

Classroom Arts & Crafts

(* Many of these ideas are from Don't Throw That Out! Reuse ideas for the classroom, a publication from Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Ohio, 2001. Visit www.cuyahogaswd.org for additional information. In addition, Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division contributes to this growing list of reuse ideas.)

Bobby Pin Sewing

Bobby pins have blunt ends and are stiff and easy to thread. They can be used for sewing cards, stringing beads, or for any project that requires putting string, yarn, or thread through holes in paper.

Bottle Cap Castanets

To make bottle cap castanets, punch 2 holes with a hammer and a nail in each bottle cap. Thread a short piece of elastic string through the holes in each bottle cap and knot it. Let a child play the castanets by placing one on a thumb and one on a forefinger, then tap them together.

Candles

Students can make hand-dipped candles with left over canning (paraffin) wax and old, broken crayons. Melt wax and several same colored crayons in coffee cans in a pot of hot to boiling water. Tie non-plastic string to stick or pencil for dipping. Remove coffee can from pot. Reheat and repeat.

Crayons

Melt broken crayons in a muffin tin in a hot oven. Let cool and pop out of muffin tin. You will have large crayons for young children to use.

Inner Tube Stamps

Make your own rubber-stamps by cutting shapes out of tire inner tubes and rubber cement them onto small wooden blocks.

Foam Food Trays

Wash and sanitize foam trays. Scratch out pattern with a pencil on the inside of tray and apply paint with rubber roller. Make several prints on paper.

Lid Shakers

Add beads, beans or tiny objects in one lid. Glue or tape an identical lid from aerosol and other cans/bottles. Decorate lids to create musical shakers.

Paint Holders/Brushes

Deodorant Bottles

Eliminate sloppy painting with empty roll-on deodorant bottles. Fill with thinned tempera paint and use on paper. Remind students to shake the bottles often (with the caps ON)!

Dishwashing Liquid Bottles

Store tempera paints in dishwashing liquid bottles. Even students can then squirt the paint into paint dishes or cups!

Fabric-Softener Sheets

Cut used, pink fabric-softener sheets into fourths. Then fold a section into fourths. Roll it up and staple to the end of a drinking straw. These paintbrushes are great for painting leaves, flowers, and lots more.

Fast Food Cups

To cut down on drips and spills, put paint in fast-food cups. With the fitted top, you'll have a built in hole for a brush. Paintbrushes will bend slightly on the way in, but they will come out free from excess paint.

Sponges

You can make your own sponge shapes. Wet a sponge, and place several heavy books on top to flatten it. After the sponge is dry, draw desired shapes and cut out. Use for sponge painting projects.

Yarn, Glue and Glitter

Baby Wipes

The hole in the top of a cylinder shaped baby wipe container is perfect for yarn. Simply pop the top and refill when needed.

Film Canisters

Turn empty film canisters into individual glue cups for your students. They're easy to fill, clean and store. Or, poke holes in the lid to dispense glitter.

Salt and Pepper Shakers

For simple glitter dispensers, use plastic bottles with perforated caps, such as spice bottles or salt shakers. These bottles will help keep student's hands cleaner and less glitter will be wasted.