

Make & Takes and More

Creating Memorable Children's Activities

FUN PLUS+

- ✓ **Fun:** something that provides mirth or amusement
- ✓ **Play:** An activity undertaken purely for enjoyment with no other objective
- ✓ **Memory:** an individuals ability to store, retain, and recall information
- ✓ **Edutainment:** a form of entertainment designed to educate as well as to amuse
- ✓ **Arts & Crafts:** a host of activities that are related to making things with one's own hands and skill

10 Splendid Qualities

1. **Creativity** is the first personality characteristic arts and crafts will develop. It enables kids to try out and benefit from new ideas, options and alternatives.
2. **Perseverance** is regularly stated as the single most important quality for any success. Kids learn to keep trying until they finish any task. If something goes wrong... they simply persist by trying new ways and means.
3. **Concentration** is probably the second best quality any successful individual can have. Arts and craft for kids will definitely teach your child to focus on one specific task at hand... ignoring other distractions. In short, concentration will definitely improve.
4. **Delayed Gratification** is an important characteristic to reach for meaningful long-term goals. Without this quality, kids will always want a result now! Arts and craft will teach your child to wait for the results.

10 Splendid Qualities

- 5. **Social Interaction** is experienced by working and interacting in smaller groups. Communication among friends is also improved.
- 6. **Task Completion** develops a sense of satisfaction which is important for scholastic performance, but also in adult life. Together with perseverance it eliminates giving up before a task is completed or even being distracted to focus on other interesting things.
- 7. **Planning** is the basis of all great achievements. Arts + Crafts teach...
 - Following a recipe or set of instructions to completion
 - systematically and logically doing things
 - Formulating new ideas and thoughts
 - Avoid pitfalls and errors

10 Splendid Qualities

- 8. **Expression Of Emotions** Experience teaches that things do not always work out as planned. Arts and crafts for kids will surely go a long way to teach expression of emotions. They learn to handle frustrations and to just keep on trying.
- 9. **Openness** Many adults have great ideas and solutions to many problems. Yet, for fear of criticism few ever do anything with the ideas. This is sad and definitely avoidable. Parents can equip their children to effectively handle this problem. A great quality all arts and craft for kids develop is allowing and opening up for feedback, critique and comments. try out their ideas.
- 10. **Self Image** Arts and Craft for kids improve self image. When finding success in the other qualities, it is inevitable that some sense of self-worth rubs off. Frankly, it's a quality that will do anyone's self image and confidence a world of good.

The "Art" of Creating "Crafts"

- ✓ Don't worry about getting it perfect
- ✓ Don't be inflexible about what the end product should look like
- ✓ It's okay to keep it SIMPLE
- ✓ There is no right or wrong project

The "Art" of Creating "Crafts"

- ✓ Keep in mind ages, gender, skill levels, amount of supervision required and time constraints
- ✓ Have versions of the same project for both boys & girls. (Lady Bug bag vests & Forest Ranger bag vests)
- ✓ Consider budget – Less is more and easier!
- ✓ Start with what you've got (Swamp Grass)
- ✓ Ask everyone you know for ideas & supplies

Gratification

- ✓ **Immediate:** Instantaneous results
- ✓ **Delayed:** Satisfaction comes hours, days or weeks later
- ✓ **Lasting:** Memory making activities that can last a lifetime

Create A Connection

- ✓ **Be Unique:**
Design projects and activities that are specific to your organization, event or special theme

Example:
Breakfast with a Woodland Santa

Things to Avoid

- ✓ Long drying times
- ✓ Too many steps
- ✓ Painting small pieces parts
- ✓ Gluing to many small pieces parts
- ✓ Messy, messy, messes

Things to Consider

- ✓ Think the projects through – how will it get home, be carried, survive
- ✓ Sizes of pieces parts vs. Kids ages
- ✓ Actually make the project yourself
- ✓ Have Craft class for volunteers
- ✓ Donation Jug instead of fee
- ✓ Safety at all times

Alternative Supplies

- ✓ The right **GLUE** for the job
- ✓ **Glue Dots** instead of Craft glue
- ✓ **Hot Glue** instead of Craft glue
- ✓ **Double Stick Tape** instead of glue

Kids Area Musts

- ✓ Supervision: hosts, helpers, volunteers
- ✓ Carry home bags, boxes, totes
- ✓ Wipes or hand washing
- ✓ Completed Craft Check Area
- ✓ Age appropriate equipment and supplies
- ✓ Pre-divide pieces parts

Parent Friendly Signs

- ✓ Activity Description
- ✓ Age appropriate level
- ✓ Simple and complete instructions
- ✓ Supplies needed for project

Idea Websites

- www.kid-at-art.com - recycling projects (Trash Matcher)
- www.freekidscrafts.com - Lots of ideas
- www.craftsforkids.com - Lots of ideas
- www.make-stuff.com - Lots of ideas
- www.easy-child-crafts.com - Lots of ideas
- www.monstermurals.com - Custom + stock coloring murals

Cheap Stuff Sites

- www.wholesaleforeveryone.com – bandannas & other stuff
- www.dollaradays.com – lots of items
- www.orientaltrading.com - novelties
- www.funexpress.com – wholesale novelties by the case
- www.shindigz.com – gossamer and more
- www.rinovelty.com – novelties, supplies, costumes
- www.smalltoys.com – toys, novelties
- www.rebeccas.com – wholesale toys, novelties
- www.daybag.com – bulk burlap, erosion cloth
- www.sav-on-closeouts.com – Lots of stuff

Get Stuff Free

- ✓ **Ask for Items:** Craft supplies can come from a wide variety of sources. Put the word out on what you need to everyone you know
- ✓ **Dumpster Dive:** It is amazing what others throw away (Shoes, silk flowers, ribbon, yarn)
- ✓ **Odds & ends:** Church sales, garage sales, rummage sales

Themed Examples

Breakfast with a Woodland Santa

- ✓ **Reindeer Chow:** Oatmeal or oats, corn, cereal, alfalfa, sunflower seeds, wild birdseed, lunch bag, ribbon, markers, tag with "On Christmas Eve, sprinkle this wonderful Reindeer Chow outside and the aroma will help guide Santa's reindeer to your home"
- ✓ **Cookie for Santa:** Cookie, icings, colored sugars, small bag, markers, ribbon
- ✓ **My Letter to Santa:** Fill-in Customized letter, pre addressed envelope with return address, mailbox, markers, crayons (Santa replies)
- ✓ **Jingle Bell Necklace:** Bell, lanyard, beads, nametag, marker

Themed Examples

pARTicipation park

- ✓ **Renaissance Wrecks:** Vehicles, paint, foam brushes, foam plates, ladles, paper towels, hand washing area
- ✓ **Ever Changing Mural:** Canvases, paint, foam brushes, foam plates, ladles, paper towels, hand washing area
- ✓ **Tie-One-On:** Tons of ties, wire fence frame
- ✓ **Mona Me:** Plywood, skilled artist, saw, posts, camera
- ✓ **Chalk Art Gallery:** Fancy frames, chalkboards, chalk, posts
- ✓ **Paint-By-Number Bus:** Bus, paint, foam brushes, plastic cups

Memorable Examples

- Paper Bag Hats:** Grocery bags, hot glue, baubles & schuff, markers
- Plant-a-shoe:** shoes, dirt, bedding plants (Marigolds, Petunias etc.)
- Fun Police:** Tickets to kids that are not having fun
- Garbage Can Kitchen Band:** Music creation with pots, pans and cans
- Explorer Boxes:** ID Badge, Info sheets, compass, map, collection jars, etc.
- Bug Catcher:** Wire coat hanger, piece of fabric, stapler
- Grass Head:** Paper cup, soil, grass seed, marker
- Lady Bug/Ranger vests:** Grocery bag, colored paper, glue, scissors, markers, tape

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THANK YOU
 Dale A. Hazlewood
 A1dale@comcast.net
