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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.

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Using Arts and Crafts For Kids to Encourage Creativity

By Chris Peace

Children can benefit greatly from their own creativity. While some people mistakenly classify creativity as the possession of specific types of skills related to artistic expression, that's only part of what the term comprises. Creative people typically are better problem solvers because they are able to seek out unique approaches and solutions that others may not recognize. This can be a useful skill for any career, for their education, and for their future. To help children reap these rewards, parents can use arts and crafts for kids and other efforts to encourage creativity.

Encourage Free Creative Exploration

Handing over arts and crafts for kids is just part of the process. If you're standing over your children and passing judgment on their results, they are not going to feel comfortable with their creativity. Children will eventually develop the ability to evaluate their own work and others' work but now is the time for them to feel relaxed and free to use arts and crafts for kids as they see fit.

When children are given an environment that makes them feel free to be creative, they are going to open up their imagination and produce their best results.

Adapt to the Child's Ideas

In many classrooms, kids are being reprimanded when their creative vision does not match the vision of the teacher. When you're giving arts and crafts for kids to your children, you should make sure not to stifle their ideas or to force those ideas to conform to your own. For example, if the child draws a picture of the park and uses unusual colors for the trees don't criticize the child's color choice. Instead, begin talking about the choice and give the child freedom to express their creative ideas verbally as well as with arts and crafts for kids.

Encourage Children to Use Creative Problem Solving

Providing arts and crafts for kids is only one part of the process. You should also encourage your children to apply that creativity in other ways. For example, you could present your child with a problem and asked him or her to come up with a creative solution. Remember this requires thinking outside of traditional thought patterns. Not only can this be fun but it's a great extension to what your child is learning from the arts and crafts for kids. It's also a good way to work on creativity together and to express your encouragement for creative thinking.

Look for Schools that Share Your Appreciation for Creativity

If you have a chance to choose your child's pre-school, kindergarten, or even primary school, make sure to look for schools that provide high quality arts and crafts for kids but that also have other methods of using creativity in the daily activities. You also want to work with teachers who share your vision about the importance of creativity and the appreciation for the role arts and crafts for kids can play in your child's future.

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