



*Little Stars Arts and Crafts*  
*Pre-School Activities*



**LEVEL** ▶ Pre-K

## TRAIL TO CREATIVITY

**PROJECT** ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS

**PURPOSE** ▶ Children explore and express themselves through a variety of artistic experiences.

**MEETING PLANS** ▶

Print Making  
Creative Collages  
Painting  
Playing with Clay  
Moving Art  
Lacing

**YOUTH OUTCOMES** ▶

- Demonstrates artistic skills in the medias of visual and/or performing arts.
- Works and plays cooperatively.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNING  
A RECOGNITION ITEM** ▶

When children complete each meeting plan, they each receive sticker #D00025 from the project to place on their recognition charts.

**TIPS FOR GROUP LEADERS** ▶

- Try to develop an atmosphere of creative freedom. Let the children feel free to use their imaginations in new ways.
- Avoid the idea that there is a right way of creating something. Patterns or models limit creativity and should be used only to stimulate ideas. Suggest options, but allow the children to make final decisions.
- Encourage the children to share ideas with each other while working on their projects. Ask the children to tell you what their artwork is as opposed to guessing what they have created.
- Never compare artwork. Each child progresses at his or her own pace.
- Involve children in setting up and cleaning up activities.
- Be a good listener. Remind the children to be good listeners, too.
- Accept the children's contributions in a positive way. All children have different values and skills.
- Encourage empathy; encourage children to be kind and helpful to each other.
- Involve children in setting up and cleaning up activities.
- Keep activities and explanations at a level that children can understand.
- Go over safety rules before doing an activity.

*Distribute this project overview to each activity leader who will be involved in this project.*

**MEETING PLAN ▶ PRINT MAKING****PROJECT ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS****LEVEL ▶** Pre-K**PURPOSE ▶** Children express themselves through art.**OPENING ▶** Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.**MATERIALS ▶** Paint smocks or old shirts, yarn, glue, scissors, paper, tin cans or cardboard tubes, paint, shallow dish, potato, sharp kitchen knife, ink or thick paint, ballpoint pens, leaves of various shapes and sizes, Styrofoam trays. Optional: T-shirts, tablecloths, flowers, fabric.**PREPARATION ▶** Cut yarn into foot long strips to use in making roller prints.

Cut a potato in half and use a pencil point to lightly scratch out a pattern or shape on one half of the potato. Using the kitchen knife, carefully cut away the potato outside the scratched design. Repeat with the other potato half.

Cut sides off the Styrofoam trays leaving just the flat bottoms.

**ACTIVITIES ▶****Roller Prints**

Give each child a paint smock or old shirt to wear while painting. Explain to children that everyday objects can be used to make interesting prints or images. Tell the children they will be making a variety of prints with different objects. Have the children glue pieces of yarn, without overlapping, around the outside of a roller (tin can or cardboard tube). Encourage the children to glue some of the yarn in wavy lines around the roller. Let dry (do another activity while waiting to dry). Children will dip their rollers into paint and roll them back and forth over their paper.

**Potato Prints**

Children can choose one of the pre-cut potato designs or help design one of their own. Dip the potato into ink or paint. Press the potato firmly and evenly onto a flat sheet of paper or fabric. Prints can be used to decorate shirts, cards, wrapping paper and tablecloths.

**Styrofoam Prints**

Ask children to use a ballpoint pen to draw a design into their piece of Styrofoam, pressing it just hard enough to make a shallow groove. Dip the Styrofoam into paint and press onto paper.

**Leaf Prints**

Have the children paint the backs of leaves. Show the children how to gently put the painted side of a leaf onto a piece of paper. Next, smooth down the leaf. Gently lift the leaf off the paper. Try this activity using flowers also.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE ▶**

- What is a print?
- What are other ways we can make a print?

**CLOSING ▶** Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MEETING PLAN** ▶ CREATIVE COLLAGES

**PROJECT** ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS

**LEVEL** ▶ Pre-K

**PURPOSE** ▶ Children learn to make collages by overlapping.

**OPENING** ▶ Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MATERIALS** ▶ Calendars and magazines with animal pictures, scissors, glue, poster board, tissue paper in several colors, cup or bowl, paintbrushes, sheets of white paper, crayon pieces, shelf paper or finger paint paper, iron, a tool to shave crayons such as a vegetable peeler or grater.

**PREPARATION** ▶ Make a solution of one-part glue and one-part water in a cup or bowl for use in the tissue paper collage.

**ACTIVITIES** ▶

**Animal Collage**

Explain that a collage is made of pictures that overlap, but that you can still see a portion of each picture. Have the children cut or tear pictures from calendars and magazines, then glue them onto a poster board in an overlapping fashion. Help the children with placement until they have the idea.

**Tissue Paper Collage**

Have the children tear tissue paper into small pieces and glue the pieces onto a sheet of white paper so that they overlap slightly. When the white paper has been covered to the children's satisfaction, coat the entire page with a thin layer of the water/glue solution using a paintbrush. Show the children how the colors are bleeding into each other and creating new colors.

**Melted Crayon Collage**

Chip crayons onto a smooth, shiny piece of paper for each child. Place a second sheet on top of the sheet with the crayon chips. Using a warm iron, press the second sheet of paper to melt the crayon. Only the adult leader should use the iron. After you remove the top paper, children can draw with a black crayon over the melted colors or scratch in a line design into the wax with their fingernails.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE** ▶

- What is a collage?
- What happened to the color in the tissue paper when it got wet?

**CLOSING** ▶ Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MEETING PLAN ▶ PAINTING****PROJECT ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS****LEVEL ▶** Pre-K**PURPOSE ▶** Children learn how to express feelings or ideas through pictures.**OPENING ▶** Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.**MATERIALS ▶** Paint smocks or old shirts, paint, paintbrushes, paper, strings, scissors, sponges, white paper. Optional: Pudding, dry raspberry or black cherry gelatin with finger paint paper, shaving cream with dark construction paper.**PREPARATION ▶** Prepare the pudding if using it in the activities.

Cut sponges into animal or people shapes.

**ACTIVITIES ▶****Paintbrush**

Give each child a paint smock or old shirt to wear while painting. Have the children tap, twist and roll a paintbrush on paper. Roll a small scrap of paper and place between the bristles to make a split line.

**Finger Painting with a Twist**

Experiment with fingers, knuckles, fists, sides of hands and fingernails in pudding or shaving cream on dark construction paper. You can also wet finger paint paper on its glossy side and sprinkle two to three tablespoons of dry, flavored gelatin on the wet paper for them to use as finger paint.

**String Painting**

Have the children lay one end of the string into the paint and slowly pull the string out. Put the wet end of the string on paper and drag it around. Encourage children to move their arms up and down to make new patterns.

**Sponge Painting**

Give each child a choice of sponge cut outs. Show them how to put the paint on the sponge and press it to a sheet of paper.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE ▶**

- What colors make you happy?
- How did the paint feel between your fingers and your toes?
- What different designs were made with each new way of painting?

**CLOSING ▶** Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MEETING PLAN ▶ PLAYING WITH CLAY**

**PROJECT ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**LEVEL ▶** Pre-K

**PURPOSE ▶** Children learn how to make dough and experiment with their sense of touch.

**OPENING ▶** Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MATERIALS ▶** Vegetable shortening, a bowl for each child, magnets, glue gun, 3 cups of flour; 1 cup of salt; 1 1/4 cup of warm tap water, measuring cup, bowl, spoon; wooden board or wax paper taped to the table; rolling pin or the side of a smooth glass; plastic knife; items to make designs: toothpicks, pencil points, plastic forks.

**PREPARATION ▶** To make play dough, pour 1 cup of salt into a bowl. Add 1 1/4 cup of warm tap water to the salt, stirring until the salt dissolves. Add 3 cups of flour to this mixture. Stir. Mix and knead the dough by working it with your hands, shaping and reshaping until it is smooth and firm. Form it into a ball.

**ACTIVITIES ▶**

**Play Dough**

Give children a piece of the home-made play dough. Encourage the children to try to make shapes, animals, etc.

**Coils and Balls**

Demonstrate how to roll the clay to make coils and balls. Encourage the children to make a snake or snowman using these methods.

**Bowls and Pinch Pots**

Help the children make bowls or pinch pots. To make a bowl from coils, coat the outside of a bowl with shortening. Place the bowl upside down and begin by placing a coil at the top and center of the bowls bottom. Continue placing ropes of clay, winding them around the bowl until it is covered.

To make a pinch pot, start with a ball of clay and push and pinch it into a bowl shape. Dry until hard and paint with poster paints, if desired, at a later meeting.

**Magnets**

Have the children make small, flat shapes out of clay (example: animals or fruit). Once the clay has hardened, paint with poster paints. After the paint dries, hot glue a magnet to the back. Only adults should use the hot glue gun.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE ▶**

- What did the clay feel like?
- What can you make out of clay?
- How would you make a person out of clay?

**CLOSING ▶** Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MEETING PLAN ▶ MOVING ART****PROJECT ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS****LEVEL ▶** Pre-K**PURPOSE ▶** Children learn how to make movable art.**OPENING ▶** Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.**MATERIALS ▶** Construction paper, glue and/or stapler, string or yarn, hole punch, needle, scissors, straws and/or clothes hangers. Optional: Feathers, wiggly eyes, crepe paper or streamers, driftwood, pinecones or other hang-able nature items, screw in eyehooks, crayons, Styrofoam egg cartons.**ACTIVITIES ▶****Fish**

Explain to the children that a mobile is a decoration or piece of art that has many parts and moves freely in the air. Ask the children if they have ever had a mobile. Cut two cups out of a Styrofoam egg carton. Fold over and bend the front end of the pieces (the side not connected together) to form the mouth of the fish. Poke a hole using the needle in the top of the fish and insert a string up through the body for hanging. Glue the two pieces of the fish together. Have the children make as many fish as you want to cut out. Glue on wiggly eyes and a tail and suspend from ceiling or hanger.

**Nature Mobiles**

Using the driftwood, screw in one eyehook at the top and several eyehooks along the bottom. Large pieces of driftwood may require an eyehook on each end of the top for hanging. Have the children collect their own nature items. Have the children cut string into various lengths so you can tie string around their nature items. Let the children thread the other side of the strings through the eyehooks

attached to the bottom of the driftwood. Tie a string around the top eyehook(s) for hanging.

**Octopus Windsocks**

Have each child draw the face of an octopus in the middle of a 6" x 16" piece of construction paper. Help the children cut crepe paper or streamers into eight long arms, somewhat equal to each other in length. Have the children glue one end of each streamer to the bottom inside edge of the construction paper (the side without a face), spacing them apart equally. Let the glue dry for a few minutes and then glue or staple the head into a cylinder shape. Let dry and then show children how to use a hole punch to make two holes near the top of the head, on opposite sides. Thread pieces of string through the holes to make handles for hanging their windsocks.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE ▶**

- What is a mobile?
- What makes a mobile move?

**CLOSING ▶** Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MEETING PLAN ▶ LACING**

**PROJECT ▶ ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**LEVEL ▶** Pre-K

**PURPOSE ▶** Children learn how to string objects together and improve fine motor skills.

**OPENING ▶** Choose from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.

**MATERIALS ▶** Yarn or string for lacing, glue or nail polish, cardboard or Styrofoam trays, hole punch and scissors. Optional: Patterns of simple shapes or objects, small plastic caps of all types, ice pick, hammer and nails, buttons, shapes cut from bleach bottles or foil pie tins, uncooked noodles, painted pieces of Popsicle sticks or wooden ice cream spoons, colored straws cut into sections, feathers, berries, popcorn, daisies, O-shaped cereals, wooden items of all shapes and sizes with holes for threading, beads.

**PREPARATION ▶** Dip the ends of yarn in glue or nail polish. The stiffened ends will be easier for children to use for lacing. If necessary, punch holes in objects to be threaded. Smooth any rough places on wooden item to be threaded.

**ACTIVITIES ▶**

**Sewing Cards**

Cut out simple shapes or objects (cars, planes, flowers, shoes, etc.) and punch holes around the edges. You could use cardboard or Styrofoam trays. Let the children use yarn to lace around the edges.

**Jewelry**

Make necklaces, bracelets and anklets from any small object found around the home that can be punched or threaded. Use pieces of wood, teeth cut from foam and feathers and tell them you are going to make a necklace like a cave man or warrior.

**Garlands**

Thread items, such as popcorn, daisies, etc., to make Christmas tree garland or hang garland from the ceiling in loops as a party decoration. Caution: Do not hang garland that could injure someone if it fell or came apart. Be sure garland does not hang low enough for anyone to get caught in it.

**PLAYBACK: POINTS TO REINFORCE ▶**

- What are some things we could use to make necklaces?
- Can you lace your shoes?

**CLOSING ▶** Choose one from the suggestions on page 129 or develop one of your own.



## FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

“Arts and Crafts” is a project on the Trail to Creativity that allows children to explore themselves through a variety of artistic experiences. As a result of the project, Camp Fire hopes that your child:

- Demonstrates artistic skills in the media of visual and/or performing arts.
- Works and plays cooperatively.

### AT HOME ▶

#### **Gadget Painting**

Use whisks, potato mashers, feathers or other items dipped in paint to make prints and designs on paper, T-shirts, etc.

#### **Themed Mobiles**

Select a theme such as spring, space, zoo animals, etc., and suspend pictures relating to the theme from varying lengths of string tied to a clothes hanger.