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## **Preschool Arts And Crafts: Sea Horse Themes And Ideas**

**By Jennifer Houck**

If you are teaching preschool arts and crafts and are looking for a Sea Horse theme, then here are some great ideas that you can use. First of all, children love the ocean and Sea Horses hold a special appeal to most preschoolers because of their unique appearance. If you are fortunate enough to bring live Sea Horses in your classroom, then you can display them in a tank. However, for most preschool teachers, this won't be an option and a more creative approach will be needed to ensure that your preschool arts and crafts Sea Horse theme is a success.

### **Tissue Paper Sea Horse**

For this activity, you will need construction paper Sea Horse cut outs. Simply trace your Sea Horse template or shape on to construction paper then cut them out. For a free Sea Horse template that you may print visit here: <http://www.firstschool.ws/t/cpseahorse.html> Let each child have some pre cut tissue paper and a little cup of Elmer's glue. They can apply the glue with a paintbrush and decorate their Sea Horses with the tissue paper.

### **Underwater Sea Horse Scene**

Here is an activity that you can use to create an underwater scene. This is a great addition for your preschool arts and crafts Sea Horse theme. First, you will need to print out this template of Sea Horses provided by First School. [http://www.firstschool.ws/t/cp\\_animals/sea-horses.html](http://www.firstschool.ws/t/cp_animals/sea-horses.html)

Have the children color the pictures with crayons. After children have finished their scenes, lightly paint over their pictures with blue tempera paint. This will give an underwater appearance to their pictures. As an alternative, you can have the children draw their scenes as well as Sea Horses, then color their pictures with crayons, and cover with the blue Tempera.

### **Sea Horse and Ocean Book for Preschoolers**

For this activity you will need to print two copies of the Sea Horse template on cardstock (this will be the cover of the book). Again, you can find the free template here: <http://www.first-school.ws/t/cpseahorse2.html>. Next, you can add regular blank paper for the inside of the book. Have the children color and decorate the covers. Let the children paste pictures of ocean

animals inside the book.

Jennifer Houck is the owner of the online Parent Center at <http://www.ilovebeingamom.com> to where you can find many more resources and arts/crafts to help in raising in your preschooler.

## 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.

Smalltime Child offers a great selection of arts and crafts for kids in addition to Toddler Toys.&nbsp;

Check us out on the web at <http://www.smalltimechild.com>

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