

# Engineering:

## Recycle Art Build



### LEARNING GUIDELINES

PreK-LS1-4: Use their five senses in their exploration and play to gather information.

*This activity encourages children to build 3-D sculptures from recycled household objects in a creative and fun way.*

### MATERIALS

- \* Base materials to build from: paper plates, paper towel tubes
- \* Assorted types of paper: construction paper, wrapping paper, wallpaper
- \* Assorted materials to glue, layer, and build with: stiff ribbon, bottle caps, corks, buttons, felt, tinfoil
- \* Contact paper or stickers
- \* Scissors
- \* Glue sticks
- \* Hole punch
- \* Yarn, string, or narrow ribbon

## SETUP

- The goal of this activity is for children to explore a wide variety of recycled household materials to create and build a 3-D sculpture.
- Set up the table with the paper, containers of materials, glue sticks, and scissors. Have your child choose a base material to start her sculpture from.

## DO IT TOGETHER

- Encourage your child to handle and touch the materials as she chooses what to use. Younger children may spend the entire time just playing with the materials. This is an important learning experience by itself!
- Show by doing it yourself! Start to build your own sculpture, and don't say a word. Let your child observe or just jump in on her own!
- Ask your child, "What would you like to start with? Do you want something flat or round? If it's round, how will you attach it to the plate?"
- Encourage different ways to handle the materials. "Would you like to try scrunching, tearing, or folding your paper instead of cutting it? Can you make your paper into a tent? An arch? A fan?"
- Encourage your child to work on building her project up and out. "Could you use the felt to make your project higher? How could you add cork or buttons to make your sculpture wider?"
- Ask your child to talk about her 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?"

## DO MORE OF IT!

- **Try It.** Introduce the hole punch as another tool; your child may like to punch holes to weave the yarn or ribbon through for hanging her finished project. You can also suggest using the contact paper or stickers to hold things together rather than glue: Could you use these stickers to attach the string to the cork? This creates an interesting design challenge that has many solutions.
- **More Materials.** What recycle materials can you discover at home? Make an adventure out of looking for interesting materials together. Use an old shoebox as your family's recycle art box to store interesting items for later use. Projects can also be kept and added to over time, as your child enjoys the ongoing adventure of looking for recycled materials and finding new ways to attach them to her sculpture.
- **Recycle Art Boxes.** Introduce your friends to recycle art by creating recycle art boxes as gifts. Create a gift for your child's friend by decorating an empty shoebox and adding some markers, stickers, a glue stick and pair of scissors.
- **Local Recycle.** Go online with your child and research interesting products made from recycled materials, such as park benches and playground equipment. See if you can find these items being used in your neighborhood.

## BOOKS

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

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Get books on recycling, recycle art, or building from your local library or bookstore.
- Visit recycle art exhibits in local museums or galleries.