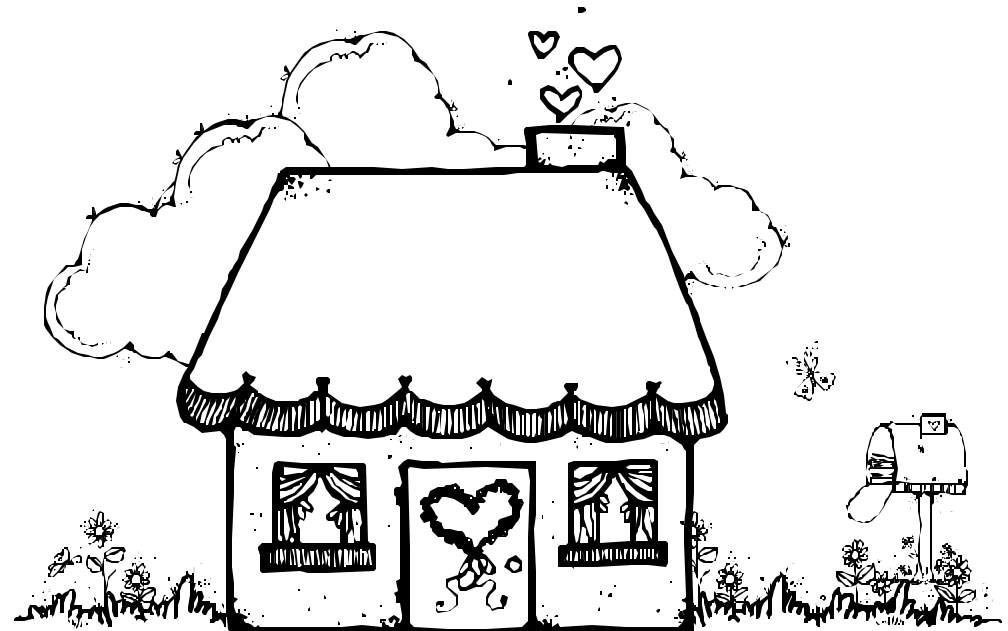


SPECIAL DAYS



made with
LOVE

Other Ideas:

1. Song Box
2. Put stickers on fingers for finger puppets
3. Make musical instruments:
4. Make a toilet paper barricade for child to go under, over, or through.
5. Do the Hokey Pokey

Directions:

1. Make your Own Mailbox: to introduce what the theme for the day will be.
2. Make a Chef's Hat: when you cook.
3. Pictures: Don't forget to take pictures of your activities and make a special book.

Books to make:

1. "Special Day" book with pictures of each day and their activities.
2. A Day in the Life. Make a book that illustrates your child's daily routine. Write captions that can be read as an actual book.



Color Day

Activity:

- ? Let child pick out clothes to wear
- ? Tape large paper to kitchen floor & color.
- ? "Easter Egg Hunt" w/ color
- ? Bean bag toss w/ one color
- ? Make and try on paper hats
- ? String large beads onto or along a shoelace
- ? Make a domino chain
- ? Have a picnic
- ? Make a Nature Collage
- ? World's Best Play dough
- ? Make and Eat Painted Toast
- ? Make Colored Ice Cubes
 - ? Collect objects in the chosen hue as you walk around the block or in a nearby park.
 - ? Hunt for the special color outside, in the supermarket, or while you're traveling around town.
- ? Point out all of the objects and toys in her room in the same color.

White:

- ? Make a "Mummy Mommy" with toilet paper
- ? Play with Goop
- ? Color Recognition Game
- ? Color Shopping
- ? Baby Powder Race

Circle Day Example

- 9:30** * Throw circle lids into pots, pans, & bowls
 - * Tubular Tunnels
 - * Circle Safari (eye spy)
- 9:45** * Play Dough
 - * Shape Puzzles
- 10:00** * Snack (vanilla wafers, grapes, banana circles)
 - * Make Cookies
- 10:20** * Balloons (draw faces on them)
 - * UFO's

***Don't forget to take pictures for the circle day book.**



Helpful tips:

- ? Position wooden blocks or cereal boxes to act as a "corral" for the marbles so they are easy to find again.
- ? Try taping several tubes together for more fun.

World's Best Play dough

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 Tbsp. cream of tartar
- 1/2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 cup water

1 small package Cool-aid (for great color and smell)

Mix all ingredients in a sauce pan. Cook over med heat, stirring constantly until you can no longer stir. It will look like a clumpy mess!

Turn out on counter top and let cool enough to handle. Knead into a smooth ball. Store in an air tight container.

Number Day

Activity:

- ? Horseshoe Game (count tosses)
- ? Frozen Juice Lids w/ numbers on them
- ? String large beads onto or along a shoelace
- ? Make a pillow pile to jump on (keep it clear from any hard surfaces, including walls!)
- ? Play the matching game with a deck of cards
- ? Make your Sidewalk a World of its own!
- ? Play with a magnetized foam jungle (count animals)
- ? Throw bean bags into containers



Shape Day

Activity:

- ? Shape Puzzle
- ? Play Dough
- ? Glue shapes onto paper
- ? Bake Cookies
- ? Shape Booklet
- ? Styrofoam Ornaments
- ? World's Best Play dough
- ? Let child stack mixing bowls inside each other

Square Day:

- ? Make car out of box
- ? Stack square boxes

Circle Day:

- ? Play with balls (basketball, golf, roll ball back and forth, kick ball)
- ? Stack mixing bowls
- ? Roll a tennis ball into a bucket
- ? Tubular Tunnels
- ? Make UFO's
- ? Balloons! (Make whipped cream faces.)
- ?

Shape Puzzle

A variety of materials could be used for this project- but I like "Foamies" the best. Foamies are pieces of foam rubber made for children's crafts. They come in a variety of colors and can usually be found in square or rectangular sheets. You can find Foamies at your local craft store, though on occasion, I have found them at Walmart. First, use an exacto blade to cut out shapes. Then, glue the cut-out foamie sheet to a piece of strong cardboard. *(For added thickness, you may wish to glue another foamie sheet in between the cardboard and cut-out sheet)*

Finally, glue small loops of foam onto shapes for handles. Now you can fit the shapes into the holes!

Shell and Pea Game

You will need three opaque plastic cups and a small ball or other object that will slide easily. Let your child watch you put the ball under one of the three cups and rearrange all three of them. Let your child try to guess which cup has the ball under it.

Styrofoam Ornaments

Take a piece of styrofoam and press a cookie-cutter (whichever shape you want) into the styrofoam to make the shape. Cut out the shape. Apply glue to the area to be decorated. Sprinkle with different colors of glitter, or place sequins. Do both sides. Let dry and use a pipe cleaner for the hook. This is great not only for Christmas tree decorations, but also other holiday or seasonal decorations!

Tubular Tunnels

Please note: This is an activity for a child who has outgrown putting things in the mouth.

Take cardboard tubes from wrapping paper or from tin foil/wax paper. Hold them at an angle to the floor and drop marbles down them. (Golf balls work great if your cardboard tubes are big enough) It is fun to watch them come shooting out the other end!



Play with Goop

To make goop, you will need a box of cornstarch, food coloring, water and a shallow plastic pan. Mix water and cornstarch to make firm consistency. When you pick it up, it melts in your hand. Fun activity. You can keep goop for a couple of days. If it dries out, add more water.

Play with a magnetized foam jungle

Materials Needed:

thin sheets of colored craft foam (foamies) or foam die cut-outs (both available in craft stores and places like Wal-mart)

glue

Sticky-backed magnetic strips

Directions:

Use die cuts or cut animal shapes out of foam stick on a small magnetic strip to the back I actually glued mine on to keep little fingers from prying it off. Hot glue worked really well- obviously this is for adults to make and kids to play with.

Place on a steel door, such as a refrigerator, washing machine or dryer door, or in my case, the front door. Let your child play with the animals and create their own jungle!

I used die cut-outs as it made things a lot easier, but you can cut your own, too. The differences between them is thickness... the die cuts were much thinner and I glued two of them together to give them strength. Die cuts come in (I actually glued mine on to keep little fingers from prying it off. Hot glue worked really well- obviously this is for adults to make and kids to play with.

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Letter Day

Activity:

- ? Puppet show about shapes?
- ? Draw on a Mirror with Dry-Erase markers
- ? Make and try on paper hats
- ? Frozen Juice Lids w/ letters on them
- ? Make bracelets or collars for stuffed animals out of pipe cleaners and jingle bells
- ? Make a pillow pile to jump on (put letter on pillow)
- ? Index Card book
- ? Make your Sidewalk a World of its own!
- ? Magnetic Letters

A: Apple

B: Ball

C: Gold

D: Dog

E: Exciting

F: Fishing

G: Golf

H: Hide & Seek

I: Ice

J: Jumping

K: Kite

L: Lollypop

M: Mouth

N: Nice

O: Opposite

P: Pie

Q: Quiet

R: Run

S: Slide

T: Tie

U: Umbrella

V: Violet

W: Water

X: Xylophone

Y: Yes

Z: Zebra



Baby Powder Race

Materials: Baby powder/ or talcum powder and liquid soap

Directions- Fill large baking pan with inch or so of water. Have child sprinkle entire top of water with powder. Next have child squeeze a drop of soap into center of tray and watch powder race to the sides of the pan.

Circle Safari

For Preschoolers

- ? Find a circle in your toy chest that rolls and bounces.
- ? Find 4 circles on your toy truck.
- ? Look on the wall for a circle that ticks and has numbers on it.

For Older Kids

- ? Name something that you drink out of that's round on top. When your child guesses a cup, ask her why she thinks the opening is circular. Explain that when you tilt a glass for drinking, the liquid comes out in a thin stream. To demonstrate, have her try to drink out of the flat side of a square plastic container.
- ? Find something round that helps you open the door. Ask her if it would be harder or easier if the doorknob were a triangle or square. Take an orange and a
- ? banana and have her pretend they are doorknobs, holding them in midair. Which one is easier to turn in a circle? Explain that the round orange best fits the shape of her hand.
- ? Name something round that gives off light. A light bulb is round, you can explain, because the shape allows the light to shine equally in all directions.



Color Macaroni and Pasta Shapes

The easiest way to color pasta or rice for fun or other craft activities is to do the following

Put pasta/rice in a Ziploc bag

Add small amount of rubbing alcohol

Add drops of food coloring (the more drops, the darker the color)

Shake bag to color pasta/rice

Dry on a paper plate or paper towel

This will not leave the pasta/rice sticky as soaking it in water can!

Trace the letters of the child's name or use stickers or paint to put name on side of mail box.

A fun way to use your mailbox is to write down an activity (such as a letter, number, color, etc. of the day) on a piece of paper and put in an envelope (using a sticker as a stamp). Your child gets to do whatever activity you placed in the mailbox for the day!

An example of activity of the day: Colors Yellow Day Dress yourself and your child in yellow for the day. Eat yellow foods (bananas, mac 'n cheese, cheese singles, kix, etc.) Ask your child to point out anything he sees that is yellow. Blow up some yellow balloons. Use only yellow crayons to draw pictures.

Photo Placemats

- ? Poster board...any color
- ? photos
- ? laminating sheets
- ? craft glue

Cut poster board to appropriate sizes, put glue on the back of photos and help the child lay them out on the poster board. I like to "collage" it. Then laminate the board. These make great gifts! The child may also personalize the mat by writing a little note or signing them.

Play Games with Frozen Juice Lids

Many games can be played with these metal tops found on frozen juice cans.

Putting "in" and taking "out" is always fun.

Try counting them, writing numbers on them, or writing the alphabet on them.

Paint them to learn the colors

For another game, use a can with a plastic lid. Cut a slit in it wide enough for tops to fit in. Use it as a bank- the juice lids become play money. (and a full bank makes a neat musical instrument!)

Draw a circle on the floor with string. Play "toss into the ring".

Make more complicated toss games as your child gets older.



Directions: Cut small holes around the flat part of both paper plates. Make a door by cutting a same sized flap on both plates (so the door opens both up and down for the aliens to get in from earth or elsewhere?) Decorate bottoms of plates with stickers and markers
Optional: before gluing the plates together, tape tissue paper inside so the windows are colored, then when you're done you can shine a light through the door and see the pretty colors. Army men make good aliens...

Make Colored Ice Cubes

Materials Needed:

Ice cube Tray
Food Coloring
Water

Directions: Fill an ice cube tray with water and add a few drops of food coloring to each square and freeze to make several different colored cubes. At bath time, drop a few cubes into the tub -- you can try to catch them, describe the colors, watch them float or watch them melt. A great way to teach colors if you do all of one color each day. Also a big hit in a kiddie pool!

Make a Chef's Hat

Materials Needed:

4 large sheets of tissue paper
tape

Directions: Lay 3 of the large tissue paper sheets on top of each other, having a 3-ply rectangle. Fold the bottom up approximately 4 inches. Repeat 2 more times until you have a 4 inch tall rectangle. Tape into a circular band to fit the circumference of your child's head. Tape the edges of the final piece of tissue paper around the band, gathering and bunching to create a large pouf on top. I did this in a rather haphazard fashion and it turned out great!



Make your Own Mailbox

Materials Needed- Shoebox, paint, crayons, construction paper, envelopes, stickers

Directions: Make a mailbox out of a shoe box by gluing the lid to the box and cutting one of the sides so that it can be pulled down like a mailbox door. Make a handle and a flag out of construction paper.

Color Recognition Game

Choose a color and walk down the sidewalk of a semi busy street. As the cars pass, have the child point out which cars are the color you have pre-selected. This also works great while out walking or on a car trip, and it is good for pre-schoolers too. Older children can count how many cars of each color go by

Color Shopping

Pick a color. Carry a basket (or plastic shopping cart) and go from room to room looking for things to put in the basket that is the color you picked. When your finished unload the basket naming each item. Make sure you repeat the color every time you name an item. "a green cup," "a green book," etc.

Draw on a Mirror with Dry-Erase markers

Besides designs and scribbles, try drawing silly faces with strange hats, mustaches and beards, etc. Line your faces up with the ones you drew to see how silly you look!

Horseshoe Game

Make 3 one-inch slits on one end of an empty paper towel roll. Tape or glue to a heavy piece of cardboard or other portable flat surface. Decorate, if desired. To play, use 4-5 metal rings used to seal glass jars. Place the rings on the tube and take them off again.

This is similar to- but easier than- Fisher Price's popular toy.

If you have anchored your ring securely, when your child gets older, he/she can try throwing the rings onto the tube, like the traditional Horseshoe Game.



Index Card Books

Staple index cards together and cut out pictures from magazines. (food, toys, etc.) You may want to let your child pick his/her favorite pictures and help glue them in the book. Pictures of grandma, grandpa, and other relatives work well too.



Let child decorate on open peanut butter sandwich

Spread peanut butter on a piece of bread. Then let your child decorate it how they want with any of the following items- raisins, banana slices, m&m's, crackers, celery or carrot slices, grapes (cut in half to prevent choking), chocolate chips, strawberries, or orange segments. Use your imagination- almost anything edible can be used!

Please note: Some studies suggest that very young children may develop allergies to peanut products if introduced to them too soon. If you are worried about this, try substituting peanut butter for cream cheese, tuna fish, or other spread.

Make a Nature Collage

Take a trip outside and collect items to make a collage- leaves, grass, feathers, twigs, etc. Then come in and help your child glue them on a piece of paper. Let dry and hang up.

Make a puzzle with felt and Velcro

Begin by drawing a simple picture of an animal, person, or scene on a piece of paper. Then, decide how many pieces you want in your puzzle (4-6 will probably be best) and what parts of your picture will be puzzle pieces. Once this is decided, copy your entire picture onto the back of your puzzle. A pelfon sheet will work best, but stiff cardboard will also work to make your puzzle back. Next, take your draft copy (on the paper) and cut out the pieces which will make up your puzzle, trace them onto felt or pelfon, and cut out. Use sticky-backed Velcro or glue Velcro to back of puzzle pieces and puzzle back. In this example, the flowers are puzzle pieces. The stems and grass consist of felt that has been glued onto the puzzle back. Puzzle complexity can be increased according to the abilities of your child.



Make Your Own Bird Feeder

What you'll need:

Pine cones (1 or more depending on how many you want to make)

Jar of Peanut Butter

Butter Knife, spoon or Popsicle sticks (for spreading peanut butter)

Bird seed

Sewing Thread or long strand of Yarn

Directions: Tie string around pine cone (long enough to hang from a tree branch or wherever you plan to hang it)

Spread peanut butter over pine cone

Roll peanut butter covered pine cone in bird seed

Hang somewhere children can watch as birds eat the birdseed from their new feeder.

Watch the excitement on your children's faces when the birds come to eat!

Make and Eat Painted Toast

Materials Needed- Bread, food coloring, pastry brushes, milk, plastic cups, toaster

Directions- Put a spot of milk into a cup and add food coloring. Use a pastry brush for each color, give each child a slice of bread, let them paint one side of the bread, if the bread is too soggy, use a kitchen roll or paper towel to dab off the excess. Toast the bread. Let the child eat the painted toast. Comments- It is safe to let your child eat this as we have only used food coloring and milk. It encourages the child to eat their toast and develops fine motor control.

Make your Sidewalk a World of its own!

Materials Needed- Sidewalk chalk, some small toys and an imagination

Directions- Make your driveway or sidewalk into it's own play area! Use sidewalk chalk to design roads, houses, cows, buildings, etc. with your child. Then get some toys (that you don't mind getting a bit dirty) to help make your new world a bit more interactive and fun!

Make UFO's

Materials Needed

2 full size Paper plates

glue

exacto knife

markers & stickers

optional- tissue paper and tape

