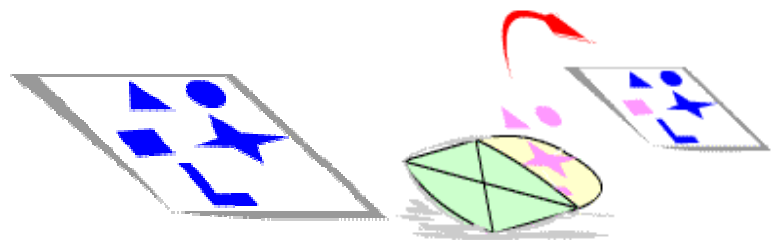


Step 1 Take the two sheets of different colours (blue and pink). Place them on top of each other and cut out at least 15 shapes. You can make any shape: triangle, square, T-shape or even a tree shape. Try to make the shapes as different as possible.



Step 2 Take a white card sheet. Stick all the shapes of one colour (blue) on this sheet. If all the shapes do not fit on one sheet then use another one.

Step 3 Keep the shapes of the other colour (pink) in an envelope.



Now you are ready with the game.

Take out the shapes from the envelope and see how fast you

can match them with the shapes on the card sheet. Paste the shapes in order to avoid confusion.

Source : www.pitara.com/activities/craft/online

Make your Own Christmas Presents

Potato printing:

You need fabric paint, a cotton surface to print on, potatoes, pastry cutters or a knife and plenty of newspaper.

Cut a potato in half lengthways. Cut a simple shape, such as a fish or star, with a knife, or use biscuit cutters (this way children can cut their own - and with decent results). Dry the potato with kitchen paper. Spread fabric paint on a plate and place the stamp firmly in. Place some old newspaper under the piece of fabric you're printing on, making sure that if you're printing on a bag or T-shirt you place paper between the layers of fabric. Stamp the fabric, pressing down firmly for a few seconds. Wait for the paints to dry thoroughly, then iron on a very hot setting to set the paints and make it washable.

Colourful Coffee Filter Snowflakes

Materials (coffee filters, markers, newspaper, scissors)

- Round coffee filters are easiest for the younger children. Any shape works with older kids.
- Colour with markers. Any shapes, any design, any amount.
- Plan to experiment with the first ones until the children can see how they turn out.
- When finished colouring, move the snowflakes onto newspaper and spray with water. The children can flick drops of water on them, ring a wet wash cloth over them, anything to get water onto the coloured filters.
- They dry fast and are very sturdy-they don't fall apart.
- Fold at least three times, and then cut out shapes for the snowflake.

Paper Snowflakes

Materials - (paper, scissors, glitter - optional)

1. Start with any square piece of paper. If you are using a standard sheet of paper, take a bottom corner and diagonal fold it across to the opposite side of the page. Cut off the 2.5 inch strip at the top of the page to create an 8.5 x 8.5 sheet of paper. Fold it in half. Fold it in half again creating a smaller square.
2. One corner will be all folds, the other three corners will have some open edges. Finding the fold corner is key to making a snowflake.
3. Turn the paper so that the fold corner is at the bottom. Fold the corner on the right side over to the left side. You should now have a long, triangular paper, with the fold corner still at the bottom.
4. Depending on the thickness of the paper, and the children's skill with scissors, now may be when you start cutting out the snowflakes. Older children can continue folding the sides together to get narrower pieces of paper.
5. Cut off the tip opposite the fold corner. It can be point or rounded depending on the shape you want for your snowflake points.
6. Continue cutting out bits of the snowflake, but be sure to keep intact enough of the fold lines running out from the fold corner.
7. Open up your snowflake when you are finished cutting.
8. Use glitter glue to decorate it if you want.

Egg Carton Caterpillar

You'll need:

- The bottom of an egg carton (top removed)
- A pipe cleaner
- non-toxic paint

To Make:

- Take an egg carton and carefully rip the top off. Then carefully rip the bottom part in half so you have two different pieces for two caterpillars.
- Turn one half of the egg carton over so the "bumpy" pieces are on top.
- Have the kids paint their caterpillar with non-toxic paints. Don't forget to have your kids paint eyes in the front.
- Cut a pipe cleaner in half and tape or staple each piece to the top of the egg carton for antennas.

Snowman Bookmark

You will need:

- Blue card
- White paint
- Black pen
- A selection of other coloured pens
- Hole punch
- Thin coloured cord or embroidery silk to make a small tassel

Cut a rectangle 15cm x 5cm out of the blue card,

With the white paint and using a thumb print for the body and a finger print for the head, print several snowmen down the card. The number you can print will depend on the size of the child's fingers. Leave the snowmen prints to dry.

Using a black pen add a hat, some eyes and buttons. Then add noses; these can be orange as shown to represent an orange or a carrot and then add some scarves in the colours of your choice.

To complete the bookmark, punch a hole at the bottom and add a tassel.

Make the tassel by cutting five 12cm lengths of coloured cord or embroidery silk. Fold the lengths in half by looping them over your finger, then push the looped ends through the small hole on the bookmark from the front to the back. Allow enough to pull the loose end through the loop and tighten up like a tying a tie.



If you have access to a laminator the bookmarks can be laminated to make them more durable. This obviously needs to be done before you punch the hole. Once laminated, trim round leaving a small overlap so that they are completely sealed and finish off as above.