

Wee Reusables



Decorated Containers

Make a vase, candle holder, or pen/pencil holder for someone special.

Materials:

containers (clean and empty glass bottles or jars, plastic detergent bottles cut at the "waist" or paperboard juice cans)
glue
scissors
work area covered with newspaper
decorating materials: tissue paper scraps, dried seeds or beans, dry cereal, yarn or ribbon scraps, cloth scraps, different types of macaroni, etc.

Procedure:

1. Prior to class, select the containers for children to decorate. If working with a plastic bottles, place them in hot water for a few minutes to make them easier to cut. Cut them at the "waist".
2. Children should select decorating materials and place these in their work area.
3. Have children spread glue on the containers' surface using their fingers (a small section should be done at a time).
4. Have children cover the glued area with their decorating materials.
4. OPTION: When glue is dry, paint over the surface with shellac.



Milk Mugs*

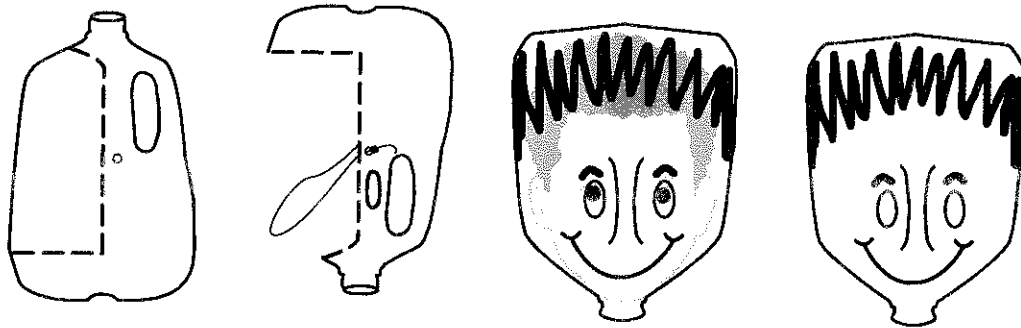
Milk jugs turned upside down make fun masks.

Materials:

clean, plastic one-gallon milk jug
two 18-inch lengths of string
yarn for hair
scissors or craft knife
hole punch
permanent markers or crayons
sandpaper

Procedure:

1. Prior to class, draw the cutting line around the milk jug and cut out the mask. If edges of the mask seem rough or ragged, sand smooth with sandpaper.
2. Show children where to punch holes on each side of the mask. Help children insert and knot the string ties on each side.
3. Have children try on their mask so you can mark the position for eye holes.
4. Cut out the eye holes for children. Sand smooth any rough edges.



5. Once the basic masks are made, encourage children to create their own characters. They can color the masks with crayons or permanent markers and glue pieces of yarn on the mask for hair.

* Adapted from: **4R's Project** (see "Resources").

Bunny Basket*

A tisket, a tasket, make a bunny basket!

Materials:

clean, plastic one-gallon milk jug
 six-inch pipe cleaners
 12-inch pipe cleaners
 two large cotton balls
 permanent markers or crayons
 glue
 scissors or craft knife
 shredded paper or packing material for "grass"
 paper punch

Procedure:

1. The basket handle can be made in one of two ways. You may either retain the handle of the milk jug by cutting above it (see fig. 1), or cut off the milk jug handle, punch a hole on either side of the basket and attach pipe cleaners for a handle (see fig. 2). Draw the appropriate cutting line around the jug and cut out the basket.

2. Make two slits on either side of where the nose will be with a knife or the pointed end of a scissors.

3. Children can color the outside of the basket using crayons or permanent markers. Talk about the fact

that real bunnies have two eyes, a nose and a mouth.

4. Help children weave six-inch pipe cleaners through the slits by the nose to make whiskers.

5. Children can glue cotton balls on the bunny for its nose and for its puffy tail.

5. Fill the basket half-full with shredded paper or packing material.

* Adapted from: **4R's Project** (see "Resources").

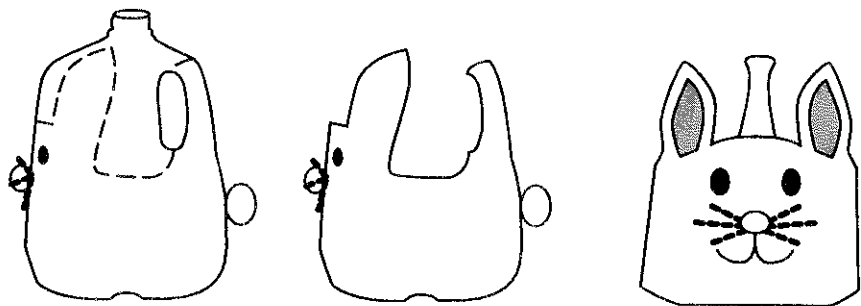


figure 1

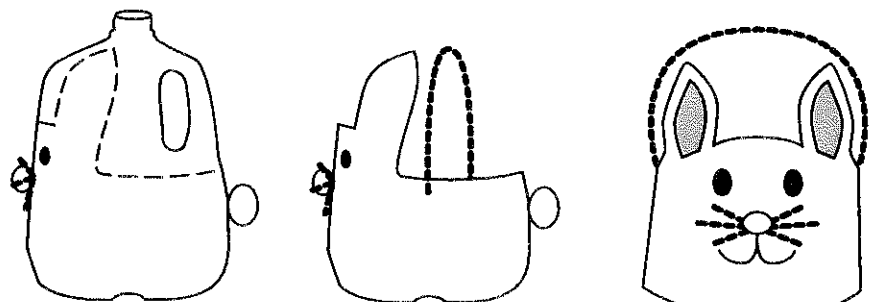


figure 2

Newspaper Snowperson

Build a snowperson out of reusable "snow." Because this snow will not melt, you can plan a few days to complete your snowperson.

Materials:

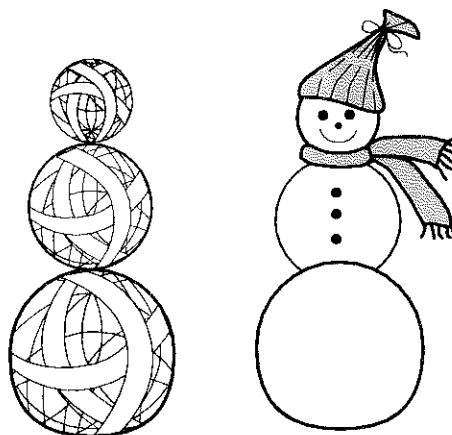
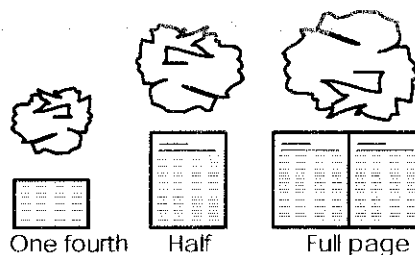
sheets of newspaper: full, half and one-fourth sheets
rolls of masking tape
yarn scraps
strips of fabric
thick, white paint (poster paint or indoor latex paint works best)
paint brushes
black marker
cuff cut from a child's old sock (have children bring these from home)
art apron

Procedure:

1. Several days before conducting this activity, ask parents to donate old children's socks. Cut the socks at the ankle, save the cuff for this project and save the rest for another project.

2. During the first session, give each child a set of newspaper sheets. Have them crumble each piece into a ball. Give children strips of masking tape to wrap around the three newspaper balls. The balls should be almost completely covered with tape. Flatten the bottom of the largest ball so it doesn't roll. Help children stack the balls on top of one another and tape them in place.

3. During the second session, prepare a work area for children to paint their snowperson. Indoor latex paint works best. Ask for a can to be donated by a parent or a local paint dealer. If latex paint is not available, mix a thick batch of poster paint. Children can paint their snowperson so that no newspa-



per or tape shows through. Allow the snowpeople to dry completely before continuing.

4. During the last session, children can draw features on their snowperson using a black marker. Give each child a sock cuff. Pull the uncut end of the cuff onto the snowperson's head. With a small piece of yarn, tie off the cut end of the cuff to complete the hat. Finally tie a small strip of fabric around the snowperson's neck to make a scarf.

Reusing Six-Pack Holders

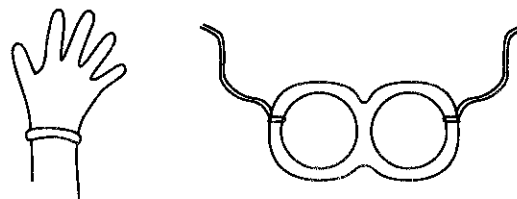
Cut apart a six-pack holder and you have six rings for ears, eyes and wrists.

Materials:

plastic six-pack holder
scissors
yarn or string

Procedure:

1. Cut individual sections from a six-pack holder and trim to make complete circles. Use these in dramatic play as bracelets.



2. Cut two circles from the end of a six-pack holder — do not separate them. Tie an 18-inch piece of yarn on each side. Tie these around a child's head to make a pair of goofy glasses.