



child care
resources
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tip|sheet 

Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

#528

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To access these Tip Sheets, please visit www.childcareresourcesinc.org or call Child Care Search at 704-348-2181 to speak with a Parent Counselor.

**child care
search**

Resource & Referral Service

Mecklenburg County (704) 348-2181

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Rowan County (704) 550-0103

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Creative Art Projects for You and Your 3-4 Year Old

Crayon Shavings & Wax Paper

Ages:

4 and up

Objective:

- To create a transparent colorful design
- To allow a child to see how colors can be mixed to create other colors
- To help develop small muscle control

Materials:

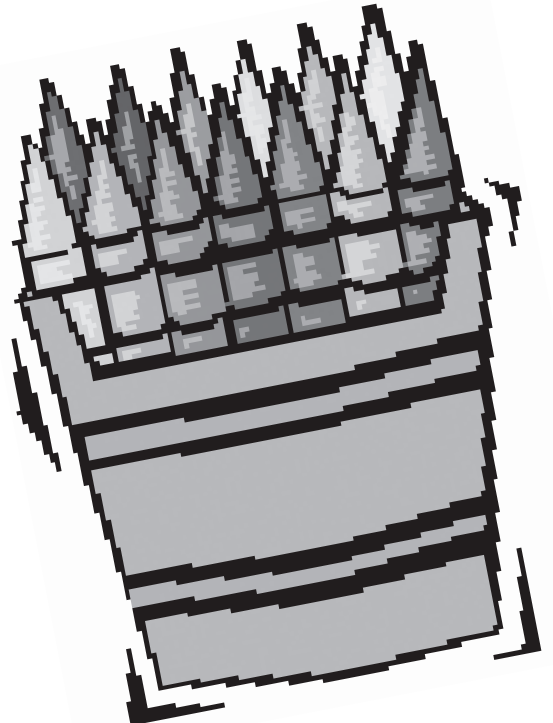
- wax paper
- string
- crayons
- an old towel
- iron
- vegetable shredder or scissors
- newspapers

Procedure:

Lay newspapers down on the table where you are going to be working. Put down a piece of wax paper. Run a vegetable shredder or scissors down a crayon to create small thin pieces of crayon. Do this over and over with several colors of crayon to create a thin layer on the wax paper. Put a second piece of wax paper over the crayon shavings. Place the old towel over the wax paper. Run the iron (low setting) over the towel. Remove the towel. Crayon should be smoothed out. If not, replace the towel and run the iron over the crayon shavings again. Once the crayons and wax paper have bonded together, cut the paper into any shape you want. Poke a hole in the top where you would like the string to go through. Attach your string. Hang the finished product in a window.

Possible Dialogue:

Discuss that the iron is hot and show the child how to use it properly. Discuss the stained glass windows that are sometimes used in churches or how the sun can sometimes bring a rainbow into a room when it shines through a window. While using the iron, use words such as melt, blend, smooth, texture, vegetable shredder, and wax paper to help increase the child's vocabulary. Discuss how the colors run together to create new colors. Ask what two colors make red or green, etc. Try doing this project with just two colors such as blue and yellow to reinforce that blended colors make a new color.



Creative Art Projects for You and Your 3-4 Year Old - con't

Cornstarch and Water

Age:
3 and up

Objective:

- To see how the properties of cornstarch and water combine together
- To increase development of small and large muscles in hands and arms
- To increase vocabulary by talking
- To see how mixing different colors together creates a new color

Materials:

- cornstarch
- plastic bowls with lids
- water
- food coloring
- smooth surface to work on

Procedure:

Pour some cornstarch into several different bowls. Pour enough water into each bowl to make a thick liquid that is not too runny. Add a few drops of one color of food coloring. If using food coloring, you may want to have the child mix in the coloring with a spoon first then have the child mix it with his/her hands until it is thoroughly blended. Let the child pour the mixture onto the table and then encourage him/her to pick it up again. Mix the different colors of the mixtures together to create new colors.

Possible Dialogue:

Talk about how it looks like a liquid (or relate it to something they could drink if the word liquid is not understood) but that it can be picked up like play dough. Ask questions such as, “What

two colors make green?” or “What two colors make purple?” or “What do you think will happen if I pour some on my hand?” Talk about how when it is just sitting and not being played with, it looks like a liquid but when you touch it, it feels hard.

Making Necklaces

Age:
3 and up

Objective:

- To help develop fine motor skills
- To enhance eye-hand coordination
- To recognize colors and patterns of colors

Materials:

- string or yarn
- tape
- cereal (preferably Fruit Loops) or noodles
- paint (opt. to use on the noodles)
- plastic darning needle or bobbypin
- wax paper



Procedure:

Cut a piece of string about 1 to 2 feet long. Tape one end of the string to a countertop or table. This is done to prevent the cereal or noodles from falling off the end while the child is threading it on. Allow the child to put as many or few pieces on the string as he/she likes. When he/she is finished, tie the two ends together and have him/her wear it as a necklace. If you choose to use paint on the noodles, they must be painted before threading them on the string. Allow them to dry on wax paper overnight. Make sure to eat some of the project while working on it, even the noodles (if they are not painted!)

Possible Dialogue:

Talk with your child about the shape of a Fruit Loop or noodle. Count the number of Fruit Loops or noodles while threading them on the string. Help make patterns of colors and discuss what color would come next. Some key words and concepts to include in your project would be: more/less, short/long, and small/big. If painting the noodles, discuss what colors mixed together make green or blue. Ask questions such as, “What two colors make green?” or “What two colors make purple?”