



10 ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR THE FIRST 2 WEEKS  
OF A CHILDREN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS PROGRAM  
WITH COMMENTS ON WHY YOU DO WHAT WHEN.  
GUIDELINES TO ACCOMPANY THE CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM RESOURCE CENTER WORKSHOP.

### PLASTER PENDANTS

#### \*examples

pendants  
string or yarn  
broad tip markers  
fine tip markers  
clear nail polish

### NAME GAMES

construction paper  
white glue in  
squeeze bottles  
sand or salt  
large pan

### PAPER BAG PUPPETS

#### \*examples

paper bags  
construction paper  
glue  
scissors  
pencil, markers  
string, yarn, cloth  
stapler  
patterns

### SUMMER CALENDARS

#### \*examples

squares of paper  
crayons  
markers  
pencils  
scissors  
glue  
paper backing sheet

### GOD'S EYES

#### \*examples

popsicle sticks  
glue  
yarn

### PAPER TOWEL TIE DYE

food coloring  
tuna or dog food cans  
paper towels  
newspaper  
clothes line set-up

### PAPER MARBLING

pans  
oil based paints  
stirring sticks  
white paper  
newspaper  
paint thinner  
paper towels

### PRINTING

#### \*examples

rubber  
wood or cardboard  
glue  
scissors  
pencil  
stamp pads  
paper  
start of mural

### BOOK-MAKING

#### \*examples

pre-cut cardboard  
pre-cut pages  
decorated paper  
glue  
colored end papers  
stapler or  
needle and thread

### MYSTERY BAG SCULPTURES

numbered bags; each one  
filled with a different  
assortment of:

wood  
rubber  
cloth  
yarn  
variety of textures

a cardboard or wooden base  
for each child (about 6")  
glue.

\*Examples: samples of the project  
done by others. Some activities  
benefit greatly from the inspiration  
and illustration than an example  
provides.

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# FIRST WEEK

		MONDAY	TUESDAY
	ACTIVITY	PLASTER PENDANTS	NAME GAMES
	DURATION	15-30 minutes	15-20 minutes
	DESCRIPTION	Decorate plaster medallion with markers for neck ornament. With name on back use for field trip I.D.	Write name in glue with squeeze-bottle "pen." On folded construction paper the name makes a symmetrical design. Sprinkle with sand or salt.
	MATERIALS	plaster medallions, string, markers, clear nail polish.	one squeeze bottle for each 4 children, construction paper, sand.
	PREPARATION	make pendants <u>at least</u> 2 days ahead to dry.	put glue in bottles
	COMMENTS	This is a good introductory activity. It is very easy and requires no skills. It's short but can be repeated without monotony. Gives instructors a chance to mingle about and get to know the children. Doesn't require directions, teamwork, or even much sharing. Limited to one material which needs tending: the markers and tops. Good take-home for child or for present. Perhaps make one to leave at the center for I. D. tag.	Again, a short, simple project requiring no skills. There's a surprise element to this activity that's fun and invites mutual appreciation of designs and learning of names.

# SECOND WEEK

	ACTIVITY	PAPER TOWEL TIE-DYE	PAPER MARBLING
	DURATION	20-30 minutes	20-60 minutes
	DESCRIPTION	Dip folded paper towels into tins of food color. Experiment with different folds, different colors.	Decorate paper using oil based paints floated on water.
	MATERIALS	food coloring, shallow cans, paper towels	oil based paints, pan of water, paper, paint thinner or turpentine
	PREPARATION	set out cans of color, set up clothes line or newspapers to dry on	cover work area with newspaper, set up lots of space for drying papers.
	COMMENTS	Since a weekend may leave both leaders and children feeling tired, agitated, slow, excited, distracted... a good Monday activity is one which takes little or no preparation, allows one to work by oneself if one wants, and isn't frustrating. These tie-dyed papers are fool-proof to make, offer a snazzy surprise when they are unfolded. This activity is good outdoors because it is drippy. The paper can be used for a book cover on Thursday.	Exciting. The patterns that come from the paint are totally unexpected. This activity requires mutual trust. The paint does not come off clothes and furniture, so your group must know you mean it when you say "Be careful." Unless you get a fast-drying paint, leave a couple of days for paint to dry on paper. Use this paper for book cover, stationary, envelopes, wrapping paper.

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PAPER BAG PUPPETS	SUMMER CALENDAR	GOD'S EYES
15-45 minutes	15-30 minutes	15-30 minutes
Make puppets with paper bags, using fold for mouth, eyes, or other moving part.	Each child chooses a day to decorate. Put together paper squares, quilt-like on a huge marked off sheet	Weave god's eye patterns with yarn around sticks.
bags, construction paper, glue, scissors, patterns, scraps of cloth.	pre-cut squares of paper, backing sheet of paper, crayons or markers, glue	sticks (or glued popsicle sticks) yarn
make examples, make some patterns.	cut squares and mark off squares on backing sheet	for young children, glue the popsicle sticks in a + ahead of time.
With these puppets a child can be innovative or just try out a pattern, make a whole set of puppets or just one, work with friends to produce a skit, or work alone. There are plenty of options. Cutting and pasting are basic skills required here, and drawing is involved. Children are encouraged to make up their own designs, but they also enjoy learning from teachers how to make a convincing set of teeth or a tongue that really works.	First group involved project. Each person decorates his square any way he/she wants, taking care to leave space for the jotting down of activities. This is a good way to get idea of children's drawing ability. Also practical project for it provides a record of a month's activities and plans.  This project is extra special with cloth squares decorated with fabric crayons.	A quick, attractive take-home product. Sometimes tricky to learn so it's good to wait until you know the children a bit. Once they get the hang of it, it is an easy, pacifying activity. There is room for experiment too, and children often come up with interesting variations. Good item for sale later if the group has a fair.
PRINTING	BOOK-MAKING	MYSTERY BAG SCULPTURE
20-40 minutes	30-45 minutes	15-25 minutes
Cut rubber into patterns, glue to cardboard or wood print with stamp pads.	Make small book with cardboard, decorated paper, blank pages.	Each child chooses a numbered mystery bag of sculpture materials and builds a sculpture on the base provided
rubber, cardboard or wood, glue, scissors, stamp pads, paper	pre-cut cardboard and paper for pages, decorated paper, glue, scissors, stapler or needle and thread.	bags, numbered, filled with a dozen items including a cardboard base, glue
have some printing stamps made ahead for trying. Perhaps start a mural or some pictures.	have cardboard and pages the right size, use the paper the group decorated themselves.	Prepare at least 3 more bags than number of children, so each gets a choice
A more intricate project than earlier ones. Directions to be followed. Good for design exploration. Has follow-up possibilities in bookmaking, gifts, storytelling. Could try making a letter stamp set for sign making. Or print a cloth banner.	Quiet project using many skills. Shows one use of decorated paper. Kids can use completed book for notebook, diary, addresses, autographs, birthday book. Short books make nice greeting cards. Gifts for preschoolers are alphabet or picture books.	This is a change of pace from the paper and bookmaking activities. Kids like the suspense of wondering what will be in their bags. Stress on individuality in this project. Helps staff assess the ease with each child work, works with materials and in abstract design.