



CREATURE: Make a creature to use as a storytelling prop

1. Use the provided playdough and odds & ends to make a creature. In addition to the provided odds & ends you can choose to gather more objects. Some ideas are buttons, dried pasta or rice, stones, twigs, yarn, scrap paper, small game pieces, and paperclips.
2. After making your creature tell a story about it. Answer the questions below to spark your creativity:

- What is your creature's name?
- Who does your creature care about?
- What does your creature eat?
- Where does your creature live?
- What makes your creature special?
- How does your creature move?
- What is your creature's favorite thing to do?
- How does your creature show they are happy? (or other emotions)
- Why did you make the creature you did?

FOR CAREGIVERS: Before your child(ren) learn to read asking them to tell you stories is a great way to strengthen their language and early literacy skills. In addition to literacy, this activity develops fine-motor skills and creativity through sculpting. Your child can choose to set a goal of what they plan to make before starting or they can choose to create intuitively; both ways encourage decision making skills.



Image: Lessons4learners.com



PLAYDOUGH RECIPE: Use this recipe to make more playdough*

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 cups water
- 4 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 cup salt
- Unsweetened Kool-Aid or food coloring

1. Place flour, salt, cream of tartar (or vinegar) and oil in a pan.
2. Place water and food coloring in a bowl and mix until desired color. (Unsweetened kool-aid gives it a fun fruity scent.)
3. Pour water and food coloring into flour mixture in pan.
4. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly until it is the consistency of mashed potatoes. Dough will begin to pull away from the sides of the pan.
5. Remove from the pan and let cool. Knead for about 5 minutes or until smooth.

*Materials are not included



Flip the postcard over and decorate the front

CARD: Send a postcard to someone you care about

1. Draw or write a message to someone you care about. You can also tell your caregiver your message and have them write it out. See the prompts listed below for ideas.
2. Have your caregiver write the receiver's (person you care about) address on the lines under the stamp.
3. Point out the stamp (already adhered) on the postcard and talk about how stamps show mail workers that the piece of mail has been paid to be sent. The stamp will work to send the postcard to any address within the United States.

- Why you care about the receiver
- What you did today
- Questions you would like to ask the receiver
- Something you are looking forward to
- Something special you recently did
- Tell a story you think the receiver will enjoy
- Explain your favorite game to play

FOR CAREGIVERS: Letter writing is a great way to practice communication skills, especially thoughtfulness. Ask your child(ren) how they think their letter will make the receiver feel. This activity also provides an opportunity for your child(ren) to learn civic skills such as using stamps and sending mail.

CANVASES: Create a portrait of someone you care about and ask them create you

1. Sit across from someone you care about and create a portrait of each other using the provided cardstock canvases. You can choose to draw, paint, or collage! Look at the examples for inspiration.
2. When you are finished making the portraits tell each other why you care about them. How do you show you care about each other? Talk about how your portraits are different and the same.



FOR CAREGIVERS: This activity encourages your child(ren) to observe life and communicate their observations thorough art. It also is an opportunity for your child(ren) to build creativity and fine motor skills.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITY: Use the provided "Super Spectrum" sheet to explore color identification and mixing with your child(ren)

1. Start by filling in the sections of the wheel with just one color listed; yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, and green.
2. If your child(ren) are already familiar with color identification you can ask them to predict what color will be made when layering two colors together. Then, fill in the sections with two colors listed by layering the colors on either side of the section.



While you are doing this you can talk with your child(ren) about color:

- Which of these colors did you use in your portrait?
- Which color is your favorite?
- Ask them to point to which color the _____ (sky, grass, table, etc.) is.

