



**BORED
easel**
WAITING FOR YOUR ART

Lesson: CARDBOARD CONSTRUCTION

Ages & Duration: ages 2 to 5, 45-minute class (including 5-minute kid-assisted clean up)

PACKING LIST

BASIC: TABLE PAPER AND/OR TABLE CLOTH, TARP (not needed unless there is no table to use), PAPER TOWELS, GARBAGE BAG, 2 RAGS, SPRAY WATER (for hands), CRAFT TAPE, DRYING BIN (for cups, glue mops), PEN, APRON, SPEAKER, DEVICE w/MUSIC, SINK BIN w/LID, BIN FOR SELF SERVE, VINEGAR. **LINE AND CLIPS (N/A).** Optional: HAND SANITIZER, HAT, DUCT TAPE (in car)

MATERIALS, SURFACES & TOOLS:

- CARDBOARD BASES (1 per child)
- Assorted pieces of cardboard (corrugated, prepped with "hinges")
- Paper towel rolls (in pieces or whole) and/or egg cartons (in pieces)
- WHITE WASHABLE GLUE in facilitator bottle
- CUPS FOR GLUE bring (1 per child)
- GLUE MOPS bring (1 per child)
- ROLLS OF COLORED MASKING TAPE TO SHARE (1 per 2 children)
- Optional: LIQUID WATERCOLORS in small facilitator bottles (primaries for tinting glue)

If using paint:

- Tempera (primaries, white and/or black) in facilitator bottles
- 1/2 egg carton (6 cup) per child for paint (or give small amounts of paint on a cardboard "palette")
- Fine to medium brushes (bring two per child) *Bringing thinner brushes for this helps the structures to not be overwhelmed with wet paint.

For the self serve (options):

- PASTELS, assorted, unbroken
- Paper for ripping, collage
- Yarn pieces

VISUAL AID: AN ASSORTMENT OF THE CARDBOARD MATERIALS

SET-UP AT START: Table-clothed or papered tables, taped with craft tape (preferable) OR a tarped floor area with two lengths of paper taped down the center of it to delineate a table-shaped, floor workspace. Have a cardboard base at each child's spot. Have prepped on the side: a glue cup per child 1/3 full w/a glue mop (save the tinting for later as an option). Depending on the group, either distribute some of the shared cardboard materials on the table in advance, or wait until the kids are seated to add them.

CIRCLE TIME INTRO: Have with you...

- A cardboard base
- A few examples of the materials
- A glue cup and mop
- A roll of tape

In a circle with grown-ups and children to the side of the workspace, greet everyone. Then say something like: *Today we're going to make a structure (or sculpture) out of this material. (Show.) Have you seen this before? (Discuss.)*

Possible focuses to chose from for a brief chat (one is enough):

- Focus on 2D vs. 3D, flat/not flat: Start with, *What do you see?* Then compare/contrast with recent projects, and discuss examples of how hinges or curls in the cardboard turn it from flat to not flat.
- More about the materials (pass some out): *Where have you seen it? What is it made of? Can you bend it? Does it have a smell? (3-4+: What happens to it when we throw away our projects later? Why is it good for the earth to use these kinds of materials?)* etc.
- *What is a "structure" or a "building"?* *What building are we in (or near) right now? How do structures help us?* You might talk about different kinds of weather or things outside that a structure can protect you from.
- *What is a structure?* Followed by: *What's your favorite structure in a playground?* This is here because (in my experience) about half of cardboard contruction projects turn into "parks."

Segue to the workspace. Tell kids:

- *You'll find at your spot: a cardboard base for your artwork today and lots of cardboard materials to share (or: I'll be adding lots of cardboard materials to share in a moment).*
- *We'll have glue and tape today to help create our structures on our bases. (Show, review as needed.) We can practice our tape ripping and also get help from grown-ups as we're learning how to rip the tape.*

At the workspace:

- Invite kids to choose, explore, arrange & rearrange their materials for a few moments before you pass out the glue and tape.
- Now, bring out and introduce the glue cups & mops and the tape. Let them know that tape is shared, and give each child one glue cup w/mop. If needed, show how to dip the mop in the glue and drizzle it, or use the mop like a brush.
- Encourage everyone to combine materials as they like. Observe and ask questions about what you see. Discuss solutions for structural issues as they come up. Focus on noticing aloud or teaching methods that they may be able to replicate the next time they build something.

- Children will probably start with the glue, but offer tape ripping demos as needed. Don't worry about being too repetitive with the tape ripping demo. When they get it, they'll be able to do so many new things without help.

EXTENSIONS

You might offer **either** (recommended) or both of the following:

- **The paint:** Ask if they want it first. Offer a small amount of paint on cardboard palettes or in 1/2 egg cartons. (I don't recommend self-serve tempera for this.) Do this near the end and keep brushes on the finer side so that structures don't collapse under the weight of paint and the painting process. (You may also be hoping to send projects home on the same day. *Offer parents a small piece of craft paper to put under the project in the trunk.)
- **Glue tinting with liquid watercolors & self serve (as described above)**

RECAP & CLEAN-UP: At the end of class or as you see the group dispersing, thank everyone for their work and offer a RECAP of what you and the group did, talked about, and learned, using the vocabulary of the lesson. (This will vary based on your focus and extension options.) Then, chose at least one simple task you would like the kids to complete to help with clean-up for up to 5 minutes. Best ones for this set up: putting cups upside down in the drying bin, collecting glue mops (which may need to be wiped before going in the drying bin), picking up and sorting unused materials into their boxes, throwing away discarded materials that have glue on them, collecting pastels (if applicable), putting paint brushes in a bin (if you used paint).

QUICK REFERENCE:

NAMES, SAFETY RULES, COURTESY intro, variable

SEGUE TO WORKSPACE for **MATERIALS EXPLORATION**

ADD GLUE & TAPE assemble freely

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS tempera & brushes OR glue tinting & self-serve

RECAP & CLEAN-UP Kids help for up to 5 minutes