

# SUMMER CRAFTS

## FOR KIDS

Let Them  
**Craft**  
Their Way  
Through  
Summer!



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## Letter from the Editors

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Dear Reader,

Crafts are certainly fun for kids but did you know they are also very important for development? Research shows that arts and crafts help kids to develop brain capacity in early childhood. Participating in arts and crafts also encourages self-confidence, concentration and positive social skills such as flexibility and cooperation.

With the summer quickly approaching, the editors here at FaveCrafts have put together a resource for camp counselors, parents, babysitters, and others full of fun and varied craft projects for kids. These craft projects are the perfect way to keep kids entertained while out of school, especially on rainy days. We hope you enjoy doing these projects with the kids as much as we enjoyed putting this fun-filled eBook together.

You can find more holiday craft projects, great activities for kids and extensive decorating ideas at [www.FaveCrafts.com](http://www.FaveCrafts.com).

Our eBooks, like all our craft projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our crafting community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

We hope you enjoy reading and creating!

Sincerely,

*The Editors of FaveCrafts*

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## Table of Contents

How to Finger Knit .....	5
Beady Foam Turtle .....	6
Birds of a Feather.....	8
Cat Bottle Bank .....	10
Origami Tulip Card.....	11
Fun Frisbees .....	16
Flower T-Shirt.....	17
Dough Hand Photo Frame .....	19
Colorful Tissue Paper Frames .....	21
Butterfly Pocket Pal.....	23
Buddy Up With Your Finger Friends .....	24
Fuzzy Critter Crafts for Kids .....	26
Guest Tutorial: Recycled Crayons .....	28
How to Make Silly Putty.....	31
Guest Tutorial: Freezer Paper Stencil Fun .....	32
It's an Alien, It's an Alien.....	35
Spring Butterfly .....	37
Friendly Penguin.....	39
Best Friends Wreath.....	41
Punch Art Flower Garden.....	43
Key Hook for Dad .....	45
Recycled Yogurt Cup Bud Vase .....	47

## How to Finger Knit

Finger knitting is done without needles and is a great way to introduce children to knitting. With their new skill, kids can make scarves, headbands, and toys. The basic concept of knitting is grasped before kids every pick up a knitting needle!

### Materials:

- Ball or Skein of Yarn (Any yarn will do, but I recommend chunky, colorful yarn for children.)
- Both Hands
- Plastic Large-Eye Sewing Needle- To finish up headbands, scarves and other projects, this not-sharp needle is perfect for kids.

### Steps:

1. If you are right-handed, use your left hand to hold the yarn. Lay the yarn across your upturned palm with the tail of the yarn (the end) held between your thumb and forefinger.
2. With the yarn end attached to the ball or skein, weave the yarn through your fingers. Wrap the yarn under your pinky finger, over your ring finger, under your middle finger and over the forefinger.
3. Weave in the opposite direction. Wrap the yarn under your forefinger, over your middle finger, under your ring finger, and over your pinky.
4. Wrap the yarn under all the fingers towards your thumb and over the top back towards the pinky. This should be the top yarn.
5. Starting with the pinky finger, take the bottom woven yarn and pull it over the top (wrapped) yarn.
6. Repeat with remaining three fingers.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 until you have the desired length.
8. Pull on the tail of the yarn to tighten the knitting periodically.
9. To finish, cut the yarn, leaving several inches of extra yarn. Take the loops of your fingers. Pull the remaining yarn through the loops and make a knot.

Voila!

## Beady Foam Turtle

by Amy Law for Kreinik

If you have a son or daughter who always wanted a pet turtle, but YOU didn't want to take care of a pet turtle, make this cute no-mess version out of foam sheets, beads, and colorful metallic threads. Your kids will love making this easy "pet" that's pocket-sized!



### Materials:

- Green & Yellow Fun Foam (Westrim brand)
- Blue & Yellow cabochons
- 8x10 Treasure Tape Sheet
- Diamond Beadlets
- Kreinik Dimensional Threads: Gold Braid Assortment

### Steps:

1. Using the template, trace your pieces onto the green and yellow fun foam. Cut them out carefully. Use an x-acto knife to cut out the holes in the "shell" layer of the pattern. Peel back the white backer side of your tape and place the yellow body layer on the tape. Cut out the shape and repeat to apply tape to the second side. Press out from the center with your fingers to smooth out any air bubbles.
2. Peel back the red liner on the bottom of your yellow piece. Place your feet and tail pieces on the tape, and then align the yellow body shape with the bottom green shape. Press to adhere firmly. Peel the red liner off the top of your yellow body piece. Align the top green piece over it, and press them together.
3. Begin to embellish. Use your gold threads to make a pattern on your "shell".

4. When finished embellishing, use your red liner to press all threads firmly into the tape. Place your design in a tray or ziploc bag and pour Diamond Beadlets over the exposed tape. Swirl with your fingers to cover fully. Tap to remove excess beadlets.

Kreinik threads available through needlework stores or [www.kreinik.com](http://www.kreinik.com).

## Birds of a Feather

By: Kathleen George for Styrofoam Brand Foam

This trendy little feathered bird can hold your grocery list or a personal note to someone special. In only six steps Kathleen George shows us how to make this feathered friend a useful friend.



### Materials:

- STYROFOAM™ Brand Foam:
  - Egg, 3"
- Acrylic paints, colors of choice
- Coordinating craft foam circles, 3/8", two
- Craft feathers, colors of choice
- Wiggle eyes, 1/4", two
- Black string or elastic cord (optional)
- Wooden spring-type clothespin
- Serrated plastic knife
- Ruler
- Wooden skewer
- Round paintbrush
- Disposable palette
- Water basin
- Paper towels
- Scissors
- Low-temp glue gun and glue sticks
- Thick, white craft glue

### Steps:



(Note: Some adult supervision required; read instructions before beginning. Adults only should handle the serrated knife.)

1. Use serrated plastic knife to cut thin slice on a slight angle from narrow end of foam egg; this will be neck. If desired, cut thin slice from one side of egg so body will sit flat.
2. Use glue gun to glue clothespin to neck area for head/beak; open end should be at front of bird. Refer to photo.
3. Insert skewer into bottom of bird to use as handle. Holding skewer, paint entire bird color of choice; place in heavy glass or jar to dry. Remove skewer.
4. Use skewer to poke tiny holes into each side of body for two to four feathers. Apply dot of glue to hole and push tip of feather into it.
5. Glue two craft foam circles to opposite sides of clothespin as shown for eyes; glue wiggle eyes to foam. Be sure not to glue clothespin closed. Let dry completely.
6. Tie string to wire spring for hanging birds. Insert message into beak.

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## Cat Bottle Bank

By: Duncan

This green crafting project shows you how to recycle a 1-liter bottle into a purrfect cat bank. This is a great way to teach kids about recycling.



### Materials:

- Aleene's® Quick Dry Tacky Glue™
- Chalk pencil
- Pom poms: 1" grey, 1/2" black
- Clear plastic 1 liter bottle
- Wood ball, 2-1/2" diam. for cat head
- Grey felt
- Craft knife
- Ribbon
- 1/2" flat brush
- [Pattern](#)

### Steps:

1. Cut a 1/4" x 1-1/2" slot at back edge of plastic bottle.
2. For the head, paint grey on the wood ball with 1/2" flat brush. Let dry.
3. Glue the heads to the top of the bottles. Let dry.
4. Using chalk pencil, trace patterns onto grey felt. Cut out all pieces. Glue into place.
5. Glue on eyes. Glue on grey pom poms, use black for nose. Glue on ribbon trim. Let dry.

## Origami Tulip Card

By: Jo Ebisujima of A Bit of This and A Bit of That

Origami is a favorite pastime in Japan and kids learn simple origami in kindergarten. A 3-year-old friend taught me how to make these tulips. The tradition stem for origami tulips is quite difficult for a little one so I made this card easier by using pipe cleaners.

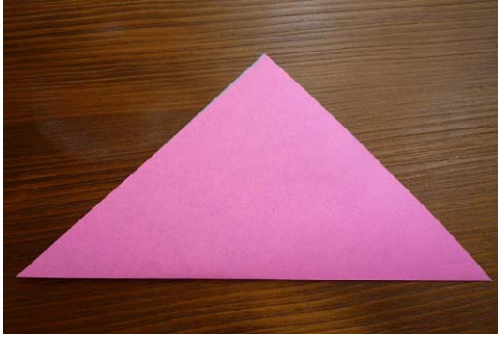


### Materials:

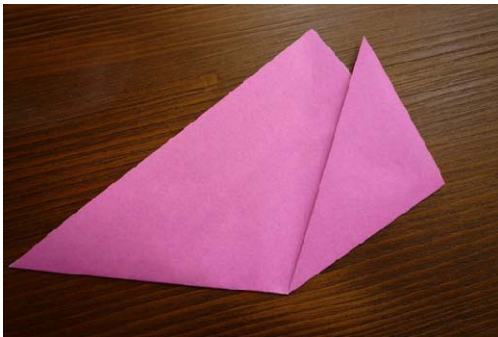
- Origami paper uses is 15cm x 15cm
- 2 sheets of tulip coloured origami paper
- 1 sheet of origami paper for the vase
- 2 pipe cleaners approx 20cm
- A4 piece of construction paper, folded in half
- Glue
- Tape

### Steps:

1. Fold the first piece of tulip paper in half to make a triangle, turn it so the long edge is at the bottom.



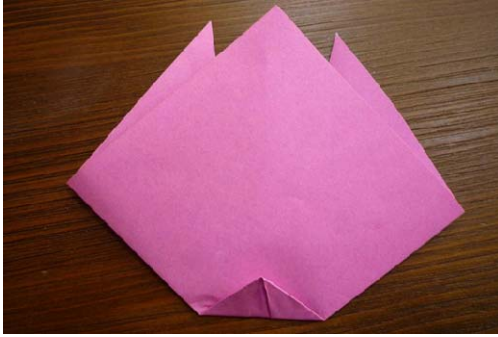
2. Fold the paper in half again, just enough to crease the centre of the bottom fold. Then fold from the centre to a couple of cm's from the top of the triangle.



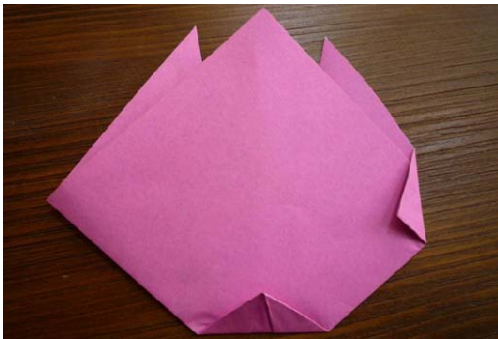
3. Repeat with the other side.



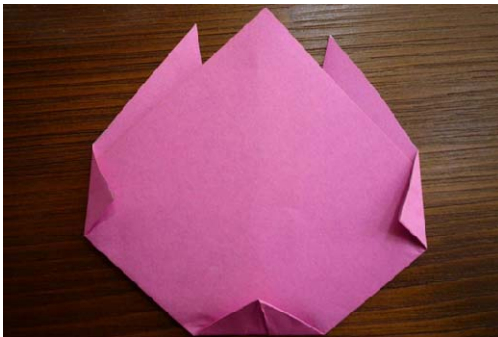
4. Flip the paper over and fold up the bottom corner.



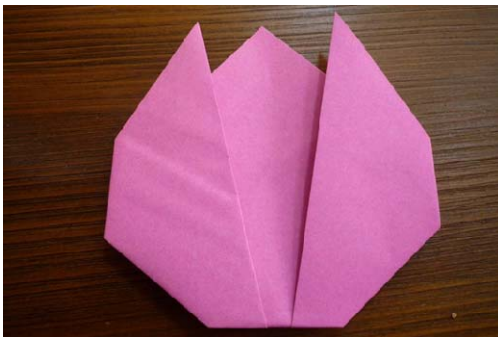
5. Then fold in the right corner.



6. Then the left corner.



7. Turn over, that is the tulip head finished.



8. To add the stem, turn it over again and attach the pipe cleaner with a piece of tape. that is the first flower done, repeat to make the second flower.



9. To make the vase, fold a piece of origami paper in half, then open it out - colour side should be face down.



10. Fold the right side into the middle and then the left and then fold the bottom up, about 5 cm.



11. Glue around the edge of the paper - not the top edge, that will be the opening for the vase, stick the paper to the construction card.



12. When the glue is dry pop your tulips into the vase. Finished.



## Fun Frisbees

By: Kelly Mellott

Have fun making these easy and cheap Frisbees with your child. Then have great summer fun playing with your new toys outside in the sun!

### Materials:

- Two paper plates
- Glitter glue
- Liquid glue
- Beads

### Steps:

1. Place one paper plate on the table as if you were going to put food on it. Place beads on the plate.
2. Glue the second paper plate on top so that they now resemble a flying saucer.
3. Decorate your new Frisbee with glitter glue and let sit to dry. When finished drying completely, take outside to enjoy with some fun exercise!



## Flower T-Shirt

Use tie dye to create this fun flower T-shirt.



### Materials:

- Tulip® One-Step Tie-Dye Kits™
  - Classic Colors
- Garbage bag
- Foam plate
- Paper towels
- Cardboard
- T-shirt, white
- Masking tape
- Plastic wrap
- 1" flat paintbrush
- Scratch paper
- Black felt pen

### Steps:

1. Wash shirt to remove sizing. Do not use fabric softener in the washer or dryer.
2. Cover work surface with garbage bag.
3. Using black felt pen, freehand flower pattern on scratch paper, flipping over for a reverse pattern for one flower.
4. Place shirt on work surface and smooth flat. Cover pattern with plastic wrap, taping excess to back. Insert pattern into shirt and position in place. Pattern will show through shirt.
5. Wearing gloves from kit, fill each dye bottle with water. Shake until thoroughly mixed.
6. Squeeze a small amount of Fuchsia Dye on foam plate. Wet and dry brush with paper towel. Dip brush in Dye then press into center of flower. Dye will spread on fibers. Paint dye to about ¼" from edge and

let spread to line. If more dye is needed, add paint at center again and let spread. Clean brush and plate.

7. Squeeze a small amount of Yellow Dye on plate and mix with Fuchsia to create an orange color. Fill in petals of lower flower with this mixture. Clean brush and plate.

8. Add Turquoise to plate and fill in petals. Add Yellow centers to each flower then Lime stems and leaves.

9. Cover with plastic wrap or garbage bag. Let set 4-6 hours. Fill washer to large load setting with a small amount of laundry soap. Dry in dryer.

## Dough Hand Photo Frame

Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue™ and cornstarch make quite the pair! Just mix together and you have an awesome dough to create unique projects – it's air dry too!



### Materials:

- Tulip® 3D Fashion Paint
  - 65010 Pink
- Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue®
- Plastic baggie
- Measuring cups
- Wire cutter
- Acrylic gems
- Plastic bowl
- Crayon
- Cornstarch
- Wood spoon
- Lightweight cardboard
- Photo
- Tape
- Colored wire
- Ribbon, ½" wide, 12" length per hand, desired color
- Rolling pin
- Paper towel
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Cardboard for work surface
- Toothpick
- Empty can
- Wire baking cooling rack
- Pencil
- Plastic knife
- Freezer paper

Steps:

1. Cover cardboard with freezer paper, shiny side up, to create work surface. Tape excess paper to back.
2. Measure 2 parts cornstarch and 1 part glue into bowl. Make only a small amount of dough at a time.
3. Mix, using spoon. Dust work surface with a small amount of cornstarch. Pour mixture onto work surface. Knead for about 10 minutes to form dough. Add more cornstarch as needed if dough is sticky, add more glue if mixture is too stiff. Store in plastic baggie until needed.
4. Trace child's hand onto lightweight cardboard, using pencil. Cut out to make template.
5. Dust work surface and rolling pin with cornstarch. Roll a baseball size amount of dough to about ¼" thickness. Place template onto dough. Cut around template, using knife. Cut a hole in center of hand for photo, using can.
6. Dip finger in water and smooth cut edges. Make a hole at tips of fingers, being sure they are large enough for wire to pass through. Set aside on freezer paper to dry. Heat, humidity and thickness of dough determine drying time. After first day, carefully peel from paper. Turn over. Transfer to cookie cooling rack. Let dry completely.
7. Cut a 14" length from wire, using wire cutter. Thread wire through holes. Twist ends to secure.
8. Cut a length from ribbon 1" wider than wrist of frame. Apply a bead of glue onto back of ribbon. Smooth glue with finger. Center ribbon over wrist, folding ends to back of frame. Smooth into place. Tie a bow, using remaining ribbon. Glue in place.
9. Place a dot of glue where gems are desired, using toothpick. Press crayon onto top of a gem. It will hold gem just long enough to press into glue. Repeat procedure to apply remaining gems.
10. Start flow of paint on paper towel, using an even pressure on bottle for a smooth line. Write name where desired. Let dry.
11. Trim photo to fit slightly larger than frame opening. Apply a bead of glue around edge of opening on back. Press photo into place. Let dry.

## Colorful Tissue Paper Frames

By: Annabelle Keller for STYROFOAM Brand Foam

Use inexpensive tissue paper to decoupage STYROFOAM™ Brand Foam frames with lots of color. Kids can create their own designs and give to family and friends as presents.



Materials:

- STYROFOAM Brand Foam:
  - Sheet, 1/2" x 12" x 36" sheet (makes five square or four cathedral frames)
- Art tissue paper: square frame: pink, red, light and dark values of yellow, orange, and green; cathedral frame: yellow, red, orange, purple, peace/love print
- Coordinating cardstock: square frame: 5" square; cathedral frame: 5" x 6-1/2"
- Satin decoupage medium
- 3/4" flat-bristle or foam paintbrush
- Serrated knife
- Candle stub or paraffin
- Tack cloth
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Wax paper
- Small plastic disposable containers
- Photograph
- Glues: white craft; acid-free stick; low-temp glue gun and glue sticks (optional)
- [Pattern](#)

Steps:

### Square Frame

1. Wax serrated knife with candle stub or paraffin. Using pattern, cut frame (including photo opening) from foam sheet, along with a 2" x 5" easel back. Sand cut edges with a scrap piece of foam until

smooth; wipe with a tack cloth.

2. Apply a coat of decoupage medium over entire foam frame and easel back. Place on wax paper to dry.
3. Tear light value of each tissue paper color (except red) into small pieces no larger than 2" square. Brush decoupage medium onto frame and randomly apply torn tissue paper, smoothing out any wrinkles. Continue overlapping pieces until completely covered and then apply a topcoat of decoupage medium. Repeat to cover easel back with tissue paper. Let dry.
4. Using flower patterns, cut or tear multiple flower centers, petals, and leaves from tissue paper as indicated. Hint: Fanfold paper before cutting or tearing to produce several shapes at once. Refer to photo to apply six-petal flowers with decoupage medium onto opposite corners of frame, using three to seven layers of flower centers and petals until desired color is achieved. Combine yellow centers with orange petals for one flower and orange centers with red petals for remaining flower. Let dry.
5. Apply two additional coats of decoupage medium to frame and stand, letting dry after each coat.
6. Position photo behind frame and trace around opening with a pencil. Trim photo, leaving a 1/4" border beyond penciled outline. Then trim cardstock 1/4" larger than photo. Mount photo centered on cardstock with glue stick. Using white craft glue, adhere cardstock to back of frame with photo centered in opening.
7. Glue easel back horizontally to back of frame, letting it rest at an angle 3/4"-1" from bottom.

### **Cathedral Frame**

8. Follow instructions for Square Frame with the following modifications. Substitute a 2" x 6" easel back. Apply each solid color of tissue paper to foam frame and easel back. Omit flowers and add love/peace prints, strategically placing them for maximum appeal.

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## Butterfly Pocket Pal

By: Duncan

This quick and easy project for kids creates a cute little butterfly with inexpensive materials. Stick into a piece of foam so that kids can decorate their rooms with their new butterfly pal.



### Materials:

- Aleene's® Quick Dry Tacky Glue™
- Wood pieces, assorted sizes and shapes
- Paper punches: 1/8", 3/16", 1/4"
- Black marker
- Acrylic paint; Deep Green, Purple, Fuchsia
- Embroidery floss (to hang flower)
- Wire
- Craft sticks
- Craft foam; light pink, pink, green, yellow, brown, light brown
- 1/4" flat brush

### Steps:

1. Glue wood pieces together. Glue the tip of craft stick to back of the figure, making sure there is space enough to insert into a pocket. Let dry.
2. Using ¼" brush, paint with purple and pink acrylic paint colors as desired on the butterfly, paint stick green. Let dry.
3. Glue all trims into place. Use wire for antennae, craft foam for trim, flower, leaf and body, and embroidery floss to hang.
4. Dot eyes with black marker.

## Buddy Up With Your Finger Friends

By: Kathleen George for Styrofoam Brand Foam

Make a new friend with Kathleen George's creations. The finger friend is a fun and exciting adventure you can have with your kids. It's easy too.



### Materials:

- STYROFOAM Brand Products:
  - 2- 1" or 1-1/2" balls
  - 1- block (optional)
- 1- 3" piece of chenille stem
- 1- pair wiggle eyes
- Craft paintstiff paint brush
- Felt scraps
- Craft materials such as eyelash curls, pom-poms, yarn
- General Tools and Supplies:
  - Scissors
  - Craft glue or glue gun and glue sticks
  - Wooden skewers or toothpicks

### Steps:

1. If desired, paint balls of STYROFOAM. Push a skewer into the balls to hold while painting; place skewers in a block of foam to hold while balls dry.
2. Shape 3" piece of chenille stem into a "U". Dip ends in glue and insert U shape into 2 balls so U shape will slip under the wearer's middle finger while the two balls sit on top of the hand to



form the puppet's eyes. (1" balls work best for smaller hands.)

3. Cut felt shapes for eyes; glue wiggle eyes to felt or attach wiggle eyes directly on plastic foam balls. Glue on other features such as pom-poms and eyelash curls, or felt ears and eyelids.
4. Dab glue onto foam and use a skewer to push materials such as yarn into the foam for hair. Insert chenille stems into foam for antennae or eye lashes. For antennae, gently curve chenille stems and glue pom-poms onto the tips of shaped chenille stems; dip in glue and insert into foam.
5. Modify the finger puppet instructions to create a finger friend that resembles your school mascot, favorite pet or other character. Buttons, sequins or glitter are other objects that might inspire your creativity.

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## Fuzzy Critter Crafts for Kids

By: Bernat

Kids can make these fuzzy critters without knitting needles or crochet hooks. The fuzzy yarn creates four different animals perfect for summer camp or anytime: caterpillar, mosquito, owl and spider. Kids will love making and playing with these.



### Materials:

#### Caterpillar:

Bernat Soft Bouclé (140 g/5 oz) 1 ball each of (26515 Softest Straw) as C and Bernat Disco (50 g/1.75 oz) (68013 Mr. Brown) as D. Pair of eyes. Black and red felt. 6" 15 cm of black yarn for antenna. Blunt needle.

#### Mosquito:

Bernat Soft Bouclé (140 g/5 oz) 1 ball of 26948 (Slate Shades). Pair of eyes. 5 tan chenille stems for legs and wings and 1 red chenille stem for mouth. Tissue paper.

#### Owl:

Bernat Soft Bouclé (140 g/5 oz) 1 ball of 22927 (Misty Shades). Tan, brown and black felt. Pair of eyes. Glue.

#### Spider:

Bernat Soft Bouclé (140 g/5 oz) 1 ball each of (06756 Black) as A and Bernat Disco (50 g/1.75 oz) (68040 Glad It's Night) as B. Red felt. Pair of eyes. 4 black chenille stems. Glue.

**Measurements:**

Owl: Approx 3 1/2" 9 cm tall.

Spider: Approx 3" 7.5 cm tall.

Mosquito: Approx 4" 10 cm tall.

Caterpillar: Approx 12" 30.5 cm long.

**Patterns:**

**Pom-Poms:**

Small (Medium-Large): Wind 1 strand of yarn around 3 (3-4) fingers 30 (60-80) times, or 2 strands of yarn 15 (30-40) times. Slip loops off fingers and tie tightly at center. Cut through loops on both sides and trim pom-pom to a smooth, round shape.

**Owl:**

Make pom-poms: 1 Medium for Head and 1 Large for Body. Cut a peanut shape from tan felt for face (Trace shape I). Glue eyes to face. Cut a diamond shape from black felt for beak (Trace shape II). Fold in half and glue to face. Glue face to Head. Glue Head to top of Body. Cut 2 teardrop shapes from brown felt for Wings and glue to sides of Body (Trace shape III). Pull 1 strand of yarn gently at each side of head to form "ears".

**Spider:**

With 1 strand each of A and B together, make 1 Large pom-pom for Body, placing chenille stems for legs on yarn loops before tying at center. With 1 strand of A, make 1 Small pom-pom for Head. Cut a mouth from red felt (Trace shape IV). Glue eyes and mouth to Head (see picture). Glue Head to front of Body. Bend chenille stems to form legs and feet.

Caterpillar: With 1 strand each of C and D together, make 2 Large and 2 Medium pom-poms for Body. With 1 strand of C, make 1 Small pom-pom for Head. Cut 2 teardrop shapes from black felt for eye patches and glue to head (Trace shape V). Glue eyes to eye patches. Cut a mouth from red felt and glue to head (Trace shape IV). Thread needle with black yarn and knot one end. Push needle through top of Head for antenna. Knot yarn at desired length and cut off excess. Thread needle with double strand of C and string pom-poms in following order: Head, 1 Medium, 2 Large, 1 Medium. Knot ends to secure.

**Mosquito:**

Make pom-poms: 1 Small for Head and 2 Medium for Body, placing 3 chenille stems for legs on yarn loops before tying 1 Medium pom-pom at center. Cut red chenille stem 3" [7.5 cm] long for mouth. Referring to picture, glue eyes and mouth to Head. Glue pom-poms together, having pom-pom with legs in center. Bend 2 chenille stems for wings into teardrop shape and glue to tissue paper. Cut away excess paper and glue wings to back. .

## Guest Tutorial: Recycled Crayons

By: Sara of Kitty Baby Love

This great, guest tutorial for how to recycle crayon bits into new crayons comes to us compliments of Sara of [Kitty Baby Love](#). You can also find the little, kitty-shaped crayons (perfect for child-sized hands) for sale in her [Etsy shop](#).



Cost: \$0 - \$20

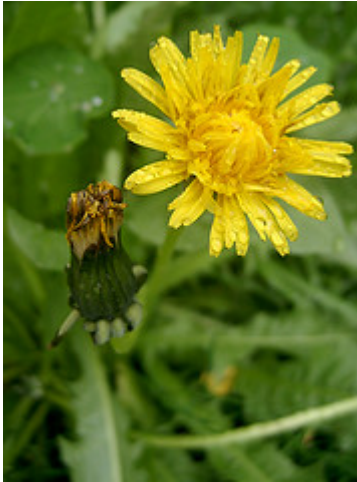
Time: 15 minutes

### Materials:

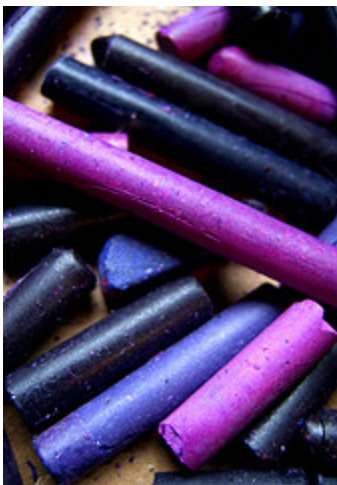
- Crayons (tip: recycle the broken bits and ends of crayons that end up being tossed)
- Heating source (Oven, microwave, stove...)
- Mold (tip: cupcake pans or tin foil will work just fine)
- Baking glove or some kind of protection from the hot wax (we used a pair of pliers)

### Instructions:

1. Make time. This makes a perfect rainy day activity with items you can already find around the house. Make this an opportunity to bond with your children or even your partner.



2. Find crayons. Standard crayons are easy and cheap to find at any drugstore. Make sure they are non-toxic!
3. In our experience, specialty crayons may not work as well, i.e. glow-in-the-dark crayons, or glitter crayons. You don't have to buy new crayons for this activity though, just use the ends and broken off bits you already have at home.



4. Peel paper off crayons and melt. You can melt them in a variety of ways: Heat lamp, oven, etc. We used the double boiler method- empty crayons in a heatable container and boil the container (with the crayons in them) inside another pan of water. Make sure you watch the crayons as they melt, which will happen fairly quickly (around 3-5 minutes).
5. We encourage using recycled cans. We molded ours to have a pouring spout and used an old meatloaf pan to boil it in. If you want to reuse the same can for making multiple crayon molds, we recommend using a pot that you don't mind tossing at the end as it can get a little messy. Depending on the size of your mold, melt between 7-20 crayons. This part takes some experimenting. Also crayons will act like paint and colors will mix together- so unless you want brown, make sure to separate the reds from the greens!



6. After crayons are melted, pour the heated crayon wax into the mold. This is where the baking mitts come in. Always use caution and common sense when handling hot objects. Don't have a mold? Don't worry, you can make your own- be creative! Tin foil or a cupcake container can work just as well as a store bought mold.
7. Let the crayon wax cool. The wax will instantly start to cool and shrink a little. If necessary, refill the mold and let it cool again. The mold will take around 5 minutes to cool, however you can pop them in the fridge or freezer for a quicker time.
8. When cooled, release crayon from mold and start coloring. That's all! Experiment with techniques and create custom colors, crayons with swirls, or layers of multi-colored crayon bars. This is just a general guide; have fun with it!

## How to Make Silly Putty

By: Kelly Mellott

Who doesn't remember playing with silly putty as a kid? Make some at home for hours of fun for your child! It's simple and saves money from store bought toys!

Materials:

- Food coloring (whatever color your child chooses)
- 2 tablespoons Borax
- 2 tablespoons White glue
- 2 tablespoons Water
- Mixing Bowl

Steps:

1. In a large mixing bowl, stir together glue, water, and food coloring.
2. Once fully mixed, add in the Borax and knead thoroughly.
3. Let sit for a few minutes.
4. Your homemade silly putty is ready to play with!

## Guest Tutorial: Freezer Paper Stencil Fun

By: Jaime Mitchell of Little Bird Creationsfa

In this Guest Tutorial, Jaime Mitchell of [Little Bird Creations](http://LittleBirdCreations.com) shows us how to use freezer paper to create easy t-shirt stencils. Kids can help create shirts painted with their favorites animals or other shapes. Visit [Jaime's Etsy shop](http://Jaime'sEtsyshop.com) to see her other inspired ideas and designs.



### Materials:

- T-shirt
- Freezer paper
- Pencil or pen
- Exacto knife
- Acrylic paint
- Textile medium
- Foam craft brush
- Bowl or container to mix paint in
- Cardboard or shirt form
- Iron
- Pressing cloth

### Directions:

First, take the shirt and wash and dry as it will be once finished and worn.

Next, take your freezer paper and draw/trace design of your choice on the “paper” side (not shiny) of the freezer paper. Then, on a craft surface, such as a craft cutting mat, cut out design with the exacto



knife, being very careful. This part, as well as the iron and paint mixing is a job for parents to please supervise and help out with, depending on the age of the child.



Once design is cut out, take another piece of freezer paper and place it inside shirt, between the shirt and shirt form, with shiny side facing the inside of the shirt. Make sure to place it right under where you want to paint the design onto to help keep the paint from bleeding through.



Next, place the design, shiny side down on top of shirt. Position it as you would like. Then, with iron on cotton setting, iron freezer paper to shirt. You will only need to iron it about 23 seconds, just until it “sticks.”

Now, you are ready to mix the paint! Take your paint and, depending on the color paint and shirt you are using, pour the amount of paint needed into the bowl or container. For the green lion shown on the blue shirt, it took about two coats of paint, so I used approx. 34 tablespoons if it were to be measured. However, I typically eyeball it. Next, following the manufacturers suggestion on the textile medium, mix together with paint.

Now for the fun painting part! Take your foam paintbrush, dip in the paint and start painting design onto shirt.



When finished, let dry overnight. Once drying is complete, you can gently remove the stencil and your freezer paper design will be revealed! Then, to heat set it, take your iron, on cotton setting again, and place pressing cloth over design and iron for a few seconds.



And Voila! A customized shirt is now ready to wear! Enjoy!

## It's an Alien, It's an Alien

By: Kathleen George for Styrofoam Brand Foam

Kids can always use toys to play with, now they can make their own. These little green men are made of yarn, pom poms and other materials. In seven easy steps your kids can have aliens among them.



### Materials:

- STYROFOAM\* Brand Foam:
  - Eggs: 2-1/2", two; 3-1/16", one
- Pom poms: 1/4" green, six; 1/8" green, 12; 1/4" neon pink, three; 1/8" neon pink, six
- Green felt, various shades, one to two sheets each
- Bright green yarn
- Bright green paints: acrylic; glitter dimensional
- Glow-in-the-dark wiggly eyes, round or oval, 8mm to 12mm, five
- Green chenille stems, plain and tinsel, four to six each
- Serrated knife
- Candle stub or paraffin
- Fine-line black permanent marker
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Three wooden skewers
- Stiff bristled paintbrush
- Disposable palette
- Water basin
- Paper towels
- Scissors
- Thick, white craft glue

### Steps:

(Note: Instructions are general guidelines only. The best guide is your imagination!)

1. Wax serrated knife with candle stub or paraffin. Cut small slice from wide end of egg so it sits flat.
2. Insert skewers into foam eggs. Holding skewer, paint eggs green. Place skewers in heavy glass or jar; let dry.
3. Using photo as guide, cut chenille stems to desired lengths for legs, antennae, and arms. Apply glue to stem ends and push directly into foam.
4. Cut feet and hands from desired shades of felt. Cut two long felt strips for small sitting alien's legs. Glue felt pieces to bottom of body or ends of chenille stems as desired.
5. Cut mouths, eyebrows and/or eyelashes, ears, and antennae ends from light green felt; glue to foam or chenille stem ends. If desired, faces may also be embellished with green dimensional paint; let paint dry completely.
6. Use skewer tip to press short lengths of yarn "hair" into foam (see center alien).
7. Glue wiggly eyes, pink pom pom noses and cheeks, and green pom pom toes to aliens.

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## Spring Butterfly

By: Jenny Mueller for Glue Dots

This spring butterfly is the perfect crafting project for kids of every age! It is a great springtime craft that is so easy to make!



### Materials:

- Craft Glue Dots Sheets
- Mini Glue Dots Sheet
- Recycled paper towel tube
- Bright construction papers
- Two, 10mm wiggle eyes
- Four, curling ribbons, multi-colored
- Fishing line
- Pipe cleaners or Chenille stems
- Pen
- Ruler
- Tape
- Hole punch
- Scissors

### Step 1

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Cut paper towel tube to measure 8-1/2" in length. Cut one piece of colored construction paper to 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" and wrap around paper towel tube. Attach construction paper to paper towel tube using Craft Glue Dots on Sheets.

Step 2

Cut out wings from one color construction paper and wing spots from two other colors of the construction paper. Use Craft Glue Dots to attach spots to wings.

Step 3

For wing tabs, fold straight edges of each wing back 1/2" and use Craft Glue Dots to attach to the back of paper towel tube.

Step 4

Use Mini Glue Dots to attach wiggle eyes to top portion of the paper towel tube.

Step 5

Attach pipe cleaners or Chenille stems to inside top portion of paper towel tube using tape.

Step 6

For hanger, punch two holes at top of body aligning holes with wings and cut the desired amount of fishing line. Thread fishing line through the holes and knot ends together.

Step 7

From each curling ribbon, cut 30" lengths. Tape one end of each of the ribbons to the inside bottom of the body. Use scissors to curl ribbons.

Step 8

Use the pen to draw the butterfly's mouth.

## Friendly Penguin

by DecoArt.com

Kids can help paint this cute wooden, egg-shaped penguin for their room.



### Materials:

DecoArt Products Required  
Americana Acrylics

- DAO1 - Snow (Titanium) White
- DAO10 - Cadmium Yellow (transparent)
- DAO67 - Lamp (Ebony) Black

### Multi-Purpose Sealer

- DS17 - Multi-Purpose Sealer

### Supplies

- Two medium teardrop shapes; one medium heart shape, Forster's Woodies
- Two 5-mm wiggly eyes
- 1/4" flat brush
- Short liner brush
- Foam plate
- Aleene's Quick-Dry Tacky Glue
- Unfinished wood egg shape with flat base

### Steps:

Preparation: Remove any stickers, inserts, or tags from surfaces before beginning.

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1. Use Snow White and 1/4 flat brush to paint egg shape; let dry.
2. Refer to photo and use Lamp Black to paint egg shape, leaving peanut shape unpainted for face, chest, and tummy of penguin. Let dry.
3. Use Lamp Black to paint teardrop shapes. Use liner brush to paint ovals for eyes on penguin face. Let dry.
4. Use 1/4" flat brush and Cadmium Yellow to paint heart shape for feet; use liner brush to paint inverted triangle for beak on penguin. Let dry.
5. Glue teardrop shape to each side of penguin body for wings; glue heart to egg base for feet.
6. Paint penguin with Multi-Purpose Sealer; let dry.
7. Glue wiggle eye over bottom half of each oval.



## Best Friends Wreath

Designed and decorated by Debbie Rines

The best friends wreath project is perfect for a Hodge Podge Crafts event. If you are a Mom or Dad planning a party, or a school or local park district looking for ideas with some left over crafts, the best friends wreath craft project is perfect.



### Materials:

- Aleene's® Instant Decoupage Sealer & Finish
- Aleene's® Easy Flow Tacky Glue™
- Foil
- Pencil
- Mounting squares, foam adhesive
- Plastic wrap
- Scrap white paper
- Ribbon, 1" grosgrain coordinating color, 1 yard
- Photos
- Gift wrap
- Scissors
- Brush, 1" flat
- Hole punches in same sizes as tags, if possible
- Bamboo skewer or chopstick
- Cardstock, coordinating colors with giftwrap
- Metal rim tags: 3 sizes, round and 2 sizes, decorative or flower shapes
- Chipboard or cardboard

### Steps:

1. Draw a 9" circle on chipboard or cardboard. Draw 6" circle centered on inside of 9" circle. This will make a ring about 1-½" wide. Hint: Use two bowls, that are close to these measurements as a template. Cut out ring.
2. From one color of cardstock, tear strips approximately 2" wide. Brush Instant Decoupage on front of

ring. Brush on back of each small piece of cardstock as it is wrapped around ring. Brush decoupage over top as you proceed. Cut an additional piece of cardstock slightly smaller than ring and decoupage to finish off back. Let dry.

3. Lay a piece of scrap paper on top of tags. Draw around inside edge of metal to create a pattern of different shapes and sizes of tags, using pencil. Use this pattern to cut pieces of gift wrap and cardstock. Hint: To save time, use a circle punch where possible to create paper circles.

4. Decoupage papers onto one side of key tags. Brush decoupage over papers. Let dry.

5. Cut photos in a circle. Decoupage to a slightly larger circle of cardstock. Decoupage to largest flower tags.

## Punch Art Flower Garden

By: Kathleen George for Styrofoam Brand Foam

Kids love to be creative and get into things they shouldn't, like your garden. Now they can create their own garden. Acrylic paints and colorful bags can be turned into great flowers.



### Materials:

- STYROFOAM™ Brand Foam:
  - Block, 12" x 10" x 1"
- Colorful plastic bags cut into 2-1/2" or 3" circles
- Acrylic paints: blue; brown; green
- Wooden skewer with one blunt end
- Paintbrushes: wide flat; small round
- Ribbon of choice for hanger (optional)
- Serrated knife
- Candle stub or paraffin
- Fine-line black permanent marker
- Ruler
- Disposable palette
- Water basin
- Paper towels
- Scissors
- Thick, white craft glue

### Steps:

(Note: Adults only should handle the serrated knife.)

1. Wax serrated knife with candle stub or paraffin; cut foam block to measure 9" x 12".

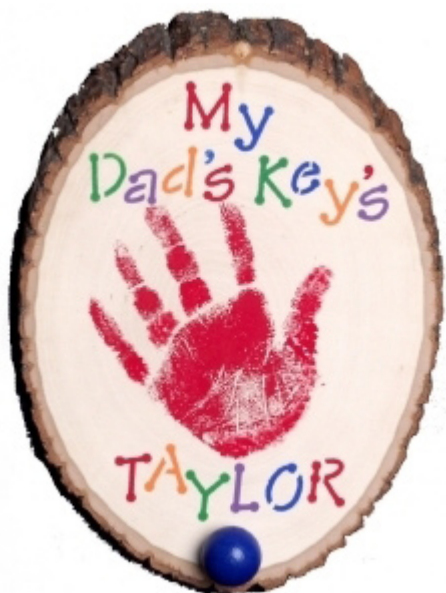
2. Refer to photo to paint blue sky and brown earth onto foam block, including edges. Let dry. Use round brush to paint green stems and leaves as desired; let dry.
3. Apply small dot of glue to top of each flower stem. Using blunt end of skewer, push center of one plastic bag circle straight down into foam at top of each stem over glue. Twist skewer slightly and remove.
4. Cut 16" length from ribbon; glue ends to top back corners of picture for hanger.

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## Key Hook for Dad

By: Cheryl Ball for Walnut Hollow

This Father's Day, the kids can help create a rustic key hook for Dad set on an actual tree section with natural bark and decorated with a kid's hand-print. Any Dad would love this homemade gift.



### Materials:

- Walnut Hollow® #27670 Medium Basswood Country Round
- Alphabet Stencil and Stencil Brush
- Ball knob or small hook
- Five different colors of paint
- Other Supplies: foam brush, paper towel, sandpaper, spray varnish, tape

### Instructions:

1. To prepare wood for painting, use sandpaper to lightly sand wood surface. Remove dust with paper towel.
2. Use a small foam brush to apply a thin coat of paint to a child's hand. Press hand onto center of round being careful not to smudge when lifting off wood. Let dry.
3. Position first letter of stencil on wood. Tape in place. Use a stencil brush to paint stencil opening. (To stencil, place a small amount of paint on a paper plate. Dip brush into paint. Dab off excess paint on a paper towel to prevent paint from leaking under stencil. Tap brush onto

stencil until desired result is achieved.) Continue with remaining letters. Let dry.

4. Attach a wooden knob or small hook to bottom of round to hold keys.
5. Apply 2-3 coats of spray varnish for a protective finish.

## Recycled Yogurt Cup Bud Vase

By: Michelle Sybert of Her Cup Overfloweth

This wonderful project comes to us compliments of Michelle Sybert of [Her Cup Overfloweth](#). Michelle recycles an ordinary kid's yogurt drink container into a cute little bud vase. Hooray for less plastic waste! Make these with your kids on Mother's Day for fellow moms, grandmoms and your own home.



Turn an empty kid's yogurt drink container into a bud vase, perfect for those teeny tiny wild flowers you and your child collect on long (or short) afternoon walks! Before you begin, you will need to gather your materials and set up your workspace.

### Materials:

- Empty yogurt drink container (child size)
- Mod Podge (or other decoupage glue)
- Wide mouth disposable bowl or cup
- Small craft size paint brush
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Scraps of craft paper (try not to use card stock)

**Directions:**

1. Strip the plastic covering off the container. Set container aside.



2. Cut paper into small ½ in. by 2 in. strips. Set aside.
3. Pour small amount of decoupage into bowl (enough to dip your strips of paper in).
4. Using your paint brush, apply decoupage to the outside of container.



5. Piece by piece (this is the most time consuming part), dip the scraps of paper into the decoupage glue and lay on the outside of the container (similar to Papier Mache technique). Using your finger tips or the paint brush, smooth out wrinkles and any excess glue. We layered them in a somewhat messy pattern, because, well, that's how kids are...a little messy!





6. Wipe of bottom of container with a paper towel to get rid of any residue and let dry for approximately 1 hour (give or take a few minutes). Now you are ready to add flowers!

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