



Art & Literacy

Art Activities

You can use household objects to create art. Remember that the important thing is to talk about the art you're creating. Use open-ended questions to spark discussion with your child about their creations:

- What materials are you using?
- What is this picture of?
- Why did you choose to use that color?
- Why did you choose to draw that?
- Tell me about the texture of those materials.

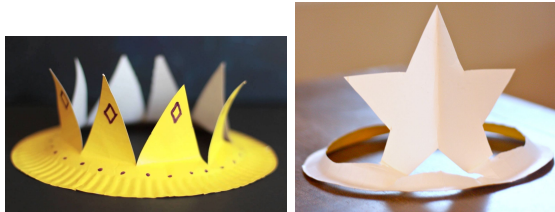
Popsicle Stick Crafts



Toilet Paper Roll Crafts



Paper Plate Hats



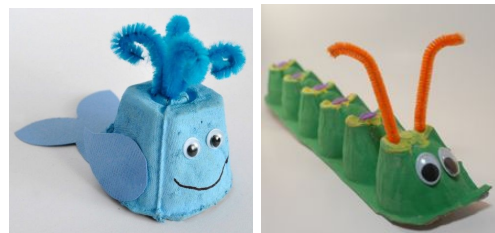
Bottle Cap Crafts



Paper Plate Masks



Egg Carton Animals



Paper Cup Animals



Mosaics from Magazines





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Make Your Own Play-Dough

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- Food coloring
- Mix all ingredients except food coloring in a large pot. Heat on the stove, stirring continuously. After about two minutes, the dough will thicken. Remove the dough and allow it to cool. Knead it like bread a few times. Then, add food coloring.

Music and Dance Activities

Music and dance are hugely beneficial for children. Encourage your children to interact with music, and to dance to the rhythm! Talk to your children about the music and ask open-ended questions.

- Ask your child to close their eyes and describe what the music makes them see, feel, or imagine.
- Do Cha Cha Slide, Cupid Shuffle, Macarena, Chicken Dance, or other songs that tell kids how to dance.
- Play YouTube videos of dance sequences and learn the dances together.
- While watching television or movies, talk about how the music sets the mood.
- Ask open-ended questions about music:
 - What does this song make you feel?
 - Is this a happy song or a sad song? Why?
 - Does this song make you want to dance? Why or why not?
 - Describe the music. What do you hear?
 - What instruments do you hear in the music?
 - What does this music make you think of?



Dramatic Play Activities

For children, dramatic play is a gateway to creativity and storytelling. Encourage your child to play make-believe and dress-up. Give them props, including printed materials, to incorporate into their play.

- Ask your children to act out a story they love.
- Make hats, costumes, or masks to represent a story they know well.
- Take your children to a second-hand store, or ask relatives for donations, to create a dress-up closet.
- Give your children props of printed material to incorporate into their play.
- Play charades, taking turns acting out different words, ideas, actions, or objects.
- Ask open-ended questions about dramatic play:
 - Who are you dressed up as?
 - Who is your favorite character and why?
 - Tell me about the outfit you chose.
 - What other props are you using in your play?
 - Can you show me a happy/sad/angry face?

