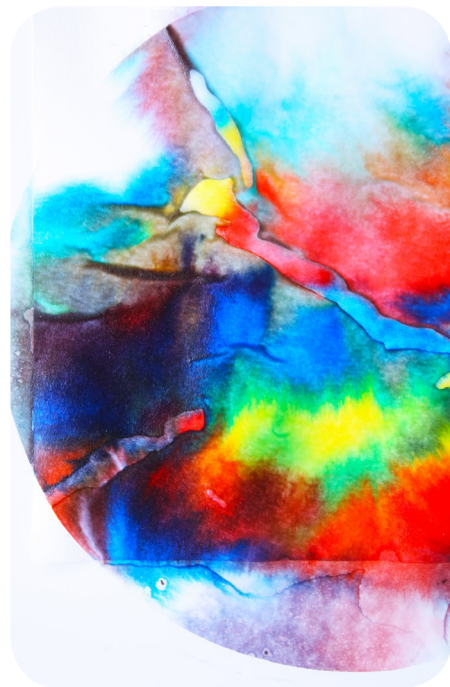




cheap & easy crafts

simple at-home creative crafts and activities for families
by Ana Dziengel

week 2



cheap & easy crafts

how to use this guide:

- Check the day for (3) project options based on the ages of your kids.
- Click the link to be taken to the directions on our website OR flip to the day's page in this guide for directions.
- Click the play button to see the day's projects and other related ideas on YouTube.

NOTE: Not every project has a corresponding video.

day 1

easy art

Project Options:

- [Diffusion Art 3+](#)
- [DIY Paint Brushes 4+](#)
- [Instant Scratch Art 5+](#)

Video playlist

day 2

paper crafts

Project Options:

- [Walk Through Card 5+](#)
- [Paper Helicopter 5+](#)
- [Flextangles 7+](#)

Video playlist

day 3

simple steam

Project Options:

- [Dancing Balloons 3+](#)
- [Toothpick Structures 4+](#)
- [Straw Mobile 5+](#)

Video playlist

day 4

diy toys

Project Options:

- [Mini Plunk 5+](#)
- [Cup & Ball Game 5+](#)
- [DIY Tops 5+](#)

Video playlist

day 5

recycled crafts

Project Options:

- [Cardboard City 4+](#)
- [Tin Can Stilts 5+](#)
- [Styrofoam Stamps 6+](#)

Video playlist

The following is a list of materials used in this week's projects. You should have all or most of these on hand at home.

materials tips

Make a creative nook

Find a small area in your home and stock it with supplies accessible to your kids. Organize supplies on a cart, empty shelf, or in bins. Designate a table, desk, or floor area for projects.

Keep it cheap Cans, recycled plastic containers and jars are perfect for storing pens, pencils, and markers.

Become a hoarder! Save recyclables for projects: plastic lids, containers, cardboard tubes, caps, cans, cups etc.

office supplies

- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue
- Glue Gun
- Glue Sticks
- Paper Clips
- Paper
- Cardstock
- Hole Punch
- Rubber Bands
- Duct Tape

recyclables

- Cardboard Tubes
- Tin Cans
- Cardboard Boxes
- Cups- paper/plastic
- Packing Peanuts
- Old CDs
- Marker caps
- Plastic lids

around the house

- Coffee Filters
- Hammer
- Nails
- Twine
- Balloons
- Clothespins
- Straws
- Animal Figurines
- Matchbox Cars
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Tray
- Spray Bottle

art & craft supplies

- Washable Markers
- Sharpies
- Pen
- Pencils
- Oil Pastels or Crayons
- Paint
- Paint Brushes
- Washi Tape
- Stickers
- Beads
- Poster Board
- Yarn/String



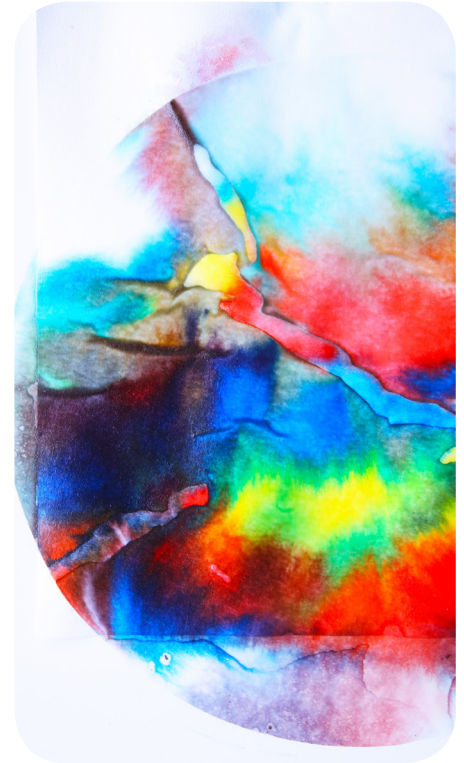
materials:

- Coffee Filters
- Washable Markers
- Tray
- Spray Bottle/Water
- Paper
- Clothespins
- Paper & Paint
- Oil pastels or crayons
- Index Cards
- Paper Towels
- Brush Materials
(see below)
- Scratching Materials
(see below)

word of the day

diffusion The movement of particles from an area of high concentration to an area of low concentration.

Diffusion can happen with liquids, gases (think kitchen smells) and light. When you spray water-based ink with water, the color diffuses across the surface of the paper. This happens because the water dissolves the ink, allowing it to flow outward.



diffusion art

materials:

- Coffee Filter
- Washable Markers
- Tray
- Spray Bottle/Water
- Paper
- Paper Towels

instructions:

- Flatten out a coffee filter in the center of your tray.
- Draw on the coffee filter using washable markers.
- Spray a mist of water onto the coffee filter.
- Remove and let dry on a flat surface. Clean your tray with a paper towel and start again!

diy paintbrushes

materials:

- Clothespins
- Paper & Paint
- **Brush ideas:** pipe cleaners, feathers, cotton balls, muffin liners, pompoms, felt, fabric scraps, sponges, netting, string, cosmetic foam, whatever you can find

instructions:

- Gather materials from around the house. Cut larger materials down to size.
- Clip each material into a clothespin to create a brush.
- Dip each brush into the paint and test how it works!

instant scratch art

materials:

- Oil Pastels or Crayons
- Thick Paper (cardstock, old business cards, index cards)
- **Scratching Tools:** bamboo skewers, toothpicks, forks, coins, craft sticks

instructions:

- Cover a small piece of cardstock completely with oil pastels or crayon in different colors.
- Cover the color completely with black oil pastel or crayon.
- Create designs by scratching off the black using your scratching tools.

materials:

- Templates
- Paper/Cardstock
- Scissors
- Paper clips
- Tape
- Pen
- Markers
- Glue Stick

No printer, no problem!

Take a look at the templates online and recreate them with pen and paper.

what's a flexangle?

I made this word up! It's a combination of two types of paper craft/art projects:

Flexagons are paper models that can be flexed to reveal hidden faces. They were originally created by Princeton graduate student Arthur Stone in 1939.

Zentangle is a method of drawing patterns in a deliberate, meditative manner. They are typically based on a square.



walk through card

materials:

- Template/Cardstock
- Scissors

instructions:

- Print the template
- Cut along thick solid line, fold along the center line
- Cut along lines marked Cut 1 and Cut 2.
- Cut along the card spine between Cut lines 1 & 2 (labeled Cut 3).
- Fold the card again and cut the remaining solid lines on the front, stopping short of the ends as shown.
- Carefully open up the card to reveal a giant ring. Now walk through it!

paper helicopter

materials:

- Template/Paper
- Scissors
- Paper Clips
- Tape (optional)

instructions:

- Cut out template. Cut solid lines only.
- Fold section D and C along long dotted lines.
- Fold Section A along dotted line towards you.
- Fold Section B along dotted line away from you.
- Fold bottom edge of section C/D towards you.
- Tape folded end of C/D.
- Add a paper clip to the taped end.
- Fly it!

flexangles

materials:

- Template/Cardstock
- Pen
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape

instructions:

- Print template
- Draw designs in each row. Cut along bold line.
- Crease dashed lines face to face. Unfold. Crease diagonal lines back to back. Unfold.
- Fold paper to match dot to dot and form a tube.
- Add glue on tabs marked GLUE and press together.
- Tuck end tabs into the open end of tube. Add a bit of glue. Press to seal.

walk thru card template

CARD OUTLINE

CAN YOU
WALK
THROUGH
THIS
CARD?

CARD OUTLINE

Directions:

Here's how to walk through this card!

1. With the card folded, cut along the lines marked CUT 1 and CUT 2.
2. Open card up and cut along card spine between CUTS 1 & 2 (labeled cut 3)
3. Fold card again and cut the remaining solid lines on the front of the card. Be sure to stop short of the ends as shown.
4. Carefully unfold the paper to reveal a large ring. Now walk through it!

Cut 3

Cut 1

Cut 2

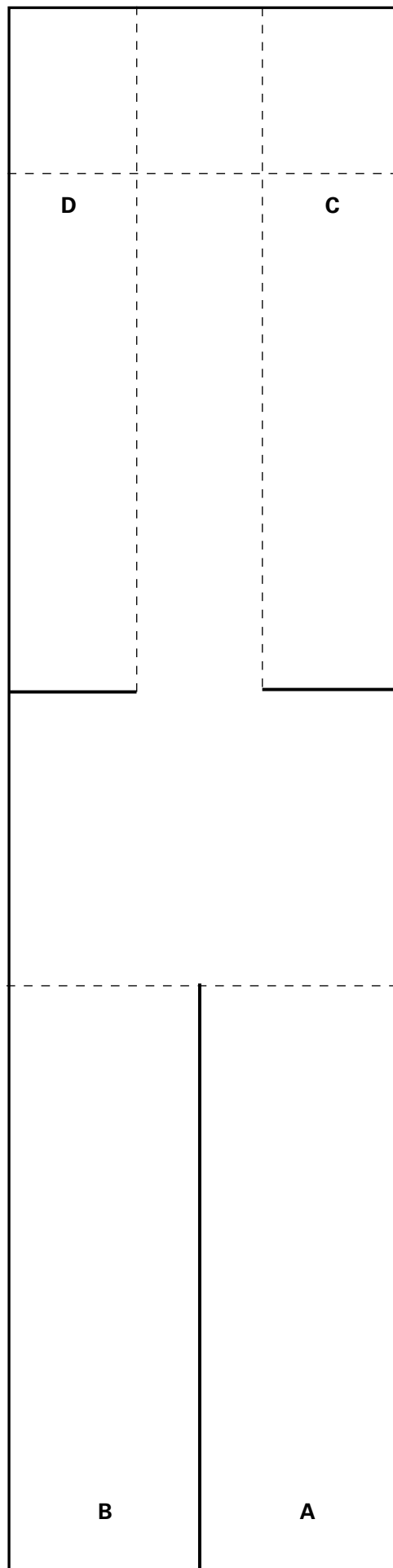
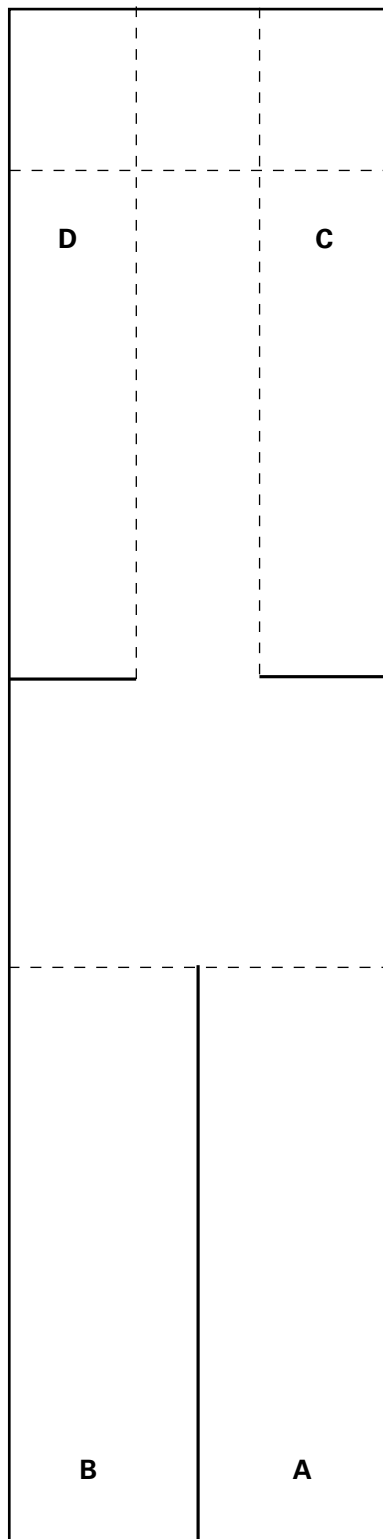
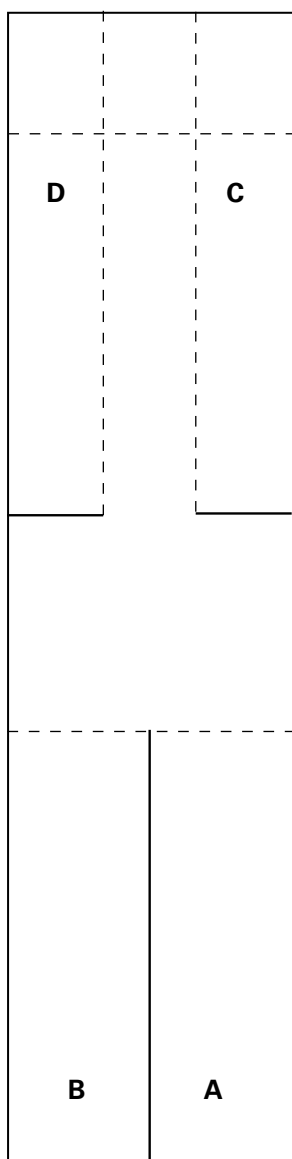
paper helicopter template

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Instructions

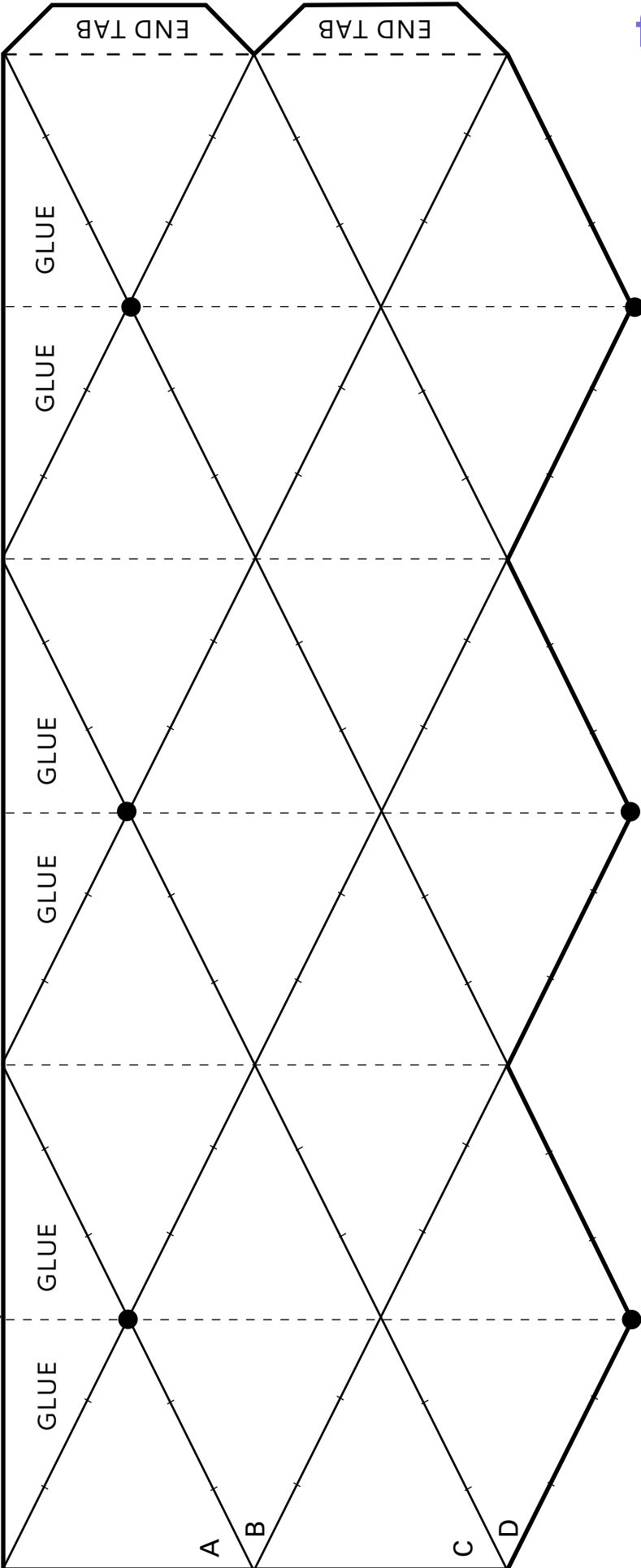
1. Cut out template. Cut solid lines only.
2. Fold section D and C along long dotted lines.
3. Fold Section A along dotted line towards you.
4. Fold Section B along dotted line away from you.
5. Fold bottom edge of section C/D towards you.
6. Tape folded end of C/D.
7. Add a paper clip to the taped end.

To launch your helicopter throw it up and away from you, similar to flying a paper airplane.

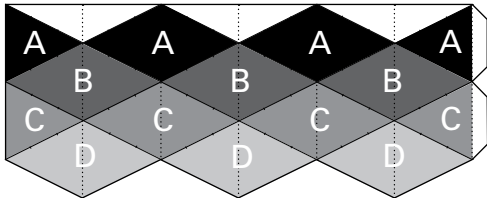


flexangle template

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Pattern Guide



Instructions:

1. Draw different designs in each row of triangular sides. Refer to Pattern Guide for row layout. Be sure to connect the designs at the tick marks.
2. Cut along bold line.
3. Crease dashed lines face to face. Unfold.
4. Crease diagonal lines back to back. Unfold.
5. Gently fold paper to match dot to dot and form a tube.
6. Add glue on tabs marked GLUE and press together.
7. Add glue on end tabs and tuck into open end of tube. Press to seal. Add tape to secure together if necessary.

materials:

- Circular Fan
- Poster Board (2)
- Balloons
- Tape
- Packing Peanuts
- Toothpicks
- Tray or baking sheet
- Straws
- String
- Beads
- Paper
- Scissors
- Hole Punch

No beads? Cut cardboard into small shapes and thread through the corrugation. Cut straws into pieces.

extension ideas:

dancing balloons:

Try flying other objects in your wind tunnel. What happens if you place a paper helicopter above the fan?

toothpick structures:

Try building 3D shapes with your materials: pyramid, cube, octahedron (a 3D shape with 8 triangular faces).

straw mobile:

What other materials can you add? Try cardboard shapes, plastic lids, egg cartons, and paper shapes. Add a bell or pom pom to the end.



dancing balloons

materials:

- Circular Fan
- Poster Board (2)
- Balloons
- Tape

instructions:

- Tape two poster boards together to form a cylinder shape. The circumference of the cylinder should match the fan circumference.
- Place tube on top of fan.
- Blow up balloons.
- Turn on the fan to a medium setting, place balloon over the tube, and watch it dance!

toothpick structures

materials:

- Packing Peanuts or Grapes or Mini Marshmallows
- Toothpicks
- Tray or baking sheet

instructions:

- Place packing peanuts (grapes, or marshmallow) and toothpicks in a tray
- Start building!
- If you are using eco peanuts take out a spray bottle filled with water and spray your design. The biodegradable peanuts will start "melting."
- If you are using grapes or marshmallows be sure to snack on your structure when you are done!

straw mobile

materials:

- Straws
- Hole Punch
- String
- Beads with large center holes
- Tape
- Paper shapes

instructions:

- Flatten each straw in the middle. Punch a hole through center.
- Cut a slit on straw ends.
- Tie bead to one string end.
- Wrap other end of string with a piece of tape to create a tip.
- Thread beads onto the string. Add a straw. Repeat.
- Tie a knot at the top.
- Add paper shapes to ends of straws.

materials:

- Cardboard Tubes
- Plastic Cups
- Hole Puncher
- Straws
- Large Beads
- Scissors
- Duct Tape
- Glue Gun
- Scissors
- Old CDs
- Old Marker Caps
- Craft Sticks
- Sharpies
- Yarn

No beads? Substitute small pasta shapes.

more ideas for tops:

- what other materials can you use to make a top?
- Substitute a washable marker for the bead and marker cap and make tops that draw!
- Heavy washers and beads make excellent tops that spin for a long time.
- Place your tops in a plastic bin with sides and squeeze paint on them as they spin to create spin art tips! -via [STEAM Play and Learn](#)



mini plunk

materials:

- Cardboard Tube
- Hole Punch
- Straws
- Large Beads
- Duct Tape

instructions:

- Cover tube with duct tape.
- Cut two triangles in bottom
- Punch holes in tube.
- Cut straws in half.

how to play

- Place straws through holes with beads on top.
- Remove straws trying not to let the beads fall.
- Collect beads that fall when a straw is removed.
- The player with the fewest dropped beads at then end is the winner!

cup and ball game

materials:

- Small cup
- Craft Stick
- Large Bead
- Yarn
- Hot Glue

instructions:

- Cut a 12-inch piece of yarn and tie a bead to the end.
- Hot glue the loose end to the bottom of the cup.
- Hot glue a craft stick on top of the yarn end to create a handle.
- Decorate cup if desired.

how to play

The object of the game is to gently swing the ball up and into the cup.

diy tops

materials:

- Large beads or marbles
- Glue gun
- Old CDs
- Old marker caps

instructions:

- If desired, decorate your CD with Sharpies first.
- Place a large bead or marble in the CD hole and hot glue in place.
- Flip CD over. Add a marker cap to the other side and hot glue in place.
- Spin your top!

materials:

- (2) Tin Cans
- Twine
- Duct Tape
- Hammer
- Nail
- Recycled boxes
- Paper cups
- Paint
- Hot Glue
- Toy cars, figurines, etc.
- Styrofoam Tray
- Pencil
- Toy wood blocks
- Ink Pad
- Paper

project tips:

make a diy stamp pad

- Mix tempera paint and glue using this ratio: 3 parts paint, 1 part glue.
- Cut sponges to fit small plastic containers
- Mix the paint/glue in the container, add sponges.
- Cover tightly with a lid to prevent drying out. If they become gooeey add a little water to dilute.

tin can stilts:

- Wear shoes when using these! The edges of cans can be uncomfortable on bare feet.
- Pull up on stilts as you walk.



tin can stilts

materials:

- (2) Tin Cans 28oz preferred
- Twine or Heavy Duty String
- Duct Tape
- Hammer
- Nail

instructions:

- Cut a long length of twine.
- Make holes in the sides of the cans near the top with a hammer and nail.
- Thread the twine through the holes.
- Trim the twine so the center will be placed roughly at the height of the user's outstretched arm.
- Knot the twine and cover with duct tape to make a handle.
- Add duct tape along the bottom edge of the can.

cardboard city

materials:

- Flat Cardboard Base
- Recycled Boxes
- Paper Cups
- Paint
- Hot Glue
- Duct Tape
- Toy Cars, Figurines, etc.

instructions:

- On your base, make duct tape roads and define building lots.
- Glue boxes down in different "lots". Stack boxes to make structures tall or wide.
- Paint the buildings and lots.
- Add details: streets names, landmarks, businesses, schools, your home.
- Add cars and figurines and play!

styrofoam stamps

materials:

- Styrofoam Tray
- Pencil slightly dull
- Toy Wood Blocks
- Tape/Velcro
- Ink Pads
- Paper

instructions:

- Cut styrofoam tray into 1" squares.
- Using a pencil, etch designs or letters into squares.
- Tape or velcro styrofoam "stamp" to a wood block to make it easier to hold.
- Start stamping! If you are using velcro you can replace the stamps as desired with other foam letters.