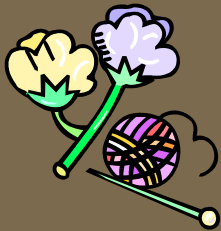


What Can I Make With...?



Assemblages

Constructions

Sculptures

3D Art

By: Faige Kobre

The name of this guide is ***What Can I do With.....?***

This report can actually serve two purposes.

The first one is if you are a teacher and you want to add a wonderful art center to your early childhood classroom. This will show you how you can do so by supplying the children with a wonderful array of found materials that they can use to create just about “anything” they might like.

The second purpose is actually to give the children to do the same exact thing in a home setting. Take the ideas of the art center and just apply it to your home.

An art center is an area in a classroom that is center based that is usually the designated place for art.

This can have different meanings for different classrooms.

- It may be the place that the easel is kept
- It may be a place to store all of the art supplies
- It can be an area that children go to do any kind of art that is done in the classroom.

Often the art area is underused. Sometimes if there is a crafts project to be done it's done there. Other times it's not used at all for art, except for storage.

This is a way to add an art center to your classroom or home where children can create all kinds of 3D art, assemblages, sculptures and various constructions.

Its main raison d'être should be “*Let's see what materials are here and what can I make with them*”

Some children will eat this up. Others will ignore it.

The children that have lots of experience with this will eventually start creating real pieces of artwork. Either modern art, or representational art. The more freedom they are given and more variety of materials, the more they will create.

The materials are cheap and mostly free, as we save all kinds of recyclable objects that would normally be thrown out.

Below is a list of some of the materials we may save. The right hand has a list of the fasteners you can use to attach the materials to each other. You can start storing the materials even though you will not be using them all at once

Materials	Fasteners
<p>Doilies Tissue paper Felt and felt pieces Material swatches Ribbons Sequins Googly eyes Buttons Craft Sticks Cotton balls Egg boxes Cardboard tubes Toothpicks Graph paper Paper plates Styrofoam Q-tips Bubble wrap Beads Pom poms Feathers Coffee filters Cupcake holders Corrugated cardboard pieces Egg boxes Paper towel rolls Wallpaper samples Pipe cleaners Wax Paper Pipe cleaners Aluminum foil Feathers Straws Yogurt containers Wooden scraps Small bolts and screws</p>	<p>Scissors Scotch tape Masking tape Electrical tape Rubber bands Stapler Hole puncher String Yarn Twist ties Paper clips Glue Glue gun(under close supervision) Pipe cleaners Flower wire</p>

How to create the constructions

There are two ways to have the children create the constructions. You can either store all of the materials neatly and let the children choose each time from the various materials you have collected. The second way is what we have done. That is to give the children each time a few materials that they can use PLUS an assortment of fasteners.

When the children have lots of experience creating these sculptures under their belts, they may start asking you for various items if they decide they want to make a certain machine or robot or anything else their imagination allows. At that point you should of course, let them use what they need.

A great tip: Photograph all of the children's creations.

If your children get really attached to their artwork don't throw it out, save it for a while until they forget about it or photograph it. You can then create an album from them of all the things they make.

Please be aware that the children often create something that we cannot recognize, and other times they are really just enjoying using the different materials. Do not try to get them to make "things". They will do so when they are ready to. Below is a picture of some 3D constructions some children made when they were trying to create sculptures about trees.



When I had the children create the creations you are going to see below, I was not concentrating as much on 3D. I then read this wonderful book called

[Learning with found materials](#) that you can check out through that link which gave many more ideas for how to work with found materials.

The pictures you will see below are creations the children made with the specific materials we offered them each time. Most of them are not with 3d materials but, feel free to add all kinds of different materials, not just the ones we did.

It may help to show these pictures to some of the kids who are hesitant to use the materials. They may have high expectations or think they have to “*make something*” Once they see what other children have made and realize there’s no model and anything is ok it may make uninterested children more interested.

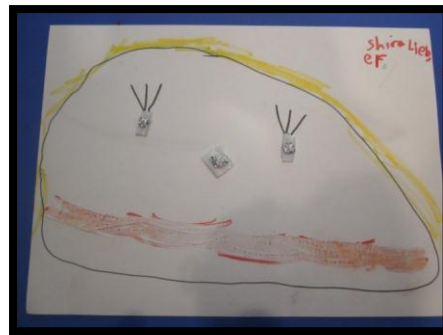
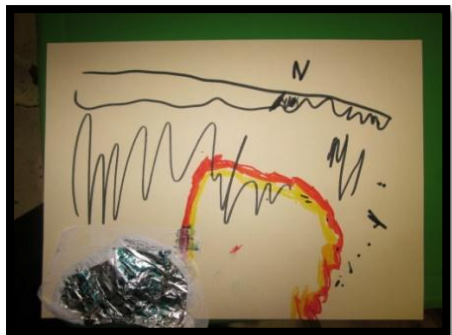
On the other hand it may make children who need more structure less interested but, these activities will not be for every child.

Please use your own creativity to find, collect and present the various materials that the children can use to expand their creativity.

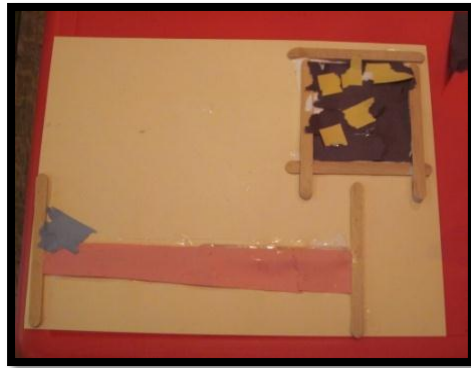
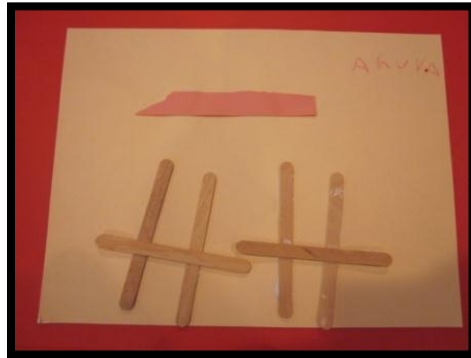
Enjoy

Each page has the materials listed that the children used and some pictures of their creations.

Aluminum foil pieces, tape and googly eyes with tag board



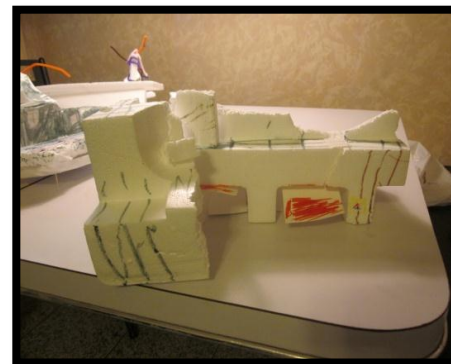
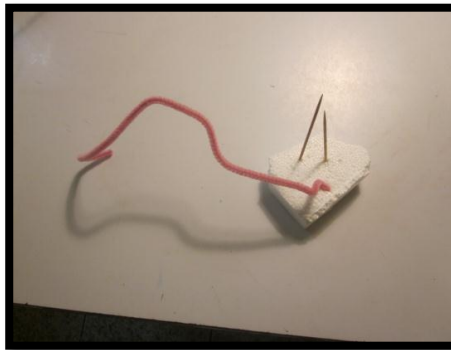
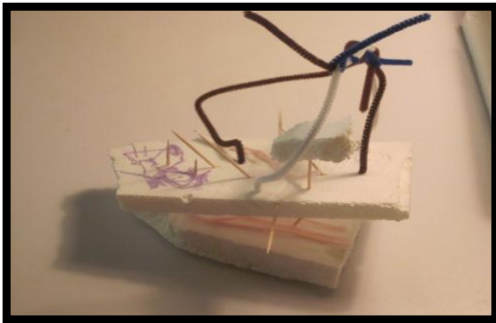
Long strips of paper and crafts sticks



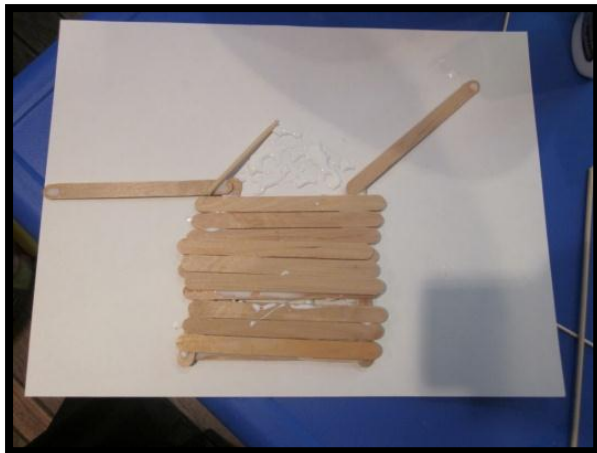
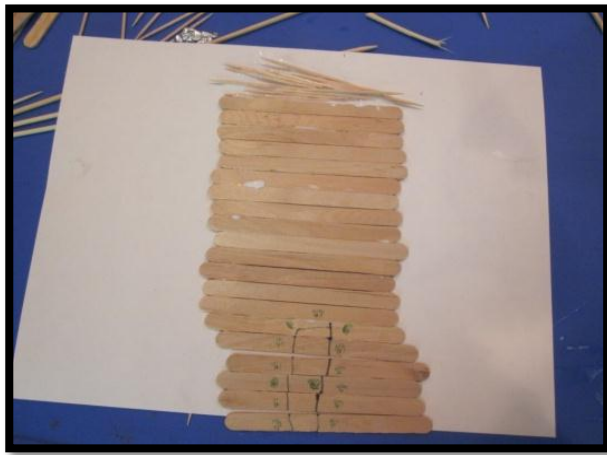
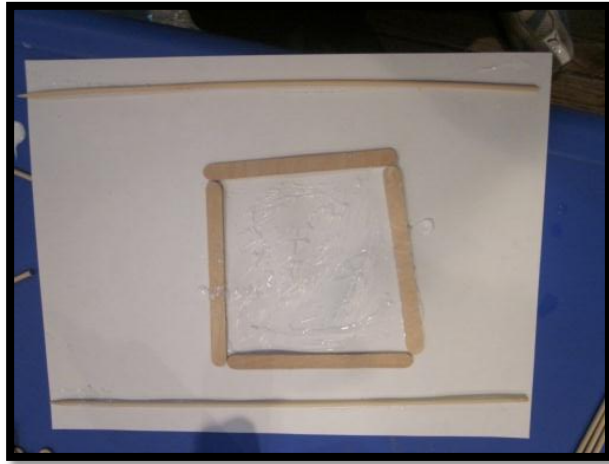
Yarn, toothpicks, straws



Pieces of Styrofoam, yarn, pipe cleaners and tooth picks

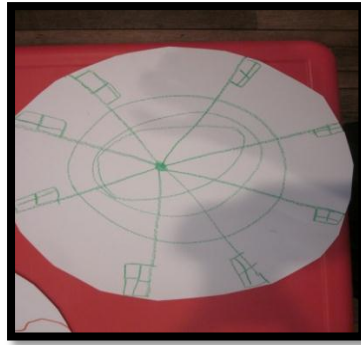
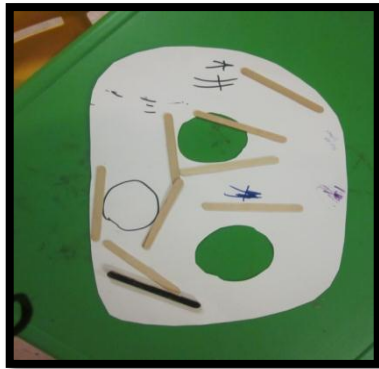


Crafts sticks and tooth picks

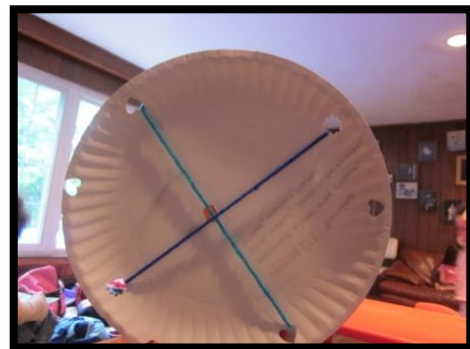
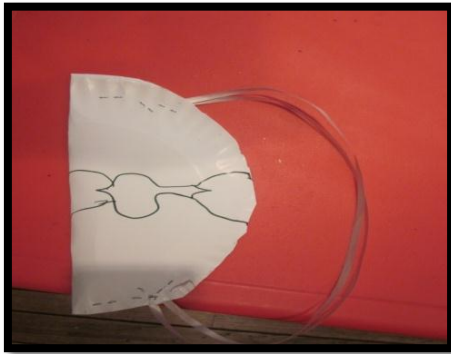


Large cut out circle of tagboard

Or... with a hole in the middle or two with crafts sticks



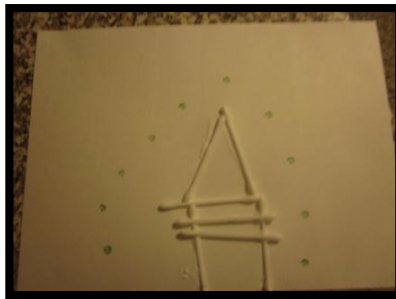
Paper plates, hole punchers and yarn



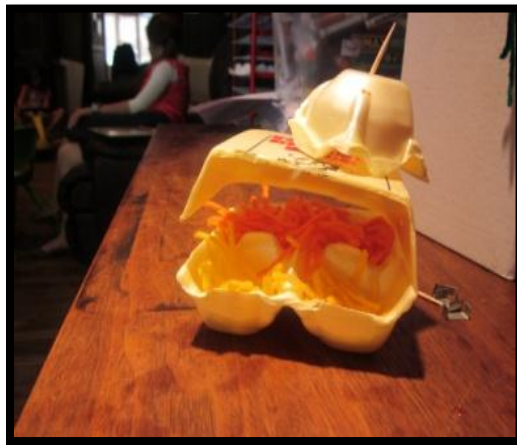
A bunch of long construction paper strips



Cotton balls and Q tips



Egg cartons, string and tooth picks



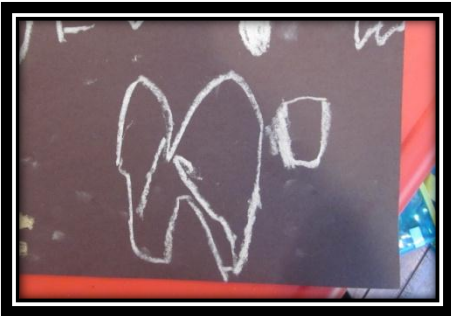
Aluminum foil, yarn and straws



Buttons and craft sticks

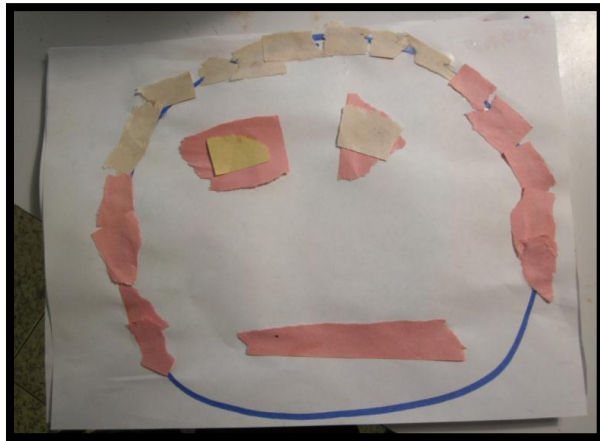
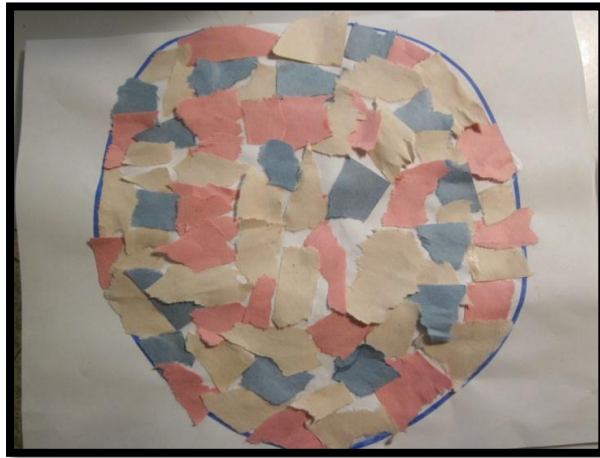


Black or Dark blue construction paper, chalk and sequins



Empty shapes with construction paper

(Tell them to fill the shape with ripped up paper)



**Small paper plates, coffee filters, cupcake holders,
yarn**



Art Recipes

Art recipes was something else I tried to help tie in some reading activities with art.

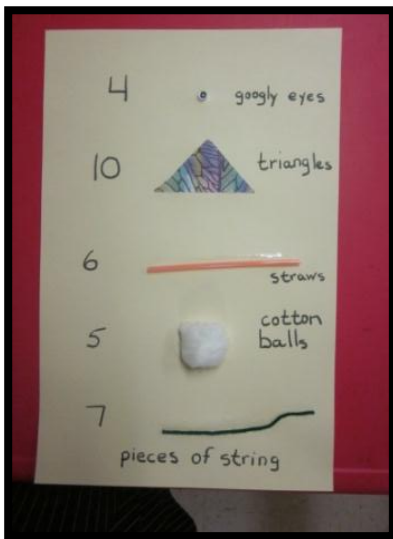
The children have to follow a recipe, not to cook but to pick materials to work with.

The art materials are pasted onto a large tag board with the amounts of that particular material they need to take. The children do not usually end up using all of the materials they take but it is a great reading and math activity as well.

Art recipes are a way of adding interest to the art area.

If you write a number next to a specific material the children are getting some math skills in as well.

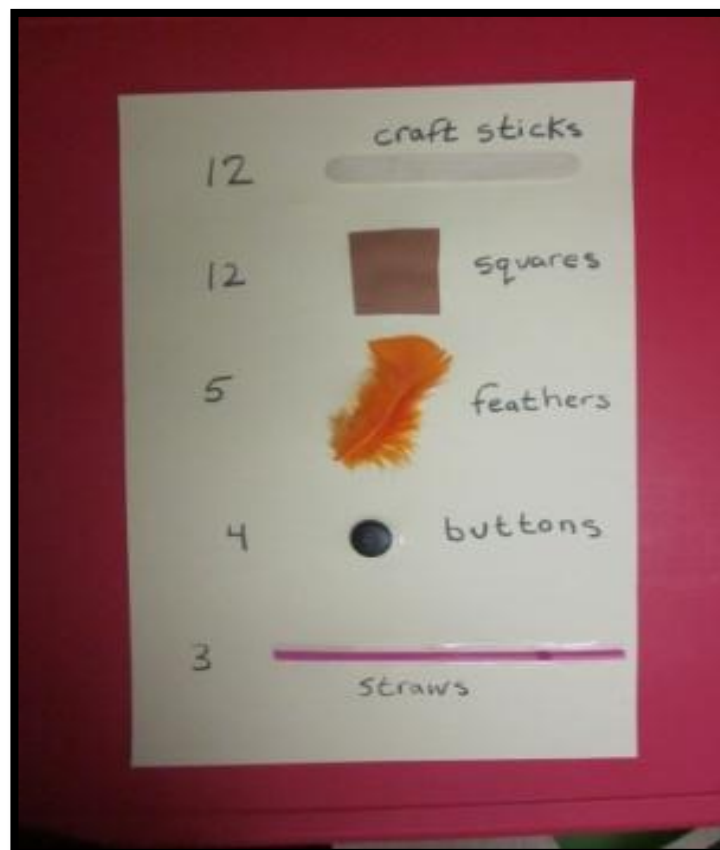
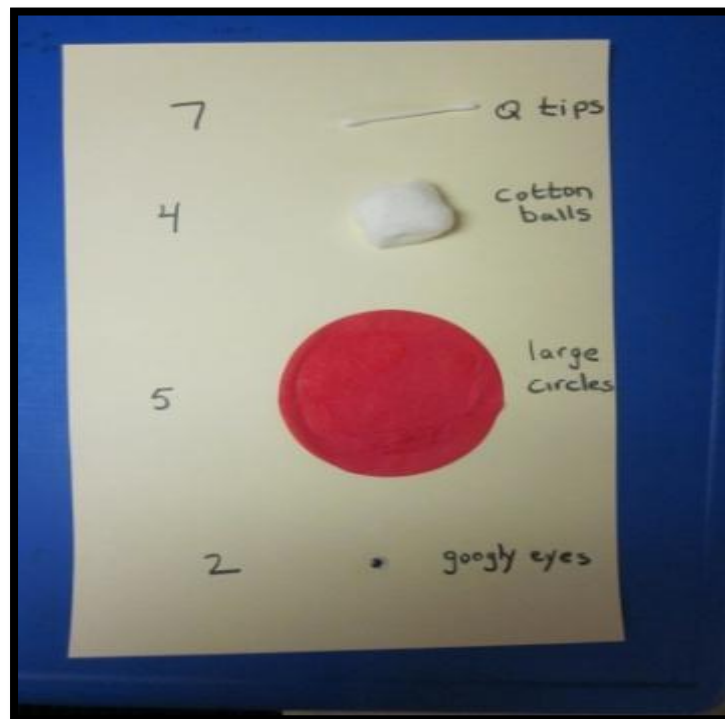
The children using as Styrofoam tray or a plate then take what they see on the recipe to their place along with the paper you give them and they see what they can make with the given materials.

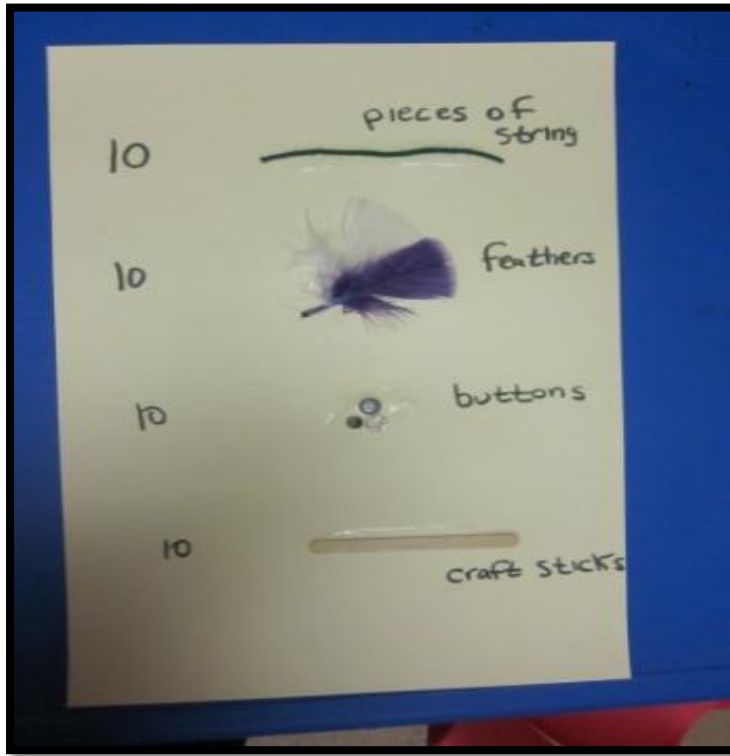


They may only use some of the materials they took as in the case below and then you can return the materials to the materials storage place for other children.



Below are 3 more recipes that we used to give you an idea of how to create others





Some results



Ideas with No Pictures

- Papers with fringes cut at the end
- Cardboard toilet paper tubes, tape, string, hole punchers
- Styrofoam balls, toothpicks, string or yarn, pipe cleaners
- Boxes of all smallish sizes, cardboard tubes cut up, pipe cleaners
- Plastic cups, paper plates, paper clips, straws

The list of combinations is endless. Just make sure you don't give them too much at once.

You can always add other kind of challenges that include math like...

- Use 3 large pieces from pile A and 4 small pieces from pile B
- Make a picture using the materials in groups of 2 or 3
- Without a drawing a shape see if you can create shape x with the materials you have

The more experience the children have with these kind of projects the more they will start looking at materials around them to see what they can make out of them.

You will actually find yourself picking up old pieces of discarded ribbon from peoples birthday gifts and picking through people discarded items as you yourself get more involved in the art center.

Enjoy!

Happy materials hunting

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