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Arts & Crafts to Improve Your Childs Learning

By Michiel Van Kets

Making a craft of any particular form is the way an individual can show creativity in what they are doing. Often you will find that when crafts are made there is a specific purpose in mind, perhaps Christmas or Birthday presents, or just a simple thank you to a friend or relative. Many arts can be inexpensive and the real purpose behind the craft regardless of whether it is practical or for display is to offer something you have created by hand to a person who you think will appreciate the receiving of said craft.

A simple definition of crafts is a project that requires a step by step process to reach the required result. There are a multitude of forms of arts and crafts from paper folding, knitting, sewing, crocheting, beading or painting, the end result is the vision the creator had from the outset. There are many more different forms than these but this gives you an idea on what a craft can be considered. Crafts can give to children great assistance with creative skills allowing the children to learn from something they do and use their own creativity in producing a desired result.

Many crafts of course will require the initial purpose of the items involved, whether you are knitting and require knitting needles, wool and a pattern, or whether you are creating a collage requiring a base board, glue and materials for the collage. Some types of crafts of course will be more expensive to create than others but again this all depends on the purpose of creating the item and the intended recipient for which the craft is made.

You will find that there are many places you can purchase items for craft making, almost all malls or shopping centers will have a craft store of some sort where you can purchase most of the required items you will need. This does of course depending on the project you have in mind. The best way to start out is to use as much of your home materials as you can perhaps starting with a collage or similar and then lead on to further more creative and complex crafts as you see your children becoming more competent. There are many inexpensive options such as cutting up old magazines and perhaps the purchase of glue, beads and glitter etc that you can use for your initial projects and then your child will probably give you ideas on what form of craft they might want to proceed to next.

When you have the opportunity perhaps to work on crafts with your children you will find that while the event itself is fulfilling your children also improve their interaction skills and their creativity can begin to flourish. You may even discover your child is very artistic in one field or another. Add to that the sense

of accomplishment your child will feel at completion of a task and you are on to a win-win situation.

Not only do you get to spend more time with your child but you find you will open avenues for discussion of every day events and you may find that you yourself enjoy the process just as much as it is benefiting your child. Not to mention the desired craft at the end of your endeavors.

When creating craft items this will improve the thinking and problem solving skills of your children as they themselves think of perhaps alternative crafts for your next project as well as ways to make your current project more eye catching or even more useful to your intended recipient. Making items also allows them to make small decisions of their own in the artistic content of whatever it may be you are creating which in turn gives them confidence and the ability to feel they have the ability to perhaps master larger tasks.

Building the self esteem and confidence in a child is a process learned over time and using crafts as a tool for your child to take part in the entire process and see the results is a great step in assisting in this area of your Childs growth. Make sure that your child is involved in the entire process from what the craft will be or how it will eventually look and give them the freedom to express their creativity. You will only reap benefits in time spent with your children and their opportunities to learn.

Michiel Van Kets writes for <http://www.abso-bloody-lutely.com/> abso-bloody-lutely, an <http://www.abso-bloody-lutely.com/Art/Crafts/> Arts & Crafts web directory. He runs a SEO company which is specialized in link building, among them a directory submission service, which is obviously why he started a directory himself; to learn the other side of the concept. The directory is carefully maintained at a high level of quality.

Arts and Crafts For Kids in Daycares & Schools

By Chris Peace

Although most parents are the ones who provide their children with the arts and crafts for kids, there are other places where these useful tools can also be found. For example, children may get some valuable time with these tools at the babysitter's house or in kindergarten. If you are running any type of facility for children whether you're watching them for parents or educating them or both, you should definitely consider adding more arts and crafts for kids. Below are several great reasons to make this change.

Boredom Free

One thing you never want when you're working with children is for them to become bored. That's when the trouble starts. Of course, you also don't want them to be running around a playground or sitting in front of a television all day either. By giving them arts and crafts for kids you can provide both mental and physical stimulation in one package. You can have complete control of the arts and crafts for kids they receive so you can take precautions to keep your home or facility from being destroyed by paint or markers (colored pencils are a good alternative).

At the end of the day, the children can return to their parents with some nice artwork or finished craft projects which makes everyone happy.

Learning Potential

While most people think arts and crafts for kids are all about fun, they can also be very useful for real learning. For example, if you give each child a handy sketchbook and some colored pencils you could end up with the tools for learning. Here's an example. If you want to work on the alphabet, draw a letter on a whiteboard where all of the kids can see it. Don't say the letter but ask all of the kids to draw a picture of a thing that starts with that letter. If you had an S on the board, for instance, the kids might draw a snake or a stereo.

Another idea for a learning activity using arts and crafts for kids is to ask the children to create a visual interpretation of a math problem. For example, if you want the kids to find the answer to "2 + 2" then have them draw a picture to help them. The child might draw two ice cream cones and two dogs then can count the pictures and know the answer is four.

Alternative Activities

Having arts and crafts for kids is also a good idea if you want to make alternative activities for some kids. Not all children will want to do the same things at the same time. For example, some kids may want to watch a DVD before nap time, other children may want to play games, but some prefer quiet time alone. Having arts and crafts for kids is a good way to meet the needs of multiple kids at the same time.

Meeting the Needs of Children

Having arts and crafts for kids at home, at care facilities, and at schools is an important way to

encourage creativity in children and to inspire good behavior.

Smalltime Child offers a great selection of arts and crafts for kids in addition to Toddler Toys. Check us out on the web at <http://www.smalltimechild.com>

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