

# Sweet Baby



**Materials:** flannel or soft material (1/2 yard), fiberfill (3 handfuls), ribbon (1/2 yard), buttons, yarn, marker

**Directions:** Cut an 18" square out of the fabric. Make a ball out of the fiberfill about the size of your fist, and put it in the middle. Wrap the fabric around the ball to make a head for your baby, and secure with a ribbon. Take one corner of the fabric and knot it to make a hand. Take another corner and knot it to make the other hand.

**Hint!** Sew on button eyes, yarn hair, and draw on a mouth!

# Sock Puppet



**Materials:** old socks, yarn, buttons, fabric pens, felt scraps, pom poms, craft glue, scissors

**Directions:** Stick your hand in the sock and wiggle it around. What could it be? A boy or girl? A cat or dog? Maybe an elephant or monster? Use the yarn and felt to make hair, ears, noses, and other features.

**Hint!** Encourage children to think of names for the sock puppets!  
Can the puppets sing a song or tell a story?

# Flannel Board



**Materials:** file folder, 9"X12" piece of felt, craft glue, stapler, felt scraps

**Directions:** Staple the two sides of the file folder together. Glue the piece of felt to the front. Cut geometric shapes, animals, and other figures from the felt scraps. Place inside the file folder pocket. Children can remove the felt pieces to create pictures and tell stories.

**Hint!** You can also attach Velcro to the back of photos and use them on the flannel board.

# Art Easel



**Materials:** corrugated cardboard, contact paper, duct tape, string, spring clothespins

**Directions:** Cut two rectangles 20"X14" from the corrugated cardboard. Cover with contact paper and attach at the top with duct tape. Punch holes in the sides and tie on string. Stand up on a table and use clothespins to hold paper. Let children paint with water colors, paints, markers, etc!

**Hint!** Place on a picnic table for outdoor fun!

# Paper Plate Party



Materials: paper plates, music

Directions: Put on some music and here we go! \*Clap the plates like cymbals. \*Shuffle them to the beat. \*Tap on the hips, shoulders, and other body parts. \*Clap high, low, in front of you, behind you. \*Play "follow the leader" as you take turns doing movements with the plates. \*Place the paper plates on the floor. Put one foot on each plate and slide and skate.

Can you skate backwards?  
Can you balance on one foot?

# Magic Wand



Materials: aluminum foil, cardboard roller from pants hanger, glue, glitter, tape

Directions: Lay a sheet of foil diagonally on the table. Place the cardboard roller on one point and slowly roll it in the foil toward the opposite point. Tape the end of the foil and trim the ends. Dip one end of the wand in glue, then roll in glitter. Taa daa!

Hint! Children can use their wands to make a wish!

## Cardboard Rollers



**Materials:** cardboard rollers from paper towel rolls, music

**Directions:** Give children two rollers to use like drum sticks. Play music, and keep the beat on the floor or table. Tap them like lummi sticks with a friend. Use the cardboard roller like a spy glass. Do you see something blue? Can you see a square?

**Hint!** Let children decorate the paper towel roll with markers or crayons. They can roll up their papers and insert them into the paper towel tote to carry them home!

## Magazine Puppets



**Materials:** magazines, newspapers, scissors, straws, stapler or tape

**Directions:** Cut sports figures and other famous people out of newspapers or magazines. Staple or tape to a straw to make a puppet. What would your puppet say if it could talk?

**Hint!** Children can cut people out that look like family members from catalogs to make puppets. Cut out children's photos and tape to a craft stick to make "personal puppets."



## Box Top Puzzles



**Materials:** empty cardboard food boxes, clasp envelope, scissors

**Directions:** Cut the fronts off the boxes. Cut into 2-10 puzzle pieces depending on the ability of the child. Store the pieces in the clasp envelope.

**Hint!** If you have two like boxes, you can cut one into a puzzle and let the children match up the pieces on top of the other box.



Introduce fractions with box tops. Cut one in half, one into fourths, one into eighths, etc.

## Sewing Cards



**Materials:** empty cereal boxes, yarn or string, hole punch, tape

**Directions:** Cut the fronts off the boxes. Hole punch around the sides. Tie one end of the yarn to a hole in the box. Wrap tape around the other end to make a needle.

**Hint!** Cut a pipe cleaner in half and twist it around the yarn to make a needle.

Sewing cards can also be made from paper plates or plastic place mats.



## Wonder Watchers



**Materials:** cardboard rollers from paper towel rolls, tape, string hole punch, markers

**Directions:** Cut the paper towel roll in half. Tape together. Punch a hole on each side of the roller. Tie on a piece of string so it can easily be slipped over the head. Let children decorate with markers. Look out the window or take a walk and look at all the wonders in the world!

**Hint!** You can also cover the ends of the rollers with colored cellophane.

## Hummers



**Materials:** cardboard roller, wax paper, rubber band, markers

**Directions:** You will need a 5" section of a cardboard roller. Cut a 7" circle from the wax paper and wrap it around one end of the roller with the rubber band. Decorate the roller with markers. Hold the open end to your mouth and hum.

**Hint!** Play "Name that Tune" as you hum while others try to guess your song.

# Play Dough



Materials: 2 cups all purpose flour  
1 cup salt  
2 Tbsp Cream of Tartar  
2 Tbsp vegetable oil  
2 cups water  
food coloring

Directions: Mix all the ingredients together in a pan. Stir until smooth. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture forms a ball and sticks to the spoon. Cool and knead. Store in plastic bag or covered containers.



## Play on with Play Dough



- Add oil of mint or other extracts to play dough to give it a fragrance. Pumpkin pie spices are fun in orange play dough at Halloween. Cocoa can be kneaded into uncolored dough at Valentine's Day to make chocolate dough.
- Use 2 Tbsp baby oil or massage oil in place of vegetable oil.
- Unsweetened Kool-aid mix can be used instead of food coloring.
- Have children play with dough on plastic placemats or cookie sheets. Add scissors, cookie cutters, play dishes, birthday candles or other cooking props.

# Goop



Materials: 1 cup cornstarch  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water

Directions: Place 1 cup cornstarch in a bowl. Slowly stir in enough water ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup to  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup) to make a thick liquid. Hold the goop in your hand, then turn your hand over and let it run back into the bowl. How is it like liquid? How is it like a solid?

Hint! You can add a few drops of food coloring to your goop if you wish!

# Flubber



Materials: 2 cups white glue  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups water  
food coloring  
2 level tsp. Borax soap  
1 cup hot water

Directions: Combine glue, 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water, and food coloring. Set aside. In another large bowl, dissolve the Borax in the cup of hot water. Slowly stir the glue mixture into the Borax. It will coagulate and be difficult to mix. Pour off the excess water. Let it sit for several minutes. Drain off the remaining water. Store Flubber covered in the refrigerator when not being used.

**Note: Borax is toxic. Supervise young children when using this.**



# Giant Bubbles



**Materials:** 2 cups dish detergent (Joy works best!)  
¼ glycerine  
10 cups water

**Directions:** Mix the ingredients in a large pan or pail. Allow the mixture to sit at room temperature for one hour. Blow bubbles with a fly swatter, plastic rings from drink cans, or berry baskets.

**Hint!** Make a giant bubble wand out of a straw cut in half. Thread an 18" piece of string through the straw and knot ends. Holding the straw in each hand, dip in the bubble solution, then slowly pull the straws through the air.

# Mud Pies



**Materials:** dirt, flour, water, old bowl, and spoon

**Directions:** Mix 4 parts dirt with 1 part flour. Add enough water so it will mold. Dry in the sun.

**Hint!** Decorate with sticks, leaves, seeds, and other natural objects.

You can make dough for sand castles by mixing 4 cups of sand, 2 cups of water, and 2 cups of cornstarch in a large pan. Make sure to use an old pan as the sand will scratch it. Heat on low, stirring constantly until the mixture thickens. Set aside to cool. Mold into sand castles or other shapes, and let dry.

# Shaving Cream Painting

Materials: shaving cream (non-menthol)



Directions: Squirt a pile of shaving cream onto a non-wood surface. Let the children squish and play.

Hint! This is a great way to clean tables and desks!

You can also finger paint with pudding or yogurt on a sheet of wax paper. Lick 'em to clean up!

# Silly Putty

Materials: white glue  
liquid starch



Directions: Use two parts glue to one part liquid starch. Pour starch into the glue a little at a time. Mix well. Add more starch if needed so mixture is not sticky. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Hint! Add food coloring if you desire.