

Sweet Baby

Materials: flannel or soft material (1/2 yard),
fiberfill (3 handfuls), ribbon (1/2
yard), buttons, yarn, marker

Directions: Cut an 18" square out of the fabric. Make a round ball out of the fiberfill about the size of your fist and put it in the middle. Wrap the fabric around the ball to make a head for your baby and secure with a ribbon. Take one corner of the fabric and knot it to make a hand. Take another corner and knot it to make the other hand.

Sew on button eyes, yarn hair, and draw on a mouth if you wish.

Sock Puppet

Materials: old socks
yarn, buttons, fabric pens,
felt scraps, pom poms, craft glue,
scissors

Directions: Stick your hand in the sock and wiggle it around. What could it be? A boy or girl? A dog or cat? Maybe an elephant or monster? Use the yarn and felt to make hair, ears, noses, and other features.

Hint! Encourage children to think of names for their sock puppets. Can they use their puppets to sing a song or tell a story?

Flannel Board

Materials: file folder, 9" x 12" piece of felt, craft glue, stapler, felt scraps

Directions: Staple the two sides of the file folder together. Glue the piece of felt to the front. Cut geometric shapes, animals, and other figures from the felt scraps. Place inside the file folder pocket. Children can remove the felt pieces to create pictures and tell stories.

Hint! You can also attach Velcro to the back of photos and use them on the flannel board.

Art Easel

Materials: corrugated cardboard, contact paper, duct tape, string, spring clothespins

Directions: Cut two rectangles 20" x 14" from the corrugated cardboard. Cover with contact paper and attach at the top with duct tape. Punch holes in the sides and tie on string. Stand up on a table and use clothespins to hold paper. Let children paint with water colors, paints, markers, etc.

Hint! Place on a picnic table for outdoor fun.

Let's Have a Paper Plate Party!

Materials: paper plates, music

Directions: Put on some music and here we go!

- *Clap the plates like cymbals.**
- *Shuffle them to the beat.**
- *Tap on the hips, shoulders, and other body parts.**
- *Clap high, low, in front of you, behind.**
- *Play "follow the leader" as you take turns doing movements with the plates.**
- *Place the paper plates on the floor. Put one foot on each plate and slide feet and skate.**

Can you skate backwards?

Can you balance on one foot?

Magic Wand

Materials: aluminum foil, cardboard roller from a pants hanger, glue, glitter, tape

Directions: Take a sheet of foil and lay it diagonally on the table. Place the cardboard roller on one point and slowly roll it in the foil towards the opposite point. Tape the end of the foil and trim the ends. Dip one end of the wand in glue, then roll it in glitter.

Taa daa!

Children can use their wands to make a wish.

Cardboard Rollers

Materials: cardboard rollers from paper towel rolls, music

Directions: *Give children two rollers to use like drumsticks. Play some music and keep the beat on the floor or table.

*Tap them like lummi sticks with a friend.

*Use the cardboard roller like a spy glass.

Do you see something blue? Can you find a square?

Hint! Let children decorate paper towel rolls with markers or crayons. They can “roll up” their papers and insert them in the paper towel tote to carry them home!

Magazine Puppets

Materials: magazines, newspaper, scissors, straws, stapler or tape

Directions: Cut sports figures and other famous people out of newspapers or magazines. Staple or tape to a straw to make a puppet. What would your puppet say if it could talk?

Hint! Children can also cut people that look like family members from catalogs to make puppets.

Cut out children’s photos and tape to a craft stick to make “personal puppets.”

Box Top Puzzles

Materials: empty cardboard food boxes,
clasp envelope, scissors

Directions: Cut the fronts off the boxes. Cut into 2-10 puzzle pieces depending on the ability of the child. Store the pieces in a clasp envelope.

Hint! If you have two like boxes, you can cut one into a puzzle and let the children match up the pieces on top of the other box.

Introduce fractions with box tops.
Cut one in half, one into fourths, one into eighths, etc.

Sewing Cards

Materials: empty cereal boxes, yarn or string, hole punch, tape

Directions: Cut the fronts off the boxes. Hole punch around the sides. Tie one end of the yarn to a hole in the box. Wrap tape around the other end to make a needle.

Hint! Cut a pipe cleaner in half and twist it around the yarn to make a needle.

Sewing cards can also be made from paper plates or plastic place mats

Wonder Watchers

Materials: cardboard roller from paper towels,
tape, string, hole punch, markers

Directions: Cut the paper towel roll in half. Tape together. Punch a hole on the side of each roller. Tie on a piece of string so it can easily be slipped on and off the head. Let children decorate with markers. Look out the window or take a walk and look at all the wonders in world!

Hint! You can also cover the ends of the rollers with colored cellophane.

Hummers

Materials: cardboard roller, wax paper,
rubber band, markers

Directions: You will need a 5" section of a cardboard roller. Cut a 7" circle from the wax paper and wrap it around one end of the roller with the rubber band. Decorate with markers. Hold the open end to your mouth and hum.

Hint! Play "name that tune" as you hum while others try to guess your song

Play Dough

Materials: 2 cups all purpose flour
 1 cup salt
 2 TB. cream of tartar
 2 TB. vegetable oil
 2 cups water
 food coloring

Directions: Mix all the ingredients together in a pan and stir until smooth. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until the mixture forms a ball and sticks to the spoon. Cool and knead. Store in plastic bags or covered containers.

Play on with Play Dough!

***Add oil of mint or other extracts to play dough to give it a fragrance. (Pumpkin pie spices are fun in orange play dough at Halloween. Cocoa can be kneaded into uncolored dough at Valentine's to make chocolate dough.)**

***Use 2 TB baby oil or massage oil in place of the vegetable oil.**

***Unsweetened Kool-aid mix can be used in lieu of food coloring. The flavor will add a sweet aroma!**

Hint! Have children play with dough and clay on plastic placemats or cookie sheets. Add scissors, cookie cutters, play dishes, birthday candles, and other cooking props.

Goop

Materials: 1 cup cornstarch
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water

Directions: Place 1 cup cornstarch in a bowl. Slowly stir in enough water ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup) to make a thick liquid. Hold the goop in your hand, then turn your hand over and let it run back into the bowl.

How is it like a liquid? How is it like a solid?

Hint! You can add a few drops of food coloring to your goop if you wish.

Flubber

Materials: 2 cups white glue
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water, food coloring
2 level tsp. Borax soap
1 cup hot water

Directions: Combine the glue, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water, and food coloring. Set aside. In another large bowl, dissolve the Borax in the cup of hot water. Slowly stir the glue mixture into the Borax. It will coagulate and be difficult to mix. Pour off the excess water; then let it sit for several minutes. Drain off the remaining water. Store flubber covered in the refrigerator when it is not being used.

Note! Borax is toxic and needs to be supervised with young children.

Giant Bubbles

Materials: 2 cups dish detergent (Joy works best!), $\frac{1}{4}$ cup glycerine (You can purchase glycerine at your local pharmacy.), 10 cups water

Directions: Mix the ingredients in a large pan or pail. Allow the mixture to sit at room temperature for one hour. Blow bubbles with fly swatters, plastic rings from drink cans, or berry baskets.

Hint! Make a giant bubble wand out of a straw cut in half. Thread an 18" piece of string through the straws and knot ends. Holding a straw in each hand, dip in the bubble solution, then slowly pull the straws through the air.

Mud Pies

Materials: dirt, flour, water, old bowl and spoon

Directions: Mix 4 parts dirt with 1 part flour.
Add enough water so it will mold. Dry in the sun.

Hint! Decorate with sticks, leaves, seeds, and other natural objects.

*You can make dough for sand castles by mixing 4 cups of sand, 2 cups of water, and 2 cups of cornstarch in a large pan. (Make sure to use an old pan as the sand will scratch it.) Heat on low stirring constantly until the mixture thickens. Set aside to cool. Mold into sand castles or other shapes and dry.

Shaving Cream Painting

Materials: shaving cream (non-menthol)

Directions: Squirt a pile of shaving cream on a non-wood surface and let the children squish and play.

Hint! This is a great way to clean up tables and desks!

You can also finger paint with pudding or yogurt on a sheet of wax paper. Lick 'em to clean up!

Silly Putty

Materials: white glue
liquid starch

Directions: Use two parts glue to one part liquid starch. Pour starch into the glue a little at a time. Mix well. Add more starch if needed so mixture is not sticky. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Hint! Add food coloring if you desire.