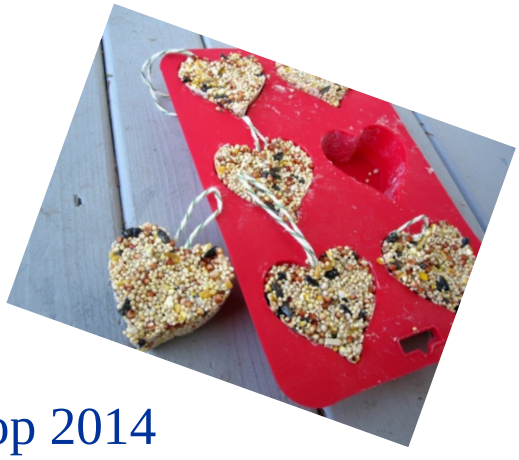
Creative Kids Crafts



Buckeye Leadership Workshop 2014

Facilitator: Karen Saker

ksaker@neo.rr.com - 330-394-1662

Cloud Dough Recipe:

Add one cup of baby oil to 8 cups of flour. Stir well. I used a pastry cutter to mix mine, but a spoon or whisk would be fine.

- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- heaping tbsp non-toxic Tempera paint powder
- potato masher or pastry cutter & wooden spoon

In a large bowl, stir together the vegetable oil and flour.
Add the Tempera paint, give it another stir, then using a pastry cutter or potato masher, work the dough for several minutes until the color is uniform and the ingredients are soft, silky and well-mixed.

Playing with your cloud dough:

Transfer your dough to a shallow storage container (a dollar store kitty litter bin works well), and add spoons, scoops, bowls, cookie cutters and plastic molds.

Your kids will have a blast stirring, mixing, scooping, pouring and molding their cloud dough.

Cloud dough is so lovely to the touch, they'll love simply running their hands through the bin, squeezing and shaping the dough and watching it crumble when they release it back into the bin. I'll bet you won't be able to keep your hands out of it either!

Cloud Dough – the recipe for this home-made sensory play material is the easiest of all the things I've ever made! Then, why such a dreamy, fairytale-like, even otherworldly-sounding name?

I think because when playing with it the child feels on 'cloud nine' – as in – on top of the world! Really, that's how Pari has responded to this simple, sensory material.

Well, that's just my version! Or may be it was named so due to how it looks when molded between hands. Yes, it does look like white, silky, fluffy clouds when you take a hand-full and form it with your hand clutched into a fist.

Cloud Dough has an immediate 'WOW' effect on the child the moment it's touched. The **moldable consistency and silky smooth texture** between hands feels instantly soothing and pleasing to the senses. It's kind of like wet sand – very easy to sculpt without any stickiness.

And, unlike playdough or salt dough, the child can disintegrate it without any effort. It can be sent back to its powdery form within seconds. And then remolded at the blink of an eye!

I collected all the cloud dough and **stored it in an air tighter container in the fridge.** This can be used for days or even weeks.

One batch that we made was nearly 10 days back and we're still using it.

Wind Spinner

Materials needed: Empty 2 liter bottle with lid

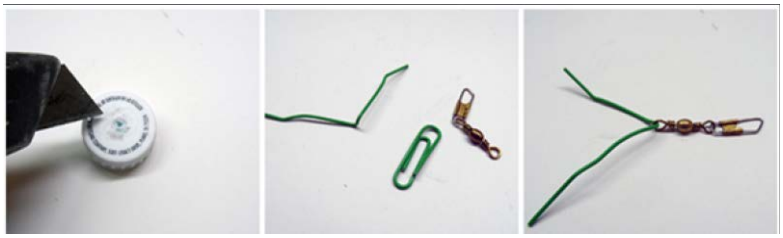
Duct Tape Box Cutter Snap Swivel

Wrap duct tape around outside of bottle. Starting from the top of the tape and ending at the bottom of the tape, cut vertical slits in the bottle, about ¾” apart.

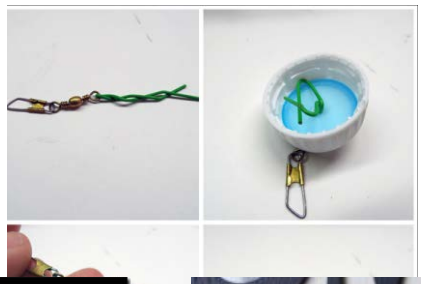
Next angle the slits by making folds at the top and bottom of each slit. This allows the wind to catch them and make it spin. At the top of each slit make a 45-degree fold to the right. At the bottom of each slit make a 45-degree fold to the left.

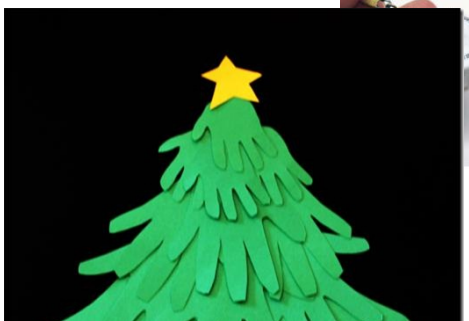
Cut a small hole in the top of the bottle cap. Unfold and stretch the paper clip out and thread it through the looped end of the swivel.

NOTE: A snap swivel is a piece of fishing tackle available anywhere that sells tackle, such as Walmart. Look for them in packages in the fishing aisle of the sporting goods section. They are inexpensive, a couple dollars for a package. The swivel is used so that the fishing line that your wind spinner is hanging from does not tangle around itself.



Twist the paper clip together then insert it into the hole in the top of the bottle cap. Bend the ends of the paper clip so that it can’t come back out the hole.





HAND PRINT CRAFTS

All of these are made by drawing around hands on to

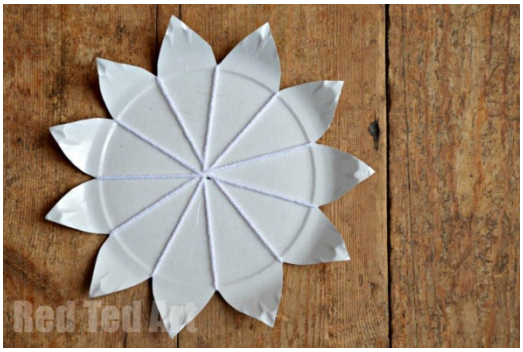
Construction paper and then glued to a paper backing.

PAPER PLATE WI

Materials needed: Paper plates (coated ones are more sturdy)

Yarn Scissors

Cut slits or petals around the outside of the paper plate. You need to have an odd number. Make a hole in the center of the plate



-Cut the edges of a paper plate into points so the plate looks like a flower or a sun.
-Poke a hole in the middle of the plate.
-Tie individual strands of yarn between each petal (or every other petal). Tie each strand so the knot is on the back of the plate. It will look messy on the back, but that is not important. You may trim the tails of the knots, but don't make them too short or the yarn will pop off while weaving. (Alternately, you can just go around the outside and through the middle with one long piece of yarn and then tie off the end at the back.)

-Take a piece of yarn about 10 inches long and tie its tail to one of the cross yarns on the back of the plate.
-Pull the yarn through to the front and get ready to weave.

-Begin weaving in the center of the plate by going over, under, over, under, and so on.
-Stuff and tuck the tail of the first piece of yarn under itself. No need to tie knots, the yarn is fuzzy and will cling to itself when tucked in well.
-Begin with a new color of yarn by stuffing and tucking it under the previous color, then weave as before.

Sponge Balls

Materials needed: Cellulose Sponges String or Dental Floss Scissors

Here's how you make it:

Cut each sponge into five long pieces. Put them back "together" as sponges but with the colors all mixed up. Stack them on top of each other. Then take a piece of yard and just tie across the middle. NOTE: You have to get the sponges a tad wet, for this to work.

Drop the sponges into water and have fun! A pretty safe way to have a water battle either in or out of the pool.

Fleece Pom Pom Balls

Cardboard Scissors Fleece (at least 7 by 60 inches)

Instructions

Cut the cardboard so it is approximately three by six inches. Lay the piece of fleece onto your work surface. Cut the fleece into six strips. They need to be approximately one inch wide by 60 inches long. Cut another strip that is one by six inches long. This is useful in tying the ball. Wrap the fleece strips loosely around the narrow portion of the cardboard. Keeping them loose prevents the fleece from stretching out of shape.

Start the next piece of fleece where the first one ends and repeat the method until all the strips are wrapped around the cardboard. (This is similar to making a pom-pom out of yarn.)

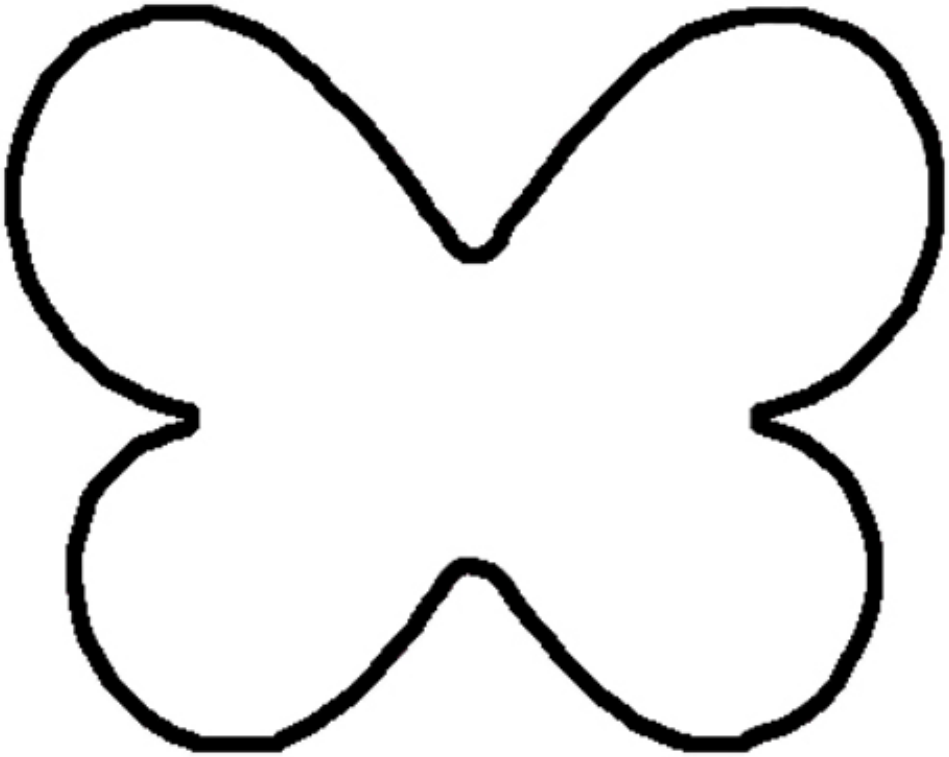
Slide the strips carefully off the cardboard. Insert the one by six inch strip into the space created by the cardboard. Pull the strip even on each side and tie it in a simple knot as tightly as possible without breaking the fleece. Trim the ends of the short strip so that they are near the ball. Fluff the ball and cut through each loop. This creates a shaggy, pom-pom ball out of fleece.

butterfly treats

Materials needed – Clothespins (clip type) - Chenille stems – Wiggle eyes - permanent markers or paint – snack size plastic zip-top bags – snack items

Paint or use markers to color clothespins. Twist chenille stem for antennae and wrap around back or open end of clothespin. Glue on wiggle eyes, or use marker. Fill snack bags with treats. Open clip and gather center of bag into opening.

Cut butterfly out of card stock. Cut 2 slits for sucker stick. Decorate butterfly as desired. Insert Tootsie Pop and glue on wiggle eyes. If you are giving this to a small child, eliminate the eyes as they will pose a choking hazard.



nds

You'll Need:

3/4 cup flour	1/2 cup water
1 envelope unflavored gelatin	3 tbsp. corn syrup
4 cups birdseed	molds (muffin tin, cookie cutters, etc.)
nonstick spray	drinking straw
waxed paper	ribbon/twine

Add the water and corn syrup to the nonstick saucepan and bring them to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and add the gelatin, stirring or whisking it continually to dissolve. Clumps may appear, but will gradually vanish as you continue to stir. This will create a syrupy liquid that will bind the ornaments together. Only heat this mixture until the gelatin has dissolved; boiling the liquid down too far will reduce the quantity available to bind your ornaments, and they may fall apart more easily.

Transfer the syrup to your mixing bowl and add the flour. Stir the mixture until it is well blended; it will have a consistency similar to a medium brownie batter or thick cake batter, and there should be no large clumps. If it is too thick to stir easily, add additional hot water one tablespoon at a time until it is appropriately thinned. Similarly, if the mixture is too thin, add flour one tablespoon at a time to reach the right consistency.

Add the birdseed and thoroughly mix it with the flour batter to coat all the seed. This will be a thick, stiff mixture, but it is important to blend it well otherwise the ornaments will fall apart. Spraying a rubber scraper or spatula with nonstick spray for the mixing can help ensure a good mix without too much seed sticking to the utensil.

Spray your hands thoroughly with nonstick cooking spray and fill each cookie cutter to the brim with birdseed. Be sure to press seed into every corner of the mold, and press the seed as firmly as possible to compact the ornaments – loose seed will fall apart more easily. The birdseed mixture can dry out quickly so it is wise to have help with this step (great for kids!), or else cover the mixture in the bowl with plastic wrap between each ornament. Fill only one ornament at a time; they will start to dry quickly, and extra seed added at the end will not adhere as well to the finished ornament. You may need to spray your hands with nonstick spray after every 2-3 ornaments so the seed does not stick to you.

Any extra birdseed mixture you have left after filling all your cookie cutters can be rolled into small balls or patted into small, firm cakes without molds. These small shapes can be quickly added to a platform feeder or used to fill a suet cage or similar wire or mesh feeder, such as the Birdie Bell, and no seed needs to go to waste.

Use whatever implement you have chosen as a skewer (a lollipop stick here) to create the holes for hanging each ornament. Press the seed firmly around the skewer, and be sure the hole is completely through each ornament. Place holes approximately one inch away from the ornament's edge to ensure a sturdy form, and wiggle the skewer around to be sure the hole is large enough for your string or twine and to compact the seed around the interior of the hole. If desired (and if you have enough skewers), you can leave the skewer in place as the ornaments dry, or else it can be removed while they dry.

Gently move the ornaments – still in the cookie cutter molds – onto the wire cooling rack to dry. Do not remove them from the molds or else they may loosen and collapse. If necessary, they can be left on the counter to dry, but placing them on the wire rack will allow air to circulate under the ornaments so they dry more quickly. Dry the ornaments for a minimum of 6-8 hours, but preferably overnight or for a full day if possible. Placing a small fan nearby or turning on a ceiling fan to increase air circulation will help them dry more quickly.

Stick the ribbon, string or twine through the holes in each ornament and tie in a tight knot leaving an open loop for hanging.
Poke a hole through top of each birdseed mold using a drinking straw, making sure it goes all the way through.

Easy {and Fun} Catapult

Supplies needed:

- 7 craft sticks
- 3 rubber bands
- a milk cap
- cotton balls {or other objects to launch}

Build a Catapult

1. Stack 5 craft sticks together, and rubber band the ends.
2. Stack 2 craft sticks together, and wrap a rubber band around the very end.
3. Separate the 2 craft sticks. Place the stack of 5 craft sticks between the 2 craft sticks.
4. Wrap a rubber band around all of the craft sticks to hold the catapult together.
5. Glue a milk cap {or something similar} on to serve as a launching platform.
6. Push down on the top craft stick and release to launch an object from the milk cap.

Catapult Science

Now create a simple experiment using the catapult of your choice. Try one of these experiments.

- Launch an object from the catapult multiple times and measure how far it travels each time.
- Launch different objects from the catapult and measure how far each object travels.
- Compare catapults. Build more than one catapult {the same or different design}. Launch the same object from each catapult and measure how far it travels.

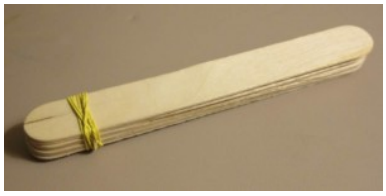
More Catapult Ideas

Instructions

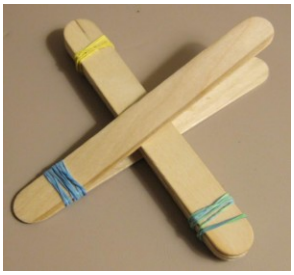
Step 1 – Take 7 of the craft sticks and tie a rubber band tightly around one end.

Step 2 – Tie another rubber band tightly around the opposite end so all 7 sticks are bound together.

Step 3 – Take the remaining 2 sticks and tie a rubber band on one of the ends. Try to tie the band close to the edge of the sticks.



Step 4 – Insert the 7 sticks banded together through the 2 stick bundle as shown in the illustration below.



Step 5 – Tie a rubber band in a cross fashion joining the two pieces. The closer the 7 stick bundle gets to the edge, the more leverage the catapult will have.

Step 6 - Use a few rubber bands and attach the plastic spoon on the end.

http://kidsactivitie	http://kidsactivitie	http://kidsactivitie	false	false	inside

To make a wax paper lantern, you'll need:

Wax Paper {any brand should work great}

Crayons in multiple colors

Craft Sticks – Glue - Tape

Iron

Scrap Paper or Newspaper

*Depending on the age of the child, I would highly recommend a bit of adult supervision. There will be the use of an iron, so we don't want any little hands getting burned!

Step 1: Cut or tear a piece of wax paper off the roll about 10-12 inches long. Fold and cut the paper in half length-wise. Fold each half in half again width-wise {don't tear it!} so you now have 2 sheets to work with that are each about 5x10-12 with a folded seam.

Step 2: Depending on how hard you or your child can color,

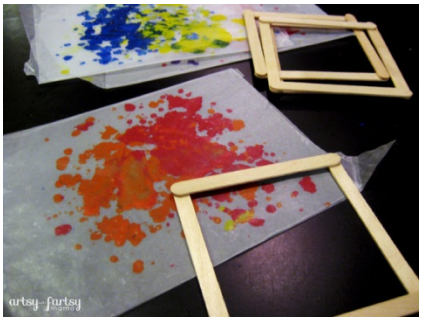
you can color your own design on one half of the wax paper sheet.

My daughter tried, but wasn't getting a very dark image.

The darker your coloring, the better it will turn out.

Step 2.1: Since we couldn't draw a dark enough image, we did the next best thing: place crayon shavings into separate paper cups. Sprinkle the shavings {not too many} on one side of the wax paper. From a little trial and error, adding too many shavings can make a big mess when melted and will also end up blending all the colors into one. So, use a few and spread them out a little for best results.

Teach what colors work together when mixed {like blue + yellow = green}, and what will happen when you mix colors like yellow and purple that will turn a muddy brown. We made a few extra sheets so we could experiment with different colors.



Step 3: Fold the wax paper over with the shavings inside. Place on a piece of scrap or newspaper, then cover with another piece of paper. With your iron on medium heat, run it across the paper with a small amount of pressure. This should melt the crayon shavings and fuse the wax paper together. Having the scrap paper will help absorb any crayon that melts out of the wax paper and protects your iron. You can make as many sheets as you'd like, but you only need 4 for this project.

Step 4: With a little bit of glue, or using a glue gun, glue the craft sticks together to make a square {as seen in image above}. Make sure all the craft stick frames are completely dry before the next step!!

Step 5: Carefully trim your wax paper sheets to about 4x4 inch square {measure your frame to make sure what will fit} and tape the sheet to the inside of the craft stick frames.

Step 6: To put the lantern together, start by taping two of the frames together on the inside. Line the frame sides up, and add a few pieces of tape. Add the third frame the same way, then carefully fold them all in to form a cube. Add the fourth frame, and tape both edges so that all the frames are connected.

Now your lantern is done! Add a battery powered tea light or nightlight inside and admire your work!

With all the flammables involved in this project, I don't recommend putting a candle inside the lantern at all!

NO SEW FLEECE PILLOW

This fun no-sew fleece pillow is so simple to make! It is a great slumber party activity or scout project for kids.

Fun fleece prints, pre-made pillow forms, and Fiskars tools make this project easy. Older children can help to measure and cut, while younger kids can practice their knot-tying skills.

1. Gather supplies – I used a 14 inch x 14 inch pillow form and 2 pieces of fleece.

2. Trim fleece into 2 squares using Fiskars Comfort Grip Rotary cutter. Allow for 2.5 inches on all sides for tying.

3. Using the guides on a Fiskars Cutting Mat and a ruler, cut 2 inch x 2.5 inch strips around each edge of the square.

4. Align squares with right sides facing out. Tie fleece strips together using a double knot. Work your way around 3 sides of the pillow.

5. Slide the pillow form into the fleece and then tie the final edge of strips.

Make your own Mancala game!

Introduction

I grew up playing a game made from a discarded egg carton and a handful of paper clips. Later, I found out it was called Mancala, and today you can spend a lot of money buying a very nice wooden board and some polished stones for a luxury version of the same game.

If you'd like to give this game a try, without spending a fortune, just do what I did as a kid, and make your own set. It's quick, easy, and best of all, cheap.

Materials

The materials are simple and readily available:

- 1 carton from a dozen eggs.
- 36 paper clips (or stones, marbles, or whatever small markers you have handy.)
- Scissors.
- Tape, stapler with staples, or glue.

That's it! Note: Egg cartons with a flat top (as opposed to the kind that dip down between the eggs) work the best.

Figure 1. The supplies you'll need.

1. Remove the top of the carton from the bottom by cutting along the hinge. Remove the extraneous portion used to keep the carton closed when used to store eggs. Discard or recycle the small piece. Set the bottom aside for later. See figure 2.

Figure 2. Separating the top and bottom.

2. Cut the top of the carton in half, crosswise. (Cut across the short axis.) These pieces will be used as the end cups of the Mancala board. Figure 3 shows the resulting pieces.

3. Slide the two halves of the top underneath each end of the bottom, extending beyond the bottom by a couple of inches. Fasten together using the tape, staples, glue, or whatever method you find most convenient. See figure 4.

Figure 4. Assembling the gameboard.

4. Deposit three paper clips (or the markers of your choice) in each of the twelve cups in the bottom of the carton. Leave the end cups (made from the top of the carton) empty. Figure 5 shows the game ready to play.
5. Find someone to play with!

Figure 5. Ready to play!

Game Play

Note: These rules apply to the game as I played it growing up. There are many variations. A simple search using the keywords "mancala" and "rules" will turn up many pages providing descriptions of the different games.

Place the game board between the two players, with the larger cups on the right and left of the players. The side of the board closest to each player, as well as the end cup on each player's right belongs to that player.

Players take turns picking up all the paper clips from one of their cups, (except for the end cups,) and then depositing one in each consecutive cup (including the end cups) in a clockwise direction, beginning with the cup to the right of the one from which the player took the paper clips.

For example, if, on the first turn of the game, player 1 picks up the paper clips from the fourth cup from the right, he would then deposit a paper clip in the third cup from the right, the second cup from the right, and finally, the rightmost cup.

If the first player had started with the rightmost cup, he would have deposited one paper clip in his end cup, then continued around the board, depositing paper clips in his opponents first two cups.

If, however, player 1 had selected the paper clips in the third cup from the right, he would have ended by placing his last paper clip in the end cup. When a player deposits the last paper clip in the end cup, he gets another turn, and may select the paper clips in another of his cups, continuing in the same manner.

The object of the game is to end your turn with all of the cups on your side empty (excluding, of course, the end cups.) Note that in this version, the number of paper clips, if any, in the end cup has no bearing on the game play.