

Special Topics: Recycled/Repurposed Art



In honor of Earth Day, here are some art you can create with recyclable materials. Activities can be modified to allow children of any age to assist!

Some Artists Use Recycled/Repurposed Materials

Did you know that you can make art out of things other people might throw away? Take a look at some of these works of art! What did the artist use to make their art?



Recreation of "Girl with the Pearl Earring" by Jane Perkins [Various Materials]



"Sitting With Purpose" by James Lake [Cardboard]

****Check Out This Video: The Art of Recycling (James Lake)**

<https://youtu.be/hHvc9LT8s3U>



"Owl" by Ptolemy Elrington [Hubcaps from Cars]

Make Your Own Art

Egg Carton Creatures



Have a bunch of egg cartons? [Paper cartons work best for paint!] You can create a variety of creatures: use three as the center of an ant, four of five for a dragon fly, or even use just one to make a bee! Start any of these ideas by painting your egg cartons and then letting them dry. Limbs for creatures can be made by pipe cleaners or string and wings could be made from paper decorated by your method of choice. *[If you want a more in-depth instructions for making a snake puppet from egg cartons, check this out: <http://mykidcraft.com/egg-carton-snake-puppet/>]*

Recycled Art Collage Wall



Gather a variety of recycled materials together as well as a large piece of cardboard. Have your child help glue the materials to the large piece of cardboard- you may need to have an adult use a glue gun on heavier materials.

Families of younger children can construct and let their little one help out painting, while older children may want to be more active in the overall creation. When everything has dried, hang the cardboard on a wall or fence and paint!

Host a “Creation Station”



Offer your child the opportunity to explore using a variety of recycled materials- gauge what you offer based off the age of your child. You can put out items like cardboard tubes, boxes (cereal, tissue, etc.) of various sizes, plastic bottles, yogurt containers, or different lids (to-go pouch tops too). See what they do with the materials first- little ones may want to stack items while older children might have something else in mind. Offer tape or glue so they can attach materials together and paint to decorate if interested!

Recycled Paper Hearts

(Older children- but littles can help too!)



To do this project, you will need to create some recycled paper! Gather scrap paper, newspaper, a bowl, a blender, water, towels and a window screen. Have your child help by ripping the scrap paper and newspaper as small as possible and put it into a bowl. Pour water into the bowl and let it sit for a little bit (longer the better, but it will still work if it doesn't sit for too long). Use the blender to blend the paper and water into paper pulp. Afterwards, place your towels onto a table underneath your screen. Pour the pulp on the screen and use a towel to press the excess water out. Flip the paper onto a plastic cutting board (or easily portable surface) and let it dry. Once the paper is completely dry, you can cut it! **[Bonus: You can make your recycled paper “seed paper” by adding seeds to your pulp after you put it on the screen. Pat them down into the pulp before pressing the water out.]**