

Paper & Crayons

Supplies:

White or Newsprint Paper
Crayons or Markers
Painters Tape
Stickers – dot or another shape
Stickers – animals, stars, etc.
Pipe Cleaners
Scissors
Objects (found wherever you are)

Activity: Shadow Tracing

Supplies:
Paper
Crayons or markers
Objects from wherever you are

Steps:

1. Grab items from around the house to trace,
2. Place the items in a well lit area (or prop your phone with the flashlight shining on the objects.)
3. Place a piece of paper where the shadow is and have fun tracing pictures!

Tips:

1. If it's not a sunny day, do this with a flashlight. Build a small fort area to block out the light and shine a light in the space.
2. This is a fantastic fine motor activity and may be difficult for younger children to do accurately. It's okay, guide them to do their best and help them out as they go.
3. Take this a step further, after tracing, mix up the tracings and the objects. See if you can match them up again.

Activity: Mailing Letters

Supplies:
Paper Crayons or markers
Painter's Tape
Stickers

Steps:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half and tape the edges to create a pouch (mailbox).
2. Set out paper and writing utensils (markers, crayons, pencils, stickers, etc.)
3. "write" letters and pretend to mail them in the mailboxes.

Tips:

1. Writing for toddlers is basically scribbling. Let them be creative.
2. Name the mailbox with a letter or your family member's names. Have them "mail" letters to different family members.
3. Leave this up for days. It is fantastic pretend play and gets your child using their fine motor skills by writing.

Activity: Paper Shredding

Supplies:

Paper of any kind. Old magazines, newspapers, bills, catalogs, etc.

Steps:

1. Collect old paper.
2. Set out paper to explore.
3. Tear paper to shreds.

Tips:

1. You may need to model ripping a few sheets to get your child started.
2. Older kids can be challenged to make a clean rip from one end of the paper to the other, making strips or to draw a line to follow when ripping.
3. For younger kids, start with 1 inch strips of paper to make short rips.

Activity: Drawing Under the Table

Supplies:

Paper

Markers or crayons or colored pencils

Painter's Tape

Steps:

1. Tape a large piece of paper to the underside of a table.
2. Set out markers, crayons, etc. to have handy for your child.
3. Have your child lay on their back, under the table and draw a picture on the paper.

Tips:

1. Markers may stop working if used upside down for too long.
2. This is a fantastic sensory experience by just focusing on the process.
3. For added fun, throw a blanket over the table to make a fort to create in!
4. The table will need to be child sized for the child to reach. The underside of a child height chair will work as well.

Activity: Shape Match Up

Supplies:

Paper

Crayons, pencils, markers

Objects from where you are

Steps:

1. Gather various objects in different sizes and shapes.
2. Trace the objects on a piece of paper.
3. Match the outlines to their correct outline.

Tips:

1. For younger children parents or older siblings can do the tracings.
2. This is a great concentration activity that works on trial-and-error. Also teaches mirror images of things, plus comparing and contrasting.
3. Try to find objects with distinct shapes to make it a bit easier. Don't worry too much about it though – just use what you can find.

Activity: Dot Sticker Designs

Supplies:

Paper

Crayons, markers, pencils

Dot stickers

Steps:

1. Draw a wacky design with a marker or crayon or pencil on a piece of paper.
2. Provide the stickers!
3. Trace the design by sticking the stickers to the line!

Tips:

1. Older children can draw their own designs to trace with stickers.
2. Younger children may need some help removing the sticker.

3. For younger children start with a small. Simple design so they can accomplish it in a short amount of time.
4. Or completely reverse the process. Place the stickers on a piece of paper and have your child draw a line or lines connecting them.
5. For older children you could label the stickers with numbers or letters and have the children do a dot to dot to make a picture.

Activity: Texture Rubbings

Supplies:

Paper

Crayon or marker

Objects from where you are

Steps:

1. Find some flat objects with different textures.
2. Lay a piece of paper on top of the objects.
3. Use a crayon or marker to lightly color over the objects to see the texture appear.

Tips:

1. This is a great opportunity to introduce new words as you are describing the textures.
2. Have your child help find the objects.
3. Darker crayons are going to work best. It will be easier to see the objects.

Activity: Rainbow Bunched Drawing

Supplies:

Paper

Markers

Painter's tape (optional)

Steps:

1. Gather 3 to 5 markers.
2. Hold all the markers in one hand. Tape around the markers if desired.
3. Draw.

Tips:

1. If the markers are too hard to hold, tape them together to make it easier.
2. Children may want to create an actual rainbow, but they may just want to make their own picture.

3. Work on learning at the same time - have your child trace their name, shapes, letters or numbers.

Activity: Shape Scavenger Hunt

Supplies:

Paper

Markers or crayons

Scissors

Painter's Tape

Variation 1 Steps:

1. Draw out a variety of shapes on paper about 6 inches each.
2. Cut out the shapes. Your child can practice their cutting.
3. Write one thing you love about your child or your child loves about you on each shape.
4. Hide the shapes around the house and have a scavenger hunt to find them.

Variation 2 Steps:

1. Draw 2 sets of a specific shape, i.e. triangles, on different colors of paper.
2. Cut out the shapes.
3. Hide one set of shapes around the house.
4. Give your child the other set of triangles and have them search the house to find the match.

Variation 3 Steps:

1. Give your child a cutout of a shape, i.e. a circle.
2. Have your child search the house for other objects that are the same shape as a circle.

Tips:

1. Be creative in the things you love! Be sure to include behaviors that they do that you love.
2. If you have more than one child, make a set of different shapes for each child so you can tell them which shape to find.
3. After they have found all the shapes, see if they want to make a shape for you or another loved one.

Activity: Continuous Drawing

Supplies:

Paper

Markers

Steps:

1. Gather paper and a marker.
2. Try to draw a picture without lifting the marker.
3. Have fun and be creative.

Tips:

1. See how long of a line you can make without lifting your marker.
2. Do this with your child and see if they can guess what you drew.
3. Draw a long line and count how many times you cross over your line.

Activity: Connect the Stickers

Supplies:

Paper

Crayons or markers

Stickers

Steps:

1. Make a column of stickers on the left side of the paper.
2. On the right side put the same stickers, but in a different order.
3. Match the stickers by drawing a line from the left side to the right side of the paper.

Tips:

1. You can switch this one up for anything your child is learning. Write out numbers or letters to match. Do classmates names. Use upper case to lower case letters.
2. For older children put the stickers all over the paper for them to find the matches.

Activity: Dots and Boxes Game

Supplies:

Paper

Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Draw a grid of at least 4 dots wide and 4 dots high.
2. Each turn draw one horizontal or vertical line to connect 2 dots.
3. When you draw the 4th wall of a box, write your initial in the box and take another turn. Whoever has the most boxes at the end is the winner.

Tips:

1. You can make any size grid you want – add more dots for a longer game.
2. Younger children can just color their box instead of writing their initial.
3. There are no diagonal lines – each line must go straight to a neighboring dot.

Activity: Beginner Connect the Dots

Supplies:

Paper

Writing implements

Steps:

1. Draw dots all over the paper.
2. Have your child connect the dots however they like by drawing a line from one dot to the next.
3. When done they can color the picture they made.

Tips:

1. If your child knows their colors, draw the dots in different colors and have them connect the same colors together.
2. After they finish, ask about their picture – they might tell you what they made.
3. Involve your child in the prep and see if they want to make the dots.

Activity: Drawing Free Form Together

Supplies:

Paper

Writing utensils

Steps:

1. The first person draws something small on the paper, - a circle, a squiggle, a shape, etc.
2. The second person adds some small detail to the original shape.
3. Take turns adding something to the picture.
4. See what you end up making.

Tips:

1. Try not to lead your child into a specific picture. See where their creativity takes them.
2. Don't worry if the colors don't end up being the "right" colors.
3. It may not end up being a picture of anything. It may just be cool artwork.

