

Creative Kids 2015-16

Salem Public Library

Every third Thursday, 4-5 p.m. Sept-March

Month 1: Nature mobiles: Skills: Measuring, designing, tying, balancing.

Put out a large selection of branches of various lengths, photos of nature mobiles, string and yarn, and various objects from nature: heavy leaves, stones, seed pods, driftwood, clay & wood beads, and pine cones. Post images of different types of mobiles. Demonstrate how to tie a double knot, how to measure string out to have enough length to tie knots at each end, possible ways to plan their mobile. Kids tie objects onto their branches in a simple nature mobile.



Month 2: Sock Monsters. Skills: threading needles, sewing a running stitch, sewing on a button.



Put out an assortment of bright colored socks (some with individual toes), buttons, heavy thread/light cord, beads, fabric markers. Each child starts with a 6" square of needlepoint mesh, one plastic needle, a plastic threader and a length of heavy thread. As a group we learned how to thread a needle, tie the ends to make a double strength length, then sew the button onto the mesh. After each child successfully completes that task, they shop for a sock and buttons for eyes/noses. After sewing the buttons on, show them how to sew the mouth (pinching the heel in to form a line and sewing across.) Then have them stuff their monster with polyester fill and sew the top of the sock (the bottom of their monster) shut. Alternatively they could leave it unstuffed and use as a puppet.



Month 3: Initial Letter Collages. Skills: Designing, color mixing, gluing

Put out a table of various sizes rectangular pieces of matboard (10x12" to 14x18") donation from **Affordable Framing**. (*Framing shops usually have loads of matboard inserts free for the asking.*) A second table has a selection of beads, foam pieces, pompoms, magazine cutouts, feathers, lightweight counters, fabric shapes, etc. and markers/glitter pens/gel pens. Third table has Ellison die cutter, blocks for largest (Circus) capital letters, and a selection of cardstock. Two small tables have mini-glue guns and a work board. Each child has a glue bottle, glue stick and plastic bowl. Show children an example, talk about decorating by color and texture, and how to indicate personality through collage. Split the group between choosing cardstock and having their initial letter cut out (by volunteer), shopping with a plastic cup for their materials to glue on, and picking out their matboard background. Assemble at their station, having adults operate glue guns when necessary. Limit to two initial letters each.

Month 4: Origami star books. Skills: basic origami folding, gluing, matching.

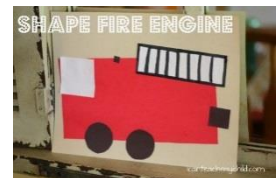


Put out cut 3 x 3" cardboards, 4" square decorated origami paper, a stack of solid two sided 6" square origami paper, 18" lengths of ribbon, sample completed project. Each child starts with an 11" square of plain paper. As a group we learn how to fold origami square base (beginning shape of crane.) After each child successfully completes that shape, they shop for two end papers, ribbon, and five sheets of colored origami paper. Show them steps of (1) wrapping and gluing the two end papers around the two cardboards, (2) folding their five sheets into the square shape, (3) gluing the papers together to form star shaped book, with ribbon inserted between end boards and first sheet. Had some pre-folded sheets for younger children to make books or if the original project was completed. Here is a tutorial: <http://www.poppytalk.com/2011/10/star-book-tutorial-by-roughdraftbooks.html>



Month 4: Wood fire trucks. Skills: sanding, nailing, painting, and assembling.

Put out for each child one tray, one piece of 180 grit sandpaper (1/6 sheet), two dishes for white and red paint, one paint brush, one Home Depot set, one hammer per table. As a group go through hammer technique and safety issues, sanding with the grain, steps Home Depot supplied for project completion, alternative step order. Have two blow dryers out on small tables for drying painted pieces. In case of younger participants showing up, have fire truck paper craft available. (Home Depot gave us 30 sets of kit, apron and completion pin just for the asking.)



Month 5: Air dry clay sculpture faces. Skills: shaping, slipping, scoring.

Put out for each child one tray lined with an unfolded 8" pizza box with a third lb. slab of white clay, small piece of terra-cotta clay in a zip-lock bag, a shallow bowl, a sponge brush and a pot of water on each table. On a side table have a selection of clay tools, shells, beads, buttons and sequins and mirrors. As a group go over pinching, scoring, slipping, wedging, how to watch for uniform thickness and balance. Remind that clean up should be done as much as possible with wet paper towels, washing hands and tools only when almost clean! (Your custodial staff will thank you.)

Month 6: Drum making. Skills: painting, lacing, rhythm.

Put out for each child a cardboard tube (If oatmeal boxes are difficult to obtain, use a table saw to slice cardboard concrete forms (8" diameter) into 6-8" lengths,) two circles (3" wider than tube) of heavyweight cloth/"leather" pre-punched with holes every two inches, length of lanyard lacing, two chopsticks and corks. Put out strips of construction paper sized to fit outside of tubes, markers, glue sticks, stamps and stamp pads on a side table along with circles of cloth to cover the corks with rubber bands or string lengths. Children decorate the paper, glue to tube, then lace fabric around the edge and zig-zag like a tom-tom. Alternatively punch balls or heavy balloons with the small ends cut off can make the drum skin. Poke chop stick into cork, tie or band cloth circle over cork. Have short drum session with beat heavy world music at the close of the program.

