



ARTS AND CRAFTS MATERIALS FOR DAY CARE CENTRES

- Use only non-toxic art and craft materials.
- Do not eat or drink during arts and craft activities.
- Ensure children wash their hands after arts and craft activities.

Material	How to make it safe
Paints	Use water based, liquid, non-toxic paints. Avoid any paint that requires a solvent for clean up such as turpentine. Avoid aerosol paints. If using powdered tempura paints, ensure they are mixed with water before used by children. The powder may be inhaled and irritate the lungs.
Markers	Use water based markers only. Avoid permanent markers that may have toxic solvents.
Crayons	Use waxed or pressed crayons designed for children that are non-toxic. Avoid industrial type crayons. For children under the age of 3, ensure the crayons are not broken into small pieces. Broken crayons may be a choking hazard.
Glue	Use water based white glue or library paste. Avoid solvent based glue, rubber cement, epoxy or instant glue.
Bingo Dabbers	Ensure the bingo dabber states that it is non-toxic.
Dyes	Use vegetable, plant or food dyes (e.g. onion skins or tea). Avoid cold water or commercial dyes.
Papier Mache	Use newspaper and library paste or liquid starch. Avoid instant papier mache that creates inhalable dust and may contain lead or asbestos.
Glaze	Use water based paints instead. Avoid ceramic glaze or copper enamels.
Clay	Use wet, talc-free, premixed clay that cannot be inhaled. Avoid powdered clay, it may be inhaled and contain silica or asbestos. Do not sand dry clay, it will produce powder that may be inhaled.
Food	Cereal grain products (i.e. macaroni, rice) must be replaced every 4 weeks and monitored for infestation. Eggshells must be boiled for 10 minutes or heated in the oven for at least 10 minutes at 350°F in the oven.
Scissors	Use safety scissors or children's scissors with blunt ends. Avoid scissors that can cut hair, clothing or fingers.
Craft objects	Use large beads and other objects for crafts. Avoid objects that are small enough to lodge in a child's ear or nose or that may cause a choking hazard for children under 3. Avoid styrofoam for young children, it may be a choking hazard.
Outdoor craft objects	Leaves and straw may have residual chemicals, be infested with insects, or contain bacteria, mould or dust that may cause problems for children with allergies.