

Preschool Partners Parent Workshop

“Nature, Paper, and Plastic Tools for Science Learning”

*Ways to incorporate STEAM activities into your daily routine.*

September 2020



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  
MCWANE SCIENCE CENTER



## Get Rhythm!

### Supplies:

- Plastic Egg
- Dry Rice or Beans
- Shoe and Shaker Rhythm Cards

### Instructions:

1. Fill a plastic egg with a teaspoon of dry rice or beans.
2. Tape shut.
3. Cut out the shoe and shaker cards.
4. Have children arrange them in a pattern to create a rhythm.
5. Play the rhythm!

### STEM-Spin:

Create challenges that test the math skills of learners by requesting a rhythm using two shoes and three shakers, or five beats total.

## Drop in the Top

### Supplies:

- Bottle Lids
- Dropper
- Small Cup w/ Water

### Instructions:

1. Turn bottle lids upside down on a table so they create a small bowl.
2. Have children transfer the water from the cup drop by drop into various bottle lids.
3. This activity is excellent fine-motor practice as it stimulates the use of the hand's small muscles.



## Nature's Paintbrush

Supplies:

- Rubber Bands
- Twigs
- Various Nature Items (flowers, pine straw, long grass, vines, etc.)
- Washable Paint
- Paper

Instructions:

1. Gather twigs from outdoors. Each twig represents on paintbrush, so ensure the twig is long enough and sturdy enough for painting.
2. Gather various nature items from outdoors. Separate each bundle of items.
3. Rubber band one bundle securely to one end of the stick. You've made a paintbrush!
4. Using paint and paper, create a masterpiece using your new paintbrush.
5. Observe the strokes. Which paintbrush is your favorite? Why?



## I-Spy Dice

Supplies:

- Color and Number Dice Templates
- Tape

Instructions:

1. Cut and assemble each die using tape.
2. For the color die, have children roll it and find an object in the room (or house) that matches that color.
3. For the number die, have children roll it and find that number of objects in the room (or house.) For instance, children can be instructed to find five items smaller than a tissue box, three spoons, one book, etc.

## Paper Tube Hair Salon

### Supplies:

- Paper Tube with Pre-drawn Hair and Face
- Child-Safe Scissors

### Instructions:

1. Draw a face on a paper tube.
2. Draw lines from one edge of the tube to the top of the head.
3. Using a pair of child-safe scissors, give the tube a haircut. Cut the lines and then give the funny face a trim.
4. This is great practice in scissor skills by giving the funny faces a haircut a little at a time. This is a fun way to practice following a line (hand eye coordination). Once your child is more skilled with scissors use toilet paper rolls for hair cut practice.



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### Kit Includes:

- toilet paper tube
- plastic egg
- dropper
- number and color dice
- 2 rubber bands
- 2 bottle tops
- rhythm cards





