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Homemade Family Fun

Sandra L. DeGraff

Utah State University Extension

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by
Sandra L. DeGraff



Utah State
UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

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Sandra L. DeGraff

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A major task of childhood is for each individual to find out about the world and to find his or her place in it. Many opportunities to do this present themselves naturally as all children go exploring. Occasionally, situations need to be created or enriched by parents and teachers involved in fostering the learning process.



Art and related activities can be an invaluable asset. These activities can develop the hand and arm muscles and improve the coordination of these muscles and movements with what is said. Intellectual skills, such as patterning, use of color, and a sense of order and planning, are developed. These projects can be something children do by themselves or with others. Either way, they are endeavors that give children a sense of accomplishment, increase their self-esteem, and challenge them to explore and try new things. With art, children can be creative and always right.

Moments come in every child's life when toys and games are no longer interesting. At these times, boredom can set in, and children become restless, looking for something interesting to do. This often leads to problems with siblings and parents. This booklet has been developed to help parents (and teachers) find materials that are easily obtained and low in cost for creative projects that will be of interest to all children.

When children are provided with a variety of art media to experiment with, they develop the confidence to explore. With increased confidence, children explore more creatively, and become more involved in what they are doing. While the projects in this booklet are not strictly art projects, they are creative in nature and therefore lead to fulfillment. Many of them can be done outside the home as well as inside. Parents and children of all ages will enjoy them, and some are even adaptable to special occasions - such as birthday

parties. It is hoped that these activities will be used as a starting point for your own explorations. Together, you and your children can find even more materials to use and unique ways in which to use them.

Recipes for Family Fun

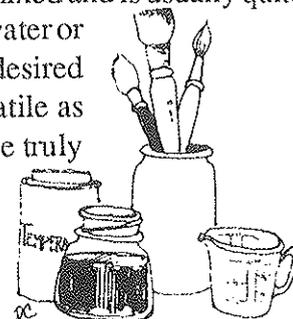
A child once defined imagination as, "Thinking of something you ain't thought of before." This booklet is designed to help you and your children look at the resources of your home in a different way. It doesn't take expensive materials to have fun and make lovely creations - as teachers learned long ago. As you explore the recipes in this booklet, you will be able to find other resources to use that will fit the needs of you and your child. Explore, and have some *Homemade Family Fun!*

PAINT HAS MANY USES

One of the basic ingredients for a wide variety of activities is paint. When using paint, an old shirt serves as an effective smock.

Dry tempera paint is the most versatile paint medium and can easily be stored for a long time. It can be mixed with water in the quantities needed for a project with a minimum amount of waste. The colors can be kept separate and clear, or mixed to make new colors. It washes out of clothing quite easily, although red, yellow, and magenta usually leave some stain. It can be purchased in art stores, variety stores, and some discount stores.

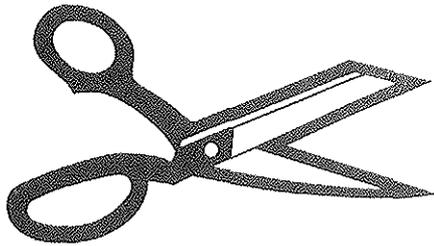
Liquid tempera paint is pre-mixed and is usually quite thick. It can be thinned with water or kept thick depending on the desired effect. Although not as versatile as dry tempera, it can make some truly beautiful colors when mixed. The texturing possibilities are endless. It covers the printing on cardboard. Magenta and yellow usually will leave a stain on clothing.



Dry Painting

dry tempera paint
dry textural materials (rice, corn meal, rock salt, etc.)
glue

Mix a small amount of dry tempera paint with one of the dry textural materials. Spread some glue on a piece of paper (colored construction paper works well), and sprinkle some of the colored textural material on top. By using an assortment of colored and textured materials, a very interesting and lovely picture can be produced. This paint will easily stick to fingers so have a wet cloth handy for cleanup.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PAPER

Many different types of papers can be used for creative projects. Each type lends itself to a particular art activity. No single paper is equally suitable for all activities.

Colored construction paper is one of the most readily available types of paper. It is highly suitable for coloring, cutting, pasting, printing, and some painting projects. It is not suitable for fingerpainting and sewing projects because it shreds and tears too easily. Scraps of construction paper saved from other projects are handy for making collages and other decorative projects.

Newsprint is suitable for painting, coloring, and some pasting projects. This paper can sometimes be purchased in pads. Also, newspaper companies frequently have roll ends which can be obtained at a very reasonable price.

Freezer paper has a glossy side which is excellent for all fingerpainting projects. The dull side can be used

similarly to newsprint. Since it comes on a large roll, this paper lends itself to projects that require a large work area.

Foil, though not a paper, can still be used as such in art projects. It adds a delightful glitter to collages and decorating projects. Since it is malleable, it can be used to cover odd shaped containers - like a liquid detergent bottle for a vase. It can be cut into spirals or molded into other interesting shapes.

Tissue paper is quite thin and almost transparent. It is somewhat limited in its uses, though the wide variety of colors that are available make it excellent for decorating projects.

Crepe paper is another paper somewhat limited in versatility. It is fun, however, to use it for streamers and weaving projects. Crepe paper is a delicate medium, and its colors run when moist. This needs to be taken into consideration when selecting this paper for a project.

Cellophane has recently become available in colors and may be found at book and stationery stores. Since it is transparent, it is a fun medium to use for projects like "stained glass" windows and sunglasses. Glue or paste shows up easily on cellophane so smaller children may not be pleased with using this medium.

Waxed paper can be used in projects where a moderate amount of transparency is desired. It doesn't stick well with glue, but sometimes heat can be applied to make it adhere better.

