



BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

Recycle Art Build

Children learn how to make 3-D art projects from recycled materials.

START

- In this activity, children will use a wide variety of recycled household materials to create and build 3-D art.
- Set up the table with the paper, containers of materials, glue sticks, and scissors.
- Introduce the activity by asking Who would like to do an art project where you build up a picture using all kinds of recycled materials?
- For younger children, set them up with simple construction paper or a paper plate.
- For older children, show them the variety of base paper materials and let them choose what they'd like to work with.

NEXT STEPS

- For younger children, let them handle and touch the assorted building materials to choose what they would like to use. They may spend their entire activity time just playing with the materials, which is an important sensory learning experience in itself.
- For older children, invite them to explore each of the materials to decide what they'd like to use. Remind them that they can cut, tear, scrunch, or fold their materials.
- Prompt the children to try building up their projects. They can pile and glue felt pieces on top of one another, make steps out of mixed objects, fold paper scraps, or curl ribbon into an arc over the paper.
- Adults can jump into this activity as well. They can do their own project (modeling that it's fun and worthwhile to experiment and use your creativity) or help their children.
- It's important to remember that in this kind of creative work, there is no right or wrong method or outcome. The children should be encouraged to explore as widely as they can.

(continued on side 2)

MATERIALS

- * Assorted types of paper: construction paper, wrapping paper, wallpaper, paper plates
- * Assorted building materials to glue, layer, and build with; for example, stiff ribbon, bottle caps, buttons, felt, aluminum foil
- * Any type of contact or sticky-back papers or stickers
- * Scissors
- * Glue sticks
- * Hole punch
- * Yarn, string, or narrow ribbon

Learning Guideline:

Visual Art: Explore a variety of age-appropriate materials and media to create two- and three-dimensional artwork

Tip Sheets:

Create, Cut



(continued from side 1)



FINISH UP

- The hole punch can be introduced as another tool, if children would like to make holes to weave the yarn or ribbon through for hanging their finished product.
- Ask the children to talk about (reflect on) their project. Is there a part of it you really like? Is there something else you might have liked to try? Do you have any stories about any of the pieces?

EXPAND YOUR ACTIVITY

- The children can start their project build up by initially folding their base paper into 3-D shapes, creating tent shapes, arches, or fanfolds.
- The children can be encouraged to substitute any of the sticky-back materials, rather than using glue, to hold things together, creating an interesting design challenge that has many solutions.

TAKE IT HOME

- Children can look for all kinds of recycled objects at home to create art projects. You can designate an old shoe box or cardboard carton as an art box where interesting items can be stored for later use.
- Families can introduce their friends to Recycle Art by giving art boxes as gifts. You can complete the art boxes by adding a pack of glue sticks and a pair of scissors.

BOOKS

- *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel and Alexandra Colombo
- *Recycle! A Handbook for Kids* by Gail Gibbons
- *Big Messy Art Book: But Easy to Clean Up* by MaryAnn F. Kohl
- *The Art Lesson* by Tomie dePaola

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