



Feeling Crafty?

Oversized painting

Tape several large sheets of paper together on the backside, and flip them over on the lawn. Fill a few containers with different colors of finger paints, and give your Little a box of strange items to make their painting with. Try: spaghetti strainer, a balloon, a mop head, sponges, rain boots and any other objects you see lying around!

Bubbles

Just about every kid enjoys bubbles! Create your own bubble solution with dishwashing liquid, water, and a teaspoon of sugar. Pour into a shallow container with a wide open mouth and then use odd objects to create your bubbles. String, rubber bands, the spaghetti strainer, straws, slotted spoons and anything else you can think of make some fun bubbles!

More Bubbles

Use leftover bubble solution and add a few drops of food coloring and blow bubbles that pop onto white paper. The result will be an artistic masterpiece made from the rainbow coloured bubbles!



Feeling Crafty?

Sand Art

Use food coloring to color sand in ziplock bags. Pour the sand on paper plates to dry before using. Once dry, glue to paper to make cards and art; or fill plastic containers with your sand art creations.

Build a rock garden

For some reason, kids really enjoy rocks. Collect various rocks and arrange them in a nice garden. For added fun, paint the rocks.

Make a puzzle.

Draw a picture or cut one from a magazine. Cut it into puzzle shapes and then put it back together.

Papermache stuff.

Mix water and flour in a bowl to create a paste. Cut up strips of newspapers and make papermache objects. You can make piñatas, decorative items or animal creations. Just remember it takes several days for it to dry before you can paint and decorate it (or before you can break it open if you've made a piñata!)



Feeling Crafty?

Make puppets.

Use socks and craft supplies from around the house to create puppets and put on a puppet show if you so choose.

Draw mazes.

On paper, create mazes and let your Little try to get to the end point. If you have a hamster or guinea pig, create a maze out of cardboard and see if it can find the end of the maze. Or make a life size maze and try to navigate your way through.

Scrapbook.

Take photos throughout the summer and get the best ones printed. Then, create mini scrapbooks of what activities you did together.

Make a dream book.

Using magazines, cut out photographs and draw pictures of things you would like to have someday, places you would like to go, careers you would like to have one day and glue them into a dream book.



Feeling Crafty?

Start making holiday gifts

Use all the free time you have in the summer to start on your holiday gift list. Make photo frames, mini scrapbooks, and craft items to give as gifts throughout the year.

Tye Dye.

You can buy a kit or just get the colors from the craft store (or department store). You'll need socks or tee shirts or whatever else you want to tye dye, and rubber bands, as well as rubber gloves to protect your skin from the dye. Alternatively, you could try using berries to create your own dyes.

Write and Illustrate a book.

With construction paper and some crayons, work together to create a masterpiece.

Make your own board games.

Playing board games is fun for all ages, but can get a little boring when you play the same games, over and over. Spend some time creating your own board game with cardboard, crayons and other objects- then play it! The real fun is the creation of the game itself, but you can play and save the game for future playtime as well.



Feeling Crafty?

Learn origami.

Get a book that teaches origami, or look up origami instructions online. Learn how to make several origami shapes and animals.

Cartoon flipbooks.

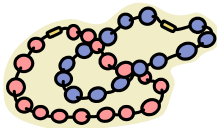
Staple paper together or use a notebook and draw images that are slightly different from one page to the next so that when they flip through the pages, they appear to be moving.

Color carnations.

Buy white carnations from a florist or grocery store, and place them in cups with food coloring mixed with water. After awhile, the flowers will take on the color of the water they are in.

Bead some bracelets or anklets

Get some beads and some string.
Enjoy your creations.





Feeling Crafty?

Make your own Flubber

Flubber is a fascinating substance when the ingredients are mixed together, putty turns from a liquid to a gelatinous substance with properties of both liquids and solids.

Heat two cups of water in a pot or kettle until it is hot but not quite boiling.

Pour the water into a bowl. Add 2-3 drops of food coloring and lightly stir it until it dissolves.

Slowly stir in 4 cups of food starch. Continue stirring until the starch dissolves completely.

Stick your fingers in and play with the Flubber.

If you find the texture to be too thin, slowly stir in more cornstarch until you are satisfied with the slime. If it seems too thick, stir in more water until it is thin enough for you.

"The soundtrack of my life".

Get all your favourite songs and make a mixed CD

Try a new hobby

Learn to sew or knit.



Feeling Crafty?

Make mud paintings on the sidewalk.

Make some mud and create artwork on the sidewalk. Cleanup is a snap with your garden hose. Make sure to have a spare change of clothes.

Make enormous outdoor art.

Use giant pieces of butcher paper or old tablecloths and paint them outside in the yard.

Make paper airplanes.

Download templates from the Internet, use them as a starting point, and see just how far yours can fly.

Make a “mini-me.”

Use butcher paper to trace a full outline of your Little and cut it out. Then she/he can decorate it to look just like him/her.

Assemble a jigsaw puzzle.

Work on putting a jigsaw puzzle together. You only need a few minutes to find some pieces and put them together.





Feeling Crafty?

Paint with watercolors.

Most art supply stores have cheap kids watercolors for sale, especially during the summer.



Make your own PlayDough

Playdough is a classic that everyone can have fun with, and it's so easy to make at home you'll never buy that stinky store variety again.

Basic ingredient ratios:

2 cups flour

2 cups warm water

1 cup salt

2 Tablespoons vegetable oil

1 Tablespoon cream of tartar (optional for improved elasticity)

food coloring (liquid, powder, or unsweetened drink mix)

scented oils