



TAKE AND MAKE: PAPER STRIP COLLAGE

Have fun tearing or cutting strips of paper and creating a collage. For ages 2-5.

A collage is a work of art made by gluing pieces of different materials or different size materials to a flat surface. For this project, your child will glue strips of construction paper to the white paper to create a unique work of art. To begin, have your child use child-safe scissors to cut the construction paper into strips or different size pieces. Your child can tear the paper if you do not have child-safe scissors. Let your child glue or tape the construction paper onto the white paper however they want to create their collage.

This month's Take & Make helps young children develop the fine motor skills they need to hold pencils and crayons. Having strong motor skills will help children as they begin the process of learning how to write. How can cutting or tearing paper develop this skill? As children tear or cut the paper, they are building the small muscles in their palm and hand. They are also enhancing their eye-hand coordination. They must be able to see what they are tearing or cutting while moving their hand.

Learning how to use scissors plays an important role in developing fine motor skills. Here are some tips for teaching your child how to use child-safe scissors:

- To help your child remember how to hold a pair of scissors, draw a smiley face on the thumbnail of your child's cutting hand. The smiley face reminds them to keep their thumb up when cutting.
- Cutting paper can be tricky; practice cutting playdough first.
- Cardstock is easier to cut than paper. Let your child cut old greeting cards or old playing cards.
- Provide activities that use tools such as tongs, hole punches, tweezers, eyedroppers, and clothespins to strengthen fine motor skills necessary for cutting.
- It might sound easy, but teaching young children how to cut with scissors is a very complex task. Try using this rhyme to help your child remember how to hold and use scissors properly:

**Two fingers on the bottom
and the thumb on top.
Open the mouth and go
chop, chop, chop.**

