Cheap & Easy Crafts for Everyone

Presented By
David Lemming
Children's Library Asst.-Parkersburg & Wood Co. Public Library
When working with children’s or young adult programming, there is always that opportunity that crafts can be used to give them something to take home, develop skills, or just to have fun with. One big problem is that so many times crafts can seem like an expensive option when designing a program, such as during SRP. Many of you have spent a big hunk of your programming budget on crafts from catalogs and then wondered “why?”

I wanted to come up with some things that would use items already in most library children’s departments (such as crayons, markers, paint, glue, etc.) or would be very inexpensive to buy. For example there are lots of crafts that use toilet paper or paper towel tubes, paper plates, and more. I also wanted to find some things that could be used for different themes or holidays and not be just a one time deal.

I love to use Pintrest to find ideas for crafts among other things and there are some really great boards out there devoted to library crafts (general, children’s, and YA), kids crafts, and crafts in general that it can take forever to go through them all. But I searched through quite a number of boards as well as used some ideas that I have already done in my job. On every page I have included the picture and website for where I got the idea if it is not one I have used before and included a picture of my attempt at the craft as well.

I hope that these ideas help you in your programming and that you can get some ideas from them that inspire other crafts.

David Lemming
Toilet Paper Tube Flowers

Supplies

1. Toilet Paper Tubes
2. Scissors
3. Glue
4. Paper clips

1. Cut tubes into about 1/2” strips by squeezing them and then cutting across the tube. DO NOT cut tube lengthwise it needs to make circles when done.
2. Pinch opposing sides of each circle to make more of a leaf shape.
3. Glue ends together to form a flower shape
4. You can combine multiple flowers into artwork, picture frames, and more
Paper Plate Hats

These are easy to make and as you can see can be adapted to almost any holiday or theme that you want. Kids can color them, paint them, or decorate them with stickers and other materials. Very simple and quick project that can be used for ages 2-11. Younger kids will need the plates cut ahead of time, older kids can cut and/or design their own.

Images from: http://www.duitang.com/people/mblog/75898644/detail/
Sharpie tie-dye

Supplies Needed
1. Plastic Cups
2. Sharpies
3. Rubber bands
4. Rubbing alcohol
5. Liquid droppers
6. T-shirts
7. Cardboard

- Give each teen a piece of cardboard, a plastic cup, and a rubber band.
- Put the cardboard in the middle of the shirt to prevent colors bleeding through.
- Have the teens place the cup inside the shirt, stretch the shirt tight, and use the rubber band to secure the shirt in place.
- Using the sharpies, teens should create a small design (about the size of a quarter) in the middle of the circle that is created by the cup.
- Use the dropper to drip about ten drops of rubbing alcohol in the middle of the circle and wait for the colors to spread.
- Repeat this process until they are happy with their shirt!
- If you were able to bring an iron, use the iron to heat-set the colors into the shirt.
- If you couldn’t, tell teens to iron the shirt at home or put it in the dryer by itself for a little while before wearing or washing.


Continued on next page!
Easy Stained Glass

Using cheap, thin drawing paper from a toy store or art supply store (usually comes on a roll) and sharpies, you can make some wonderful stained glass type art that hangs very well in a window.

Heart-Shaped Corner Bookmark


**Supplies**

1. 4x4 (or bigger) square of paper.

Here are picture instructions, but if you prefer go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqlBicMAOEc for the original tutorial video.

Continued on next page!
Paper Plate Dream Catchers

**Supplies**
1. Paper plates
2. Hole punch
3. Crayons, markers, paint
4. Yarn
5. Feathers, beads, puff balls

1. Cut center of plate out and save for another craft if desired.
2. Use hole punch to put at least 8 holes around center area.
3. Make a hole where top should be along outer edge of plate.
4. Along outer edge of plate opposite the hole just made make three more holes positioned similar to in picture.
5. Allow kids to color and decorate the plate.
6. String should be tied in first hole, then strung across plate at angles to make a web pattern (always pull string thru from back of plate to make neater.).
7. Tie feathers to ends of pieces of yarn and then string through the three bottom holes.
8. Tie piece of yarn to top hole to be used for hanging.

Shadow Puppets

1. Use black construction paper or card stock.
2. Trace character onto two pieces of paper.
3. Cut characters out
4. Place straw, stick, or dowel rod in between pieces and glue together with glue or glue stick.
5. Shine a light and let kids put on a play.
Eye Spy Bottles

Supplies
1. Plastic bottles
2. Colored Rice (see next page)
3. Misc. items of your or children’s choosing
4. Hot glue gun (for sealing lid)

Craft Stick Bookworms

Supplies
1. Craft sticks
2. Yarn, different colors, 8” strips
3. Beads or other things for eyes
4. Glue

To attach the strings:
1. Fold the yarn in half and place the stick on top.
2. Push the ends into the folded side and pull.
3. Take your next string and make another slip-knot on the opposite side.
4. Keep alternating sides until your little worm is full up with legs!
### Jellyfish


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paper bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Paint, markers, or crayons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. String or yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ribbon, pieces of yarn or other long materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Glue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Color one bowl and add eyes
2. Poke two holes in top of bowl and string fishing line or yarn through and make loop to hang jellyfish with.
3. Use glue to attach “stingers” to inside of painted bowl
4. Cut hole just big enough for “stingers” to be pulled through second bowl
5. Slide second bowl into first bowl and glue in place

### Rainbow Rice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Food coloring or liquid water colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rubbing alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Zip-loc bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pans or wax paper for drying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Plastic storage bin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Mix 4 Cups rice, 2T coloring, and 3T rubbing alcohol in zip-loc bag.
2. Seal bag, shake and get rice completely covered in color
3. Spread out on pans or wax paper to dry (preferably in the sun)
4. Store and use at will.
**Christmas Tree Garland**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paper plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Green paint or markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Yellow stars from foam or construction paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Assorted colors and shapes for ornaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. String or yarn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Cut plates in 1/4’s or 1/3’s whichever looks better to you.
2. Have kids paint plate green.
3. Decorate tree with star and other ornaments.
4. Glue to string, let dry.
5. Hang up.

**Toilet Paper Tube Bird Feeder**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. TP tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Peanut butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bird seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. String if desired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Cut hole into one end of tube if hanging by string is desired
2. Spread PB generously over tube (avoiding holes if you made them)
3. Roll tube in bird seed (on plate)
4. Thread string into holes and make loop if desired.
5. Hang in tree and watch birds eat.
Toilet Paper Tube Painting

1. Cut or let kids cut one end of tube into shaped strips
2. Fan ends out as in picture
3. Pour paint into plates
4. Dip tubes into paint and make art

Supplies
1. TP tubes
2. Scissors
3. Paint
4. Art paper or large pieces of paper

Image from: [http://www.gettingmessywithmsjessi.com/2012/04/earth-day-craft-2.html](http://www.gettingmessywithmsjessi.com/2012/04/earth-day-craft-2.html)

Toilet Paper Tube Monsters

1. Cut tubes into different sizes if desired
2. Paint tube a solid color, let dry.
3. Paint second coat if color is not bright enough.
4. Paint eyes, mouth or anything else onto tube.
5. Add details with sharpies
6. Use pipe cleaners and puff balls to make antennae if desired.
7. Let dry completely.

Supplies
1. TP Tubes or Paper towel tubes
2. Paint
3. Sharpies
4. Puff balls
5. Pipe cleaners
Toilet Paper Tube Race Cars


### Supplies
1. TP tubes
2. Paint
3. Cardboard
4. Brads

- Paint tubes a solid color, let dry
- Paint second coat for more brilliant, smooth color, let dry completely.
- Trace end of tube on flat cardboard to make wheel outlines.
- Cut out wheels and paint, let dry
- Add details to car such as numbers, stripes, etc.
- Use brads to attach wheels to car body
- Design race, and let kids have fun!

Spring or Mother’s Day Craft

Image from: [http://foodloveandlifeblog.blogspot.com/2012/05/mothers-day-kids-craft.html?m=1](http://foodloveandlifeblog.blogspot.com/2012/05/mothers-day-kids-craft.html?m=1)

### Supplies
1. Paint
2. Construction paper
3. Pens or sharpies
4. Kid’s hands

- Have kids dip hand in paint and make hand print on full sheet of paper (choice of colors)
- Clean hands
- Cut out flower pot and flowers, glue in place
- Write on project
## Snow Globe Postcards

### Supplies
1. Card stock or construction paper
2. Plastic film (page protectors work well)
3. Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
4. Choice of glitter/snow material (ie. Pieces of paper, glitter, plastic snow)
5. Xacto knife (for librarian use only)
6. Pre-cut shapes if desired
7. Tape or double sided tape

1. Cut card stock to size desired (4x6 is common)
2. Fold in half, then unfold
3. Use Xacto knife to cut out globe shape on one side of card
4. Cut plastic film just a bit larger than globe cutout
5. Use tape to seal plastic to card firmly
6. Decorate card as desired, making sure that backdrop of snow globe is on opposite side from cutout section so when folded together it shows through.
7. Place ample amounts of “snow” in fold of card
8. Fold card together and use glue or double sided tape to seal shut.
9. Ready to mail, give away or just shake and have fun!

## Paper Plate Dinosaurs

### Supplies
1. Paper plates
2. Crayons, markers, or paint
3. Google eyes, if desired

1. Trace pattern onto plate
2. Cut or let kids cut out shapes
3. Color sections
4. Glue together
5. Glue on eyes of desired

***Patterns on next 3 pages!***
**Paper Bag Houses**


**Supplies**

1. Brown paper bags
2. Construction paper
3. Crayons or markers
4. Glue
5. Pre-designed candy shapes (if doing gingerbread house)

This is a great idea for letting kids design their own houses or gingerbread houses. They can add yards, roads, or anything else they like. Bump it up a notch and challenge them to create a city street or neighborhood.
Rock Monsters Magnets

Supplies
1. Rocks, preferably flat ones
2. Paint
3. Googly eyes
4. Glue
5. Magnets if desired

1. Paint rocks, let dry
2. Paint second coat to make brilliant colors, let dry
3. Paint on mouth and teeth as desired
4. Glue on googley eyes
5. Glue magnets on back of rock

**Paper Plate Fish**


### Supplies

1. Paper plates
2. Paint, markers, or crayons
3. Googley Eyes

### Instructions

1. Let kids color one whole plate
2. Cut fin shapes from another plate
3. Color fins
4. Glue eyes and fins to fish body