

Every Child Ready to Read @ Dallas®

Creating Paper Plate Masks

By Holly Lapinski

Links to Literacy: This activity extends a book by dramatizing and role playing characters in a story.

What you'll need:

Paper plates
Markers and/or crayons
Thick craft glue and/or Tape

Scissors
Paint stirring stick for hand held masks
String for tie on masks.

Optional items:

Assorted scraps of paper: Colored, tissue, gift wrap, wallpaper, etc.
Assorted scraps of craft items: Ribbon, yarn, string, buttons, pom poms, fabric, felt, foam shapes, stickers, pipe cleaners/chenille stems, googlie eyes, beads, pasta, macaroni, dried beans, etc.

What to do:

Draw or glue a face onto a paper plate.
Add details: Cut out eyes, yarn hair, paper cup snouts, egg carton noses, paper curl beards, ribbon eyebrows, pipe cleaner ears, etc.

Option 1

Glue or tape the paint stick to the bottom of the mask

Option 2

Use a stapler to attach the ties or punch holes to attach string for a tie on mask. Reinforce with tape where the strings are attached so they don't pull off.

Variations:

For older children, encourage them to do as much as they can on their own. Let your child cut out scraps of paper with scissors—remember to supervise. Make your own mask so your child sees you working independently. Ask your child to help you just as you are helping them. Act out a book you are reading or make up new stories with your character masks.

Notes:

Animal Masks

These are fun and easy to make by using paper cups for pig snouts or dog muzzles, pom poms for kitty noses. Paper or fabric works great for floppy ears or craft foam for stand up ears. Beads, dried beans, macaroni, pom poms and packing peanuts make excellent spots on leopards or dogs. Have fun and use your imagination.

Mini masks

If you and your child use small paper plates, craft sticks or tongue depressors may be used instead of a paint stick. You may want to create several so you can change characters. These are great to use as puppets.

Easy puppets

If you do not choose to cut out the eyes of your mask, you and your child can use them for puppets and put on a puppet show. You can even attach fabric or paper at the bottom of the plate for clothing. For an easy stage or puppet theater just go behind any table, crouch down and hold your paper plate puppet so it can be seen. Scenery and props can just be placed on the table. Use a cloth on the table so the audience can't see you.

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