

Crafts for Kids

Looking for ways to keep your kids occupied? Here are some tried-and-true activities using materials you already have in your home.

Perfect Your Paper Airplanes

This is bound to be a homerun with kids of all ages! Challenge your children to a paper airplane contest, and throw in little twists to make the designs more exciting. Here are some examples:

- Travel the furthest
- Fastest nosedive
- Full flip



Wax Your Creativity with Crayon Art

Parental supervision recommended. Don't throw out those old or broken crayons! With just the stubs and a hairdryer, you can create some unique DIY art. One method is to glue the crayons in a row on the top of a canvas, then use the blow dryer to make the wax melt downward.

Opt for Origami

Introduce your children to origami with simple patterns like origami [bracelets](#), [jumping frogs](#), [lucky stars](#), and [fortune tellers](#). As an added bonus, a jar of lucky stars makes a cute, low-cost Mother's Day gift. Your child can write messages inside enough stars to last a stretch of time. Place the folded stars in a jar, give the jar to Mom, and tell her to open one star a day. She'll have a week, month, or year worth of personalized messages from your kids!

Create (Then Excavate!) Some Fossils

Find a dozen large rocks and use acrylic paint to make fossils. Then, hide them in your yard and take your kids on a dinosaur hunt!

Become a Confectioner

One summer camp activity that kids look forward to is candy making. Bring that experience home with everything from chocolate covered pretzels to [rock candy](#). [Lollipops and gummy bears](#) could also make fun snacks.

Chalk your Walk

What "messy" activity is inexpensive, keeps kids busy for hours, and requires almost no clean up? Sidewalk Chalk! Kids of all ages have fun doodling on sidewalks and driveways, but there is so much more [play potential with chalk](#). Here are some examples:

- Have kids draw a self-portrait
- Draw a tic-tac-toe board and play a game
- Write inspirational messages for your neighbors to see during their walks
- Incorporate some physical activity and draw your own Twister board

The possibilities are endless! Adults can have just as much fun as the kids, so grab a bucket of chunky chalk and get outside!

Design Your Own Game

If you have an adolescent or teenager looking for a critical thinking activity, consider helping them design their own board game. This would be a longer-term project, and an engaged child would practice art, critical thinking, writing, and other skills to put together a full game. Younger kids might build obstacle courses in the yard or dream up new games using existing toys.

Knit a Scarf with Your Hands

[Arm knitting](#) is a knitting technique that uses your arms instead of needles. Using thick yarn, it results in blankets and scarves with a distinctive, bulky appearance.