

In the Image Craft Instructions by Mark Burrows

Leaves of Hope and Blessing

What you'll need:

- Leaf pattern
- White cardstock
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Paper headed for the recycle bin
- Scissors
- A small branch
- Small zip ties

Copy the Leaf Pattern onto cardstock and cut out. This will serve as the pattern.

Trace the pattern onto the paper and cut out.

Make several leaves.

Punch a hole in each leaf near the wider end.

On each leaf, write a hope, prayer, or blessing you have.

It can be as simple as one word ("Health" or "Peace"). Or it can be detailed and specific ("I hope my friends come to my party.").

Use the zip ties to attach the leaves to the small branch.

Want to do more?

You can bind several small branches together.

Fill the braches with leaves to create a Tree of Hope and Blessing.

Found Sounds

Some of the best musical instruments are those made from found objects.

Collect an assortment of objects (preferably durable ones) to create your own Found Sound Instrumentarium.

Here's a short list:

- Buckets in a variety of sizes (with sticks) = drums
 - An empty soda bottle with plastic beads inside = rattle
 - Two trash can lids = cymbals
 - A pair of short, thick dowels = claves
 - An empty five-gallon water bottle = conga
 - Large plastic or rubber trash bin = bass drum
 - 12-18 inch length of ridged vacuum hose and a chopstick = guiro
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Bird Kite:

What you'll need:

- Bird Kite Pattern
- White paper
- Scissors
- A 36 inch length of skinny ribbon
- A 2-3 foot length of embroidery thread
- Hole punch
- Stapler
- A long, skinny dowel
- Drinking straw
- Electrical tape
- Crayons (optional)
- Eye hook (optional)

Copy the Bird Kite Pattern onto a piece of white paper.

You can leave the bird white, or color it.

Cut out the kite.

Staple the head and the body where indicated on the pattern.

Punch a hole near the front of the body where indicated. Take care to not punch the hole too close to the edge.

Staple a drinking straw to the tops of the wings where indicated on the pattern. Cut away any excess plastic.

Fold the 36 inch length of ribbon in half.

Staple the fold to the inside of the bird's tail, leaving the rest flowing out the back.

Tie one end of the embroidery thread through the hole in the bird kite.

Attach the other end to the tip of the dowel.

You can do this either using an eye hook screwed into the end of the dowel, or by using electrical tape.

If using tape, first tie a double knot at the end of the embroidery thread.

When you tape that end tightly to the dowel, leave the knot hanging just below the tape. That way, if the thread starts to slip a bit, the knot will keep it from sliding all the way through.

You can also use the electrical tape to fashion a handle at the other end of the dowel, giving it a more finished look.

Hold the dowel straight up and gently pull the bird kite through the air. Make turns very broad so the bird doesn't start flying upside down.

Found Object Puppets

Found object puppets require absolutely no assembly. All it takes is a creative eye to see something not just for what it *is*, but for what it *can be*.

Children are great at this.

Here's a short list of simple objects you can gather:

- A length of garden hose or vacuum hose
- A large and small colander
- An oven mitt
- A pair of combs
- An old printer/scanner
- A pair of egg cartons
- An old necktie

Spread out the objects on a table where all the children can see them.

Invite a child to come up and turn an object into a puppet.

Tips:

A puppet doesn't have to have a mouth.

Just holding up something, i.e. the vacuum hose, and saying "This is a worm" isn't puppetry.

Challenge the children to move the objects – give them action so that the audience can see what the puppeteer is trying to make the object be.

It's okay to combine objects together.

Check out the video *Simple Puppets Using Things 'n' Stuff* to see some of the puppets I came up with.

Torn Paper Masks

What you'll need for each mask:

- Butcher paper or newspaper to cover work area
- Assorted scraps of construction paper (lots)
- A piece of corrugated cardboard (at least 12 inches x 12 inches)
- A paint stirrer
- Masking tape
- A bottle of white glue
- Mod Podge
- A paint brush (medium width)

Think of which specific animal you would like to make.

Sketch the basic outline of the head onto the piece of cardboard. Facial features, such as ear, nose, and mouth, aren't necessary at this stage. But anything that will affect the shape of the outline – ears, horns, antlers – should be a part of the outline.

[This next step should be done by an adult.]

Cut out the shape.

Secure the paint stirrer to the cardboard shape with masking tape.

Use several pieces so the connection is solid.

It should look like a giant lollipop.

The side where the paint stirrer is taped will be the back of the mask.

Tear pieces of construction paper and glue them in place on the front of the mask.

Start with the base color of the animal's face, then add facial features.

A few tips:

- Limit the color palette to no more than three colors. This will make the animals look more natural.
- When adding the eyes, don't put them too close to the top, but nearer the middle.
- Apply the glue to the individual pieces of construction paper, not to the cardboard.

- Make sure to spread the glue all the way to the edges of each piece of paper, otherwise the edges might curl up in spots.
- The construction paper can extend beyond the edge of the cardboard a tiny bit. What you don't want is for the cardboard to show.

I really like torn paper. It looks more artistic than simply cutting out pieces of construction paper. Plus, torn paper tends to stick better than paper with uniform edges.

Allow the glue to dry.

Next, glue torn construction paper onto the back of the mask, covering up the paint stirrer. This doesn't have to be nearly as intricate. One color of paper is just fine.

Allow the glue to dry.

If you choose, you can cut eye holes so it can function as a real mask. **[This step needs to be done by an adult.]**

Finally, use the paint brush to apply a coat of Mod Podge to the front of the mask. Once it dries, apply a coat to the back of the mask. This will give the mask a nice, finished look.

Fish Puppet

What you'll need:

- Fish Puppet Pattern
- Cardstock
- Old file folder or used cardstock/poster board
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Craft stick
- Glue dots (optional)

Copy the Fish Puppet Pattern onto cardstock and cut out. This will serve as the pattern.

Trace the pattern twice onto the old file folder or used cardstock/poster board.

Cut out both fish.

Next, cut off both back fins. The dotted line on the Fish Puppet Pattern shows where to cut. Place the fish and fins on a flat surface so that the two fish are a mirror image of each other.

Using duct tape, reattach each back fin to its fish. Don't tape it too securely. It needs to have a little bit of flexibility. This is what will give the fish puppet its swishy tail.

Tape the craft stick to one of the fish so that it extends below. This will be the puppet rod.

Use tape (or glue dots) to stick the other fish directly on top of the first fish so that none of the first fish is showing.

Some gentle side-to-side motion with the rod will make the fish look as if it is swimming.

Fish Rig

Want to do more? You can make an entire school of fish that will swim together. This requires making a rig. Because it requires cutting wire and cardboard, I recommend rigs always be made by an adult.

What you'll need:

- 2-3 wire hangers
- One cardboard tube from a coat hanger
- Electrical tape
- Pliers (with wire cutter feature)
- Scissors

Cut the cardboard tube into two smaller tubes.

Wrap one of the tubes in electrical tape to make a more finished handle.

Straighten out 2-3 wire hangers. (I usually cut away the hook part.)

Next bend each wire in the middle to make tall, skinny Vs.

Press one V down into one end of the cardboard tube handle. (See how skinny that V has to be?)

Use the pliers to make bends in the wire. These bends are important as the surfaces where you will attach the fish.

Press another wire V into the handle and repeat the previous step.

Repeat this step if you have a third wire V.

Next, follow the steps for Fish Puppet to make fish for each bend in the wire.

Try to spread the fish out evenly.

In the example provided, I made the rig symmetrical, but it doesn't have to be.

Tip: You may notice before you attach the fish that some tails are "swishier" than others. Place these closer to the center of the rig. The fish further away from the center will always move more, so putting the swishiest fish in the center will help make the swimming look more uniform.