THE CRAFTY GRANDPARENT

Many of us would love to do handcrafts with the children in our lives but we have no idea where to start. In this workshop we will explore a variety of crafts and have fun in the process! At each session the participants will make two to four crafts appropriate for a variety of ability levels. Participants will contribute about $30 ($3/session) toward consumables that will be provided by the moderator. In addition, participants will assemble a tool kit:

YOUR CRAFTING KIT

Your kit should consist of:

- Scissors
- A hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Craft glue
- Tape
- Markers
- Paint and brushes

**Scissors:** You will want two pairs of scissors, a big pair for adult hands and a small pair for little hands. I have been happy with Fiskars brand. They make Fiskars For Kids which have blunt points and only cost a couple of dollars.

**Glue:** So-called “school” glue like Elmers is not strong enough for serious crafting; get a sturdier brand of white glue like SoBo. You will also need a hot-glue gun and plenty of glue sticks. Using a hot-glue gun is a job for teens or adults; even so, you should get the kind that says “low temperature.”

There will be times when we will be using other kinds of glue but these two are the basics.

**Tape:** For convenience’ sake, I will refer to household sticky tape as “scotch” tape so we all know what we are talking about. Of course you may use whatever brand you prefer. Again, there will be times when we will be using other kinds of tape such as masking tape or electrical tape, but you should have “scotch” tape as part of your kit.

**Markers:** I use Sharpie markers a lot. They are permanent, though, so watch it, especially with younger children who may get them on clothes and furniture. Get at least one fine-point and one extra-fine. They come in a lot of colors but for most projects you will only need black. You will also want washable markers for other projects, and for younger children.
Paints and brushes: At the outset, I will provide paint, but you will want to acquire your own. I am particularly fond of acrylic paint for crafting. It is inexpensive (less than a dollar per bottle), non-toxic, fast-drying, and it is usually opaque with one coat. Before it dries it can be cleaned up with water but once it gets onto your clothes it is probably there for the life of the garment, so wear an appropriate cover-up.

Poster paints or temperas are good too if that’s what you have on hand. Don’t spend a lot of money on brushes. Crayola brand brushes come in an assortment of sizes and they are fine for this kind of crafting.

These are some of the things we might be making. Please understand that this is NOT a curriculum – more like a list of possibilities.

Prints and printmaking
- Potatoes and other vegetables
- Styrofoam
- Craft foam
- Etc.

Beach crafts
- Beach ornaments
- Beach in a jar
- Rock and shell mobiles
- Water toys
- Flying jellyfish
- Etc.

Rocks
- Painted rocks
- Rock animals
- Rock potato heads
- Mancala game

Pets and puppets
- Sock puppets
- Egg carton puppets
- Finger puppets
- Bubble wrap aquarium
- Cereal box aquarium
- Owls

Hearts and flowers
- Heart strings
- Plastic lid flowers
- Water bottle flowers
- Etc.

Think spring!
- Coffee filter butterflies
- Butterfly/dragonfly magnets
- Spring planter pets
- Plant hanger for cuttings
- Eggheads
- Miniature greenhouse

Masks and monsters
- Decorating masks
- Space aliens
- Spiders
- Etc.

No business like snow business
- Coffee filter snowflakes
- Snowman door hanger
- Snowman face

Let’s make presents
- M&M filled ornaments
- Bath bombs
- Teacher gift notebooks
- Desk organizer
- Etc.