

## How To: Resource Arts and Crafts on a Shoestring



A huge range of recycled and everyday materials can be used creatively in the primary classroom



Budgets for creative resources can be modest at the best of times, but there's a huge amount of recycled and bargain resources that you can use in your classroom to develop your pupils' creativity - both in art and design and across the curriculum.

Here are some top tips to help you to develop a low-budget bank of quality art and craft materials.

### Ingredients:

- Given materials - donated and recycled items from parents and friends
- Bought items - things you can buy cheaply on the high street
- Found objects - materials you and your children can collect as part of your activity

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**Belair On Display - Art Inspired by Recycling**



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### Useful Links

<http://recycle.co.uk>

<http://freecycle.co.uk>

## Make

### Dry Resources for Counting, Collages and Mixing:

- Given: Seek donations of unwanted beads and buttons.
- Bought: Dried pasta, lentils, rice and peas are versatile materials that are transformed with paint. Stock up on sand too as it can be used to give strength and texture to 3D designs.
- Found: Autumn leaves, pebbles, seeds and shells are easy to collect and incorporate into creative work.

### Fabrics for Collage, Knitting and Sewing:

- Given: Seek donations of odd balls of wool for knitting, weaving and making pompoms. Cut up donated clothes (charity outlets may give you a bag of things that don't sell).
- Bought: Remnants and offcuts of interesting fabrics, ends of lines that are easy to work with.

### Paper and Card for Drawing, Mounting and Making

- Given: Collect inner cardboard from everyday packaging such as cereal and pizza boxes. Store flat to maximise space in your cupboard. Establish a regular supply of papers and magazines for papier mache and sculpture projects.
- Bought: Off cuts and end of stock materials can provide cheap resources for collage and construction projects.

### Foils and Plastics for Murals, Mosaics, Modelling and Weaving

- The list of recycled materials that can be used creatively in the primary classroom is almost endless. Encourage regular donations of washed plastic bottles, bottle tops, yoghurt pots, cork, see through plastic lids, tetrafoil containers, and inner tubes from kitchen towels. (Remember to remind your donors that you'd like containers washed first!). Collect plastic bags for weaving, collage and stuffing for 3D displays.

### Storage

- Large fruit boxes, as found in markets and supermarkets, make great stackable units for storing creative resources.
- A mixture of tins (ensuring that the lids have been cleanly removed, leaving no sharp edges) make handy containers for pens, pencils, and dry resources. They can also be used for mixing paint, sand and glue, planding seeds and incorporated into children's artwork.
- Unwanted cloth shopping bags or pillow cases can be transformed into story sacks or containers for soft toys.

### Craft Utensils

Your local pound shop or cash and carry can offer cheap alternatives to dedicated creative resources from traditional art suppliers. Look out for bargains, such as:

- Flat sponges to use in print-making.
- Plant pot bases for mixing trays or for making dream catchers.
- Dishcloths can become affordable embroidery fabric.
- Feather dusters can be cut up to decorate models and pictures.
- See-through fishing wire is good for hanging artwork.
- Garden netting makes a base for wall or ceiling displays.
- Cotton buds which double up as tiny paint brushes.
- Lolly sticks are great for spreading glue.

### Tip

Join a local recycling group online. Members exchange and share unwanted items instead of sending them to landfill sites.