



Table of contents



Introduction	5	Face painting	48
How to use this book	7	Straw paintings	50
Fun ways to display art	8	Fish painting	52
Safety first	9	Kitchen arts and crafts	54
Drawing, cutting and pasting	10	Kid kit	55
Kid kit	11	Pasta-perfect door name plates	56
Decorated lunch bags	12	Pasta plates	58
ABC cut and glue pictures	14	Coffee tin drum	60
Life-size self-portrait	16	Flower faces	62
My family picture book	18	Coffee tin shaker	64
Magazine match	20	Pretty pasta jewellery	66
Magazine mural	22	Rice and bean houses	68
Chalk drawing	24	Birthday arts and crafts	70
Glue it myself cherry tree	26	Kid kit	71
Colouring flag	28	Paper birthday cake game	72
Holiday calendar	30	Birthday wrapping paper	74
Paper plate caterpillar	32	Picture jigsaw puzzles	76
Painting	34	Paper plate hat	78
Kid kit	35	Birthday plates, tablecloth and napkins	80
Finger painting fun	36	Shoe box mailbox	82
Deep blue sea picture	38	Tissue paper covered lolly jars	84
Painting my face	40	Creep crawler	86
Painted candle holders	42	Summer clothes dress-up dolls	88
Painted object	44	Costume masks	90
Fabric painted pillow case	46		



Table of contents (cont.)



Clay and building materials	92	Christmas arts and crafts	130
Kid kit	93	Kid kit	131
Famous footprints	94	Christmas card mural	132
Heart-shaped handprints	96	Christmas party plates	134
Clay or dough shapes	98	Christmas wrapping paper	136
Clay or dough bakery	100	Christmas greeting cards	138
Beautiful beads	102	Easter arts and crafts	140
Dough faces	104	Kid kit	141
Clay snakes	106	Coloured Easter eggs	142
Outdoor arts and crafts	108	Egg shell pictures	144
Kid kit	109	Cotton bunnies	146
Leaf rubbings	110	Homemade paint and salt	
Potpourri	112	dough recipes	148
Flower arrangement centerpiece	114		
Nature picture	116		
Shell picture frame	118		
Rock faces	120		
Sand pictures	122		
Water paintings	124		
Flower baskets	126		
Kites	128		



Introduction

Arts and crafts at home with your preschooler

Preschool Arts and Crafts is a 148-page book filled with poetry and fun ideas for arts and crafts activities. It was created for parents to use with their preschool children.

This book includes many types of projects that will appeal to preschoolers because young children love colouring and making arts and crafts projects. In addition, it provides them with opportunities to feel successful as they learn that there are many things they can do without your help.

Although these projects were compiled for children and parents, they can easily be adapted for the classroom. Teachers need only multiply the amount of materials by the number of students participating to have a new resource for arts and crafts activities that can be integrated into thematic units.

The activities in this book make use of materials that are easily obtained. Most of the items you probably already have in your home. Any items that you need to buy can be found in supermarkets, art and craft or teacher supply shops. Recycling can provide many of the items. For example, consider cleaning and saving a variety of empty food containers for future projects. In addition, some projects require materials that are found in nature. It is important to stress to children that they should collect natural things without harming the environment.

Expectations

You may be tempted to do things yourself, but be patient and remember that these are your child's creations. Contribute only what is necessary for your child to proceed, and be ready to rave about the results – no matter what they look like! Enjoy this creative time with your child.

Experts in the field of early childhood education favour 'self-directed activities'. This means that they feel it is very important for young children to be able to do things for themselves. As you let your child become more self-directed, keep in mind the following:

- The arts and crafts experiences will not always go as planned. In fact, this book is designed to allow children to explore their own ideas.
- Sometimes there will be a mess to clean up. Invite your child to help you clean up and put away materials.
- Your child might get frustrated and need some additional help and guidance from you.
- You will need to prepare ahead of time. See 'How to use this book' (page 7) for preparation suggestions.
- You will need to be available to help your child. Although this book was designed to provide the kinds of activities that preschoolers can do by themselves, you should never leave your child unsupervised. It is essential that you are there to ensure safety, give help when needed and provide encouragement.
- As your child has more practice doing arts and crafts, their skill level will increase dramatically in some areas.
- Be sure to listen to your child's preferences for the types of activities they enjoy most.



How to use this book



Kid kits

Before using the projects in this book, look at each section and the corresponding 'Kid kit' page. This page will help you prepare for a specific kind of activity so that you have a whole set of arts and crafts experiences at your fingertips ready for your child to explore.

Organising the Kid kits

When you are attempting to do arts and crafts projects at home with your preschooler, it often seems exhausting before you even start. This is why the ideas in this book all fit into a Kid kit format.

The arts and crafts experiences have been divided into sections for which you put together a Kid kit. In this kit, you should place all of the materials needed for the section with the exception of those that can spoil or that are unusual. This way you will only have to prepare once for each section. You may wish to include other materials in the kit that relate to each section for activities that you devise for your child.

Your completed Kid kits can be stored and used again and again. In addition, these kits provide you with a place to put everything away, a vital part of doing arts and crafts with a preschooler.

Preparing the Kid kits

For your kits, use large cardboard boxes with lids, such as those used for storing files or copier paper. Other options include large rectangular laundry baskets with lids or large plastic containers that can be found in the storage or housewares section of home improvement or hardware stores. Make sure each box can be labelled and that the lid can be placed securely on it.

Materials for the Kid kits

Look through the book and decide which kits you are interested in putting together first. For a number of them, you may have many or most of the materials on hand. For some, you may need to make, recycle or buy things.

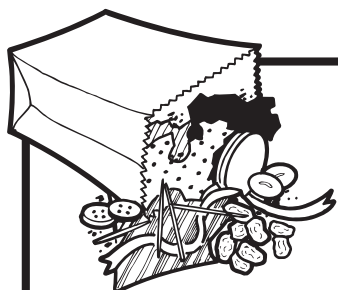
Look at the activities that are included in each section and find the ones that you know will appeal to your child the most, based on their skill level and interests. Then put the kit together. You may wish to reproduce the kit list and tape it to the lid of the box. This way you can easily determine what belongs in the kit and see that those materials are replaced after each use.

Once you have the kit put together, you do not have to run around doing everything for your child so they can have an arts and crafts experience. You are free to facilitate the activities and let your child complete them in a much more self-directed way.

Storing the Kid kits

Clean out an upper shelf of a wardrobe for kit storage. Make sure that you supervise the use of each kit with your preschooler. An upper shelf is a perfect place to keep the kits out of the way until you are ready to use one with your child.

Kid kit



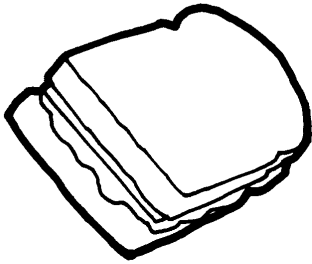
large plastic or cardboard box with lid
crayons
non-toxic, water-washable textas
large and standard size construction paper
butcher's paper
white paper
poster board
scissors (safety and adult)
stapler with staples (for adult use only)
old magazines
non-toxic glue
lunch-size brown paper bags

three-ring binder (notebook)
pie tins or other sturdy containers
chalk in a variety of colours
wool
fabric remnants
three-hole punch (or three-holed paper without lines)
large tipped non-toxic texta
plastic tablecloth (to cover work area)
icy-pole sticks

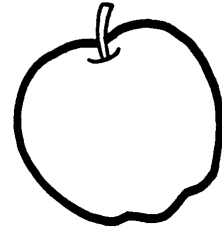




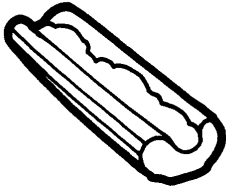
Decorated lunch bags



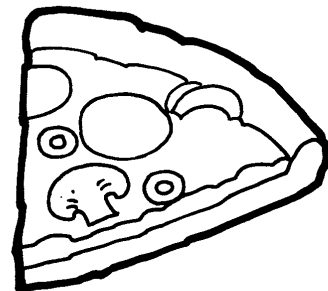
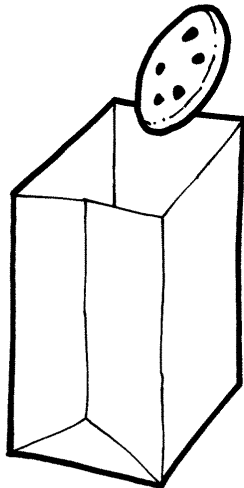
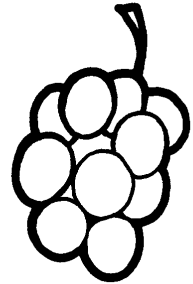
My lunch bag



I look inside my lunch bag.
I wonder what I'll see,
What did mummy pack me?
I wonder what it will be.



It might be a sandwich,
Some fruit and a special treat.
I wonder what's inside my bag.
I just can't wait to eat!





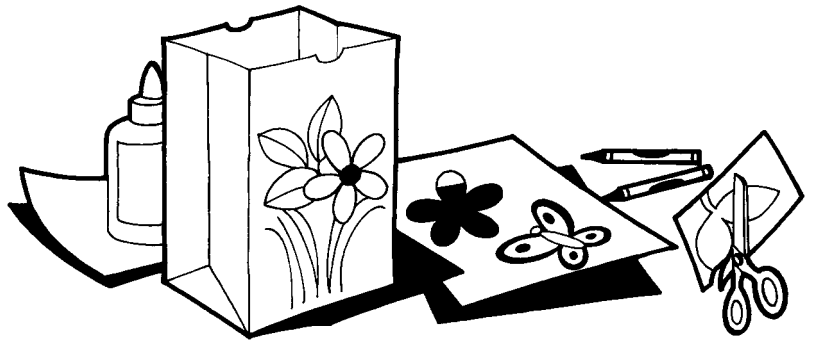
Decorated lunch bags



Ready!

You will need:

- lunch-size brown paper bags
- crayons or textas
- construction paper
- safety scissors
- non-toxic glue



Set, go!

1. This activity is an easy one that every child will love. All that is needed are crayons and brown paper bags and your child can decorate their own bags for lunch or a snack. Make it a weekend activity to create bags for the following week.
2. Suggest that your child draw pictures of the family, flowers, shapes, dots, lines or anything else that they would like.
3. Another idea is to provide scissors, construction paper and non-toxic glue for your child to cut and paste shapes and designs on the bags.

Remember!

- This is an activity that can be used almost anytime and anywhere. Something that makes it extra special is that children can really use the bags for their own preschool snacks or school lunches.
- Another idea is to add ribbons and bows to the coloured and decorated bags and use them for wrapping small gifts.