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January 2017

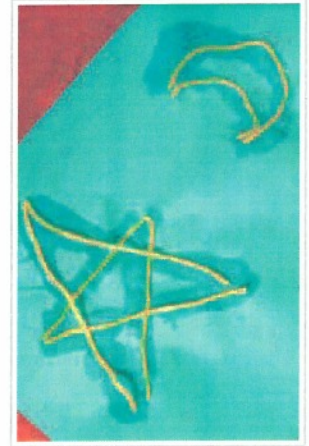
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 New Year's Day	2 Have your child draw a number 1. Draw 1 square, 1 circle and 1 triangle.	3 Festival Of Sleep Day	4 National Spaghetti Day	5 National Bird Day	6 Cuddle Up Day	7 While doing laundry, match like socks together. How many pairs did you have?
8 Bubble Bath Day	9 Fill the bath with bubbles and talk to your child about B, bubbles and bath time!	10 Look for different shapes at the grocery store today.	11 Step In A Puddle and Splash Your Friend Day	12 Cut out different sized circles. Have your child arrange them from smallest to largest.	13 Make Your Dream Come True Day	14 Dress Up Your Pet Day
15 National Hat Day	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 Read a book about your child's favorite animal.	18 Winnie The Pooh Day (birthday of A.A. Milne)	19 National Popcorn Day	20 Penguin Awareness Day	21 National Hugging Day
22 Count the number of toes in your family.	23 National Handwriting Day	24 Compliment Day	25 Opposite Day	26 Sing the ABC song with your child. Jump up and down when you sing a letter in your name.	27 Chocolate Cake Day	28 National Kazoo Day
29 National Puzzle Day	30 National Bubble Wrap Day	31 Backward Day		National Bath Safety Month National Blood Donor Month National Braille Literacy Month National Hobby Month Hot Tea Month National Oatmeal Month National Soup Month		

## Spaghetti Art

When your child smells the spaghetti simmering on the stove, she'll naturally think it's dinner time. But surprise her instead with this fun craft that encourages imagination and creativity by using spaghetti to make art. All you need are some spaghetti noodles and a few craft supplies, and you and your child are in for a truly different art experience. Who knew that spaghetti could teach your child about shapes, lines and patterns? Whether you whip up some noodles just for this project, or use the leftovers your family didn't quite get to, this is an inexpensive craft that's pure fun.

### What You Need:

- Cooking pot
- Water
- Spaghetti
- Paper
- Paper towels
- Markers



### What You Do:

1. Boil a pot of water with enough liquid to cook a good amount of spaghetti (about half of a 1 lb box is a good amount).
2. Drain and rinse the spaghetti and place on some paper towels to dry. Pat the noodles down with the paper towels to make sure they are completely dry.
3. Lay out some paper – you can use different colors – on a table for your child to start creating her masterpiece.
4. Encourage her to use the glue to draw out her designs on the paper. Place the spaghetti on top of the glue so it stays in place (even though the spaghetti will be quite sticky on its own).
5. If she needs a little inspiration, encourage her to create a shape. Ask her to make a large square, for instance, and then a small square inside of it, or have her make a spiral or a squiggle. Talk to her about straight lines versus curvy lines. Discuss why a curvy line may be the same length as a straight line, even though it may look shorter.
6. Another fun idea is to have your child use markers to create pictures of family members. Have her draw in her family members' faces and use the spaghetti for the hair. Or, she can try the reverse: use the spaghetti to create the face and draw the body.
7. The most important thing is to let your child have fun with the noodles. After all, it's a free pass to play with her food!

## How to Make a Kazoo

Ever wonder how those kooky kazooos work? Get to know the science behind this silly instrument by making your very own kazoo. A kazoo makes noise when your voice vibrates the tissue paper membrane. The sound waves from your voice get altered when they hit the tissue membrane, creating the funky humming noise you hear when you play. Help your child create his own music with a crafty kazoo he can make and decorate himself.

### What You Need:

- A toilet paper tube
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers
- Rubberbands
- Wax paper



### What You Do:

1. Have your child decorate the toilet paper tube with construction paper and/or stickers. A kazoo is a silly instrument, so encourage something fun, possibly stripes or polka dots. Hold things in place with rubber bands until the glue dries.
2. Help him poke a small hole midway down the tube. This will help keep things dry and keep the wax paper membrane in place when he plays his handmade instrument.
3. Cut a piece of wax paper, 3 inches by 3 inches square.
4. Rubber band the wax paper over one end of the tube. This is the membrane that will vibrate and make the music that everyone will hear.
5. Now it is time to play. For non-kazoo people, your son will need to hum loudly into the kazoo. Or he can sing into it. The sound of your son's voice is what makes the membrane vibrate. It will be echo-y and distorted though, so don't be surprised when it doesn't sound exactly like him.

Encourage your child to play along with his favorite songs. Or maybe he'd like to lead the family in a kazoo crazy band! Have fun as you explore the world of music together.

## Make Your Own Puzzle

Sure, you could go out and buy a puzzle at the toy store. But why buy one when it's so easy to make your own at home? Do-it-yourself puzzles are inexpensive and fun to make, and kids can pick any design they like. This personalized puzzle is sure to be a hit with even the pickiest preschooler.

### What You Need:

- Thin cardboard or posterboard
- Glue
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Crayons or markers
- Magazines
- Paper



### What You Do:

1. Help your child to decide if he wants to cut a picture from a magazine or draw his own picture.
2. Hand him the markers or crayons if he's drawing his own design, then skip to Step 4. Or, if he'd rather choose a picture from a magazine, let him cut it out, then help him glue the picture to the cardboard. Leave it to dry.
3. When the glue is completely dry, use the scissors to trim the cardboard to fit the picture exactly. Be sure to toss any extra cardboard into the recycle bin.
4. This next step is for parents. Use the exacto knife to cut the picture on the cardboard into squiggly shapes. The smaller the pieces, the more challenging the puzzle will be.
5. When you finish cutting the picture into pieces, mix it up and give it to your child to solve. Good luck putting it back together again!

Planning a birthday party? This activity is a great way to keep the little ones occupied.