

PAPER TEARING AND COLLAGE

Fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination, hand strength, pre-writing skills, Mathematical skills

Tearing things like paper and tissue is not only a great way to prepare interesting craft materials, but it also helps your child strengthen their hands and work on their fine motor skills. The hand position used when tearing also allows them to develop a good pencil grip.



A NOTE ON MATERIALS

Begin with what the child is able to tear easily, like tissue. You can slowly build up to tearing paper, card and even cardboard. It's important to begin with what they are able to do with ease.

1. CREATING MATERIALS

Using whatever you have on hand (e.g. magazines, coloured paper, old invoices, newspapers, tissues, etc.) invite your child to tear paper into a variety of sizes. You could invite them to do the following:

- What is the smallest piece you can make?
- What is the biggest piece you can make?
- How many pages can you tear at once?
- Which paper is the smoothest/roughest?

If you are using magazines and newspapers, invite them to tear out only certain parts of the paper. For example, 'can you tear out only his hand?' or 'can you tear out that blue piece?'

This is an excellent opportunity to practise colours and size with your little one.

Extension: Ask them to sort the torn papers by size and/or colour.

2. CREATING ART

Using any glue you have on hand, encourage your child to design a collage. Allow their creativity free reign, but do ask them open-ended questions about their collage and then ask follow up questions. For example, if you point to a person and ask who they are, ask follow-up questions like what they are doing or what their connection is to other items/people in the collage.

A NOTE ABOUT INDEPENDENCE AND FREE EXPRESSION

This is a great opportunity to boost your child's confidence in their own abilities. Allow your child to take the lead when creating their collage. Let them determine where each piece will be glued down.

What they have created might look like a mishmash, but your child is very proud of what they have created. Praise them for their efforts and show curiosity. It's not about the product so much as it is about the process to get to the finished product. They learn so much during the process and this is invaluable.

