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Homemade



In a



S.N.A.P.!

A handout of homemade recipes
And toys using your S.N.A.P. benefits

A project of CAWM Head Start

Welcome!

Are your days becoming shorter? Is your money being spread thin? Do you enjoy spending time with your child and having fun together? If you answered yes to these questions, then this booklet is for you! Homemade in a S.N.A.P. contains toys and recipes that can be made using items purchased with S.N.A.P. benefits and a few common household items. We hope you can take these ideas and be creative with your children.

Have Fun!

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Alphabet Blocks

Empty Soap Boxes

Paper

Markers

Glue/Tape



Cover the soap boxes with a piece of paper. Tape or glue ends shut. Write letters of the alphabet on each block or you can write out the letters of your child's name on each block. Have your child then put them in order. This will help with ABCs and learning the letters in their name.

Sand Scoop

Empty gallon milk jug

Scissors

Thoroughly rinse out the milk jug and allow it to air dry. Using scissors, cut out the side of the milk jug keeping the handle. Children can use as a sand scoop or use in the bath tub with water.

Stick Puzzles

12-16 craft sticks (taken from popsicles etc)

Tape

Markers

Place the craft sticks side by side. You may want to put a piece of tape on one side of the sticks to hold them together while you draw on the other side. Draw a picture on the sticks and color it in. To make a two in one puzzle, draw another picture on the other side. Remove the tape and turn the sticks over. Add tape to the other side and draw the second picture. Remove the tape and mix up the sticks and put your picture back together again.

Traffic Jam Books

Pictures of cars, trucks, and trains
(taken from magazines or newspapers)

Scissors

Poster board (cut out of cereal boxes)

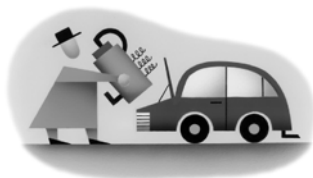
Ziploc Bags

Glue or Tape

Markers

Hole Punch

Yarn



Cut out pictures of cars, trucks, and trains. Cut poster board to fit into Ziploc bags. Glue or tape the pictures on the cardboard. Label each vehicle using lowercase print. Place each picture into its own resealable plastic bag. Punch holes both on the left and right side of each bag and thread short lengths of yarn through the holes. Tie the yarn to create an end-to-end traffic jam book. Use different sizes of plastic bags to create small and large books. Talk about the vehicle with your child. Add to the book as the children learn about different vehicles when you read other books.

Grocery Store

Empty bottles, boxes, and containers of food.

Children love to play “grocery store”. Keep your empty boxes to set up a store in your house. This allows for creativity and fun!

Recipes

Cornstarch Clay (1)

1 cup baking soda

1/2 cup cornstarch

2/3 cup warm water

Food Coloring

Saucepan

Mix together the baking soda and cornstarch in the saucepan. Add the food coloring to the water and stir until all the lumps are gone. Cook on medium heat until the mixture boils (mixture should look like mashed potatoes). Knead to cool.

Cornstarch Clay (2)

Food coloring

1 cup salt

1/2 cup cornstarch

1 cup of boiling water

Saucepan



Mix the food coloring into the hot water. Combine all the ingredients into the saucepan. Boil over medium heat until the mixture forms a soft ball. Knead when cool.

Cornstarch Clay (3)

1/2 cup salt
1/2 cup of hot water
1/2 cup of cold water
1/2 cup of cornstarch
Saucepan
Bowl

Mix salt and hot water and bring to a boil in the saucepan. In the bowl, stir the cold water into the cornstarch. Add cornstarch mixture to boiling salt water and stir. Cook over low heat. Stir until mixture looks like pie dough. Cool and knead.

Cooked Dough

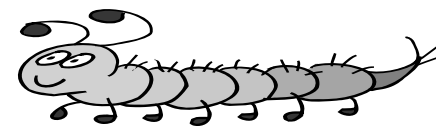
1 cup of flour
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 cup water
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
Food coloring
Saucepan

Mix the food coloring into the water. Heat all ingredients over low heat until the mixture forms a ball. Knead when cool.



Caterpillar

Empty egg carton
Twist ties or string
Paint (optional)



Cut apart the egg carton to make individual “cups”. Use twist ties to make small holes in each side of the “cups”. String each cup together by using either the twist ties or string. For extra fun, have your child paint the cups to make a colorful caterpillar.

Lunch Bag Books

Paper lunch bags
Pictures of animals
Glue
Markers
Hole Punch
Yarn



Fold the bottoms of about 4 or 5 lunch bags over to one side. Glue an animal picture onto each bag so that part of the picture is hidden underneath the flap. Use markers to label each picture. Punch holes into the open ends of the bags and secure the pages together with short lengths of yarn. Children guess what the animal is, then open the flap to see the whole picture. Talk about the children’s guesses with them.

Nesting or Stacking Tins

Empty Tin cans of various sizes (ex: coffee, vegetable, soup, tomato paste etc)

Duct tape

Clean and soak off labels from the cans. Hammer down the edges until they are flat and smooth. Use the duct tape to cover the rims and edges. Sit with your child and show them how to nest the smaller cans inside the larger ones. You can also turn the cans upside down and make a stack.

A variation of this toy is to use colored duct tape. Pick one color for each can. Have your child color clothespins to match the color. Toddlers can drop the pins into the correct colored can or clip the clothespins in a line around the rim of the can to promote fine motor skills.

Toy Train

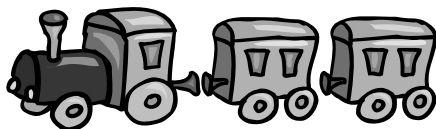
Shoebboxes or Empty Oatmeal Box

Hole Punch

String

Markers/Crayons

Have your child decorate the shoebox or oatmeal box with markers or crayons. Put a hole in the side of the shoebox using the hole punch. Attach each box with the string. Have your child pull it along. Choo! Choo!



Sugar Clay

1 cup of sugar

1 cup of flour

1 cup of cold water

5 cups of boiling water

Food Coloring

In a bowl, mix food coloring in cold water then mix sugar, flour and cold water. Add mixture to boiling water and cook for 5 minutes stirring constantly. Knead when cool.

Kool-Aid Playdough (1)

1 cup sifted flour

1/2 cup salt

3 tablespoons oil

1 package of Kool-Aid

1 cup boiling water

Mill well, cool and knead.

Kool-Aid Playdough (2)

1 cup flour

1/4 cup salt

1 package Kool-Aid

2 tablespoons cream of tartar

1 cup warm water

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Combine all dry ingredients in sauce pan. Add water and oil. Stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes until forms ball. Work with hands until cool.



Scratch and Sniff Paint

- 1 tablespoon unsweetened powdered drink mix
- 1 tablespoon warm water

Mix water and drink mix together. Paint picture. Allow paint to dry overnight before scratching and sniffing.

Jello Finger Paint (1)

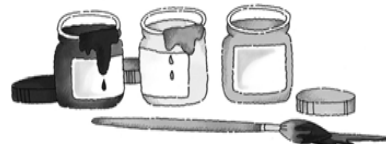
- 1 package Jello
- 2 tablespoons hot water

Mix together in a small bowl being careful not to over mix. Let cool 5-10 minutes before using. Paint on tin foil for a neat effect.

Jello Finger Paint (2)

- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 2 cups hot water
- 1/2 cup liquid soap
- 1/2 cup + another 1/2 cup cold water
- 1 envelope gelatin
- 2 packets (same flavor) Kool Aid Mix

In a saucepan, blend 1/2 cup cold water and cornstarch. Add hot water and heat until boiling, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Mix gelatin into remaining 1/2 cup water and blend with liquid soap and cornstarch mixture. Add Kool Aid for color and aroma. Store in covered jar in refrigerator for 12 hours before using.



Maracas

- Empty water bottle
- Dried beans
- Rice
- Glue



Fill an empty water bottle with beans and rice. Glue the lid on. Have your child shake like a maraca.

Flower Pot

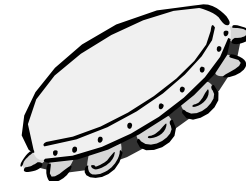
- Empty yogurt cup
- Paint/markers
- Soil
- Seed Packet
- Popsicle Stick



Thoroughly clean out an empty yogurt cup. Have your child decorate the cup by painting or coloring it. Fill with soil and plant the seed in soil. Label Popsicle stick with name of the seed, insert it in the soil and watch it grow!

Tambourine

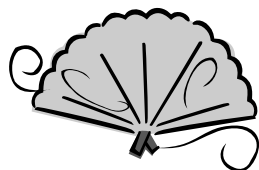
- 2 round aluminum pie pans
- Dried beans
- Rice
- Glue or Staples



Fill one pie pan with beans and rice. Attach the other pie pan by stapling or gluing. Have your child shake it like a tambourine.

Fanning Fun

Paper plate
Paint/markers
Popsicle stick or large craft stick
Tape or Glue



Have your child decorate a paper plate. Tape or glue a popsicle stick to the bottom edge of the paper plate. Use as a fan!

Ocean Water

Water Bottle
Water
Food Coloring
1/3 cup vegetable oil
Glue



Fill water bottle half full with water. Add food coloring to desired brightness. Pour in oil. Glue the lid onto the water bottle. Have your child gently shake bottle back and forth to create ocean waves.

Paper Towel Tube Band

Two paper towel rolls
Markers/Crayons

Have your child decorate two paper towel rolls. Have them bang them together to make “music”.

Applesauce Cinnamon Dough

1/2 cup Cinnamon
1/2 cup Applesauce
1 plastic Ziploc sandwich bag



Pour cinnamon and applesauce into Ziploc bag. Seal bag and knead until mixture turns to dough. Allow your dough creations to air dry for 12 hours until hard.

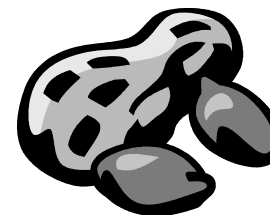
Suggestion: Use Cookie Cutters to make really great, very fragrant tree ornaments, or air fresheners. Roll out dough between two sheets of wax paper. Don't roll too thin (1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness).

Peanut Butter Playdough (1)

1 jar (18 ounces) Peanut Butter
6 teaspoons Honey
Nonfat dry milk or milk plus flour to right consistency

Mix all together. You can decorate your creations with raisins, chocolate chips, coconut etc.

NOTE: Do NOT use if you or your child has a Peanut or Honey allergy!



Peanut Butter Playdough (2)

1/2 cup Peanut Butter
2 tablespoons honey
1/2 cup flour



Mix all together. This is great for kids who want the peanut butter playdough, but are allergic to milk found in other peanut butter playdough recipes!

NOTE: Do NOT use if you or your child has a Peanut or Honey allergy!

Yogurt Finger Paint

1 small container of yogurt
Food coloring

Mix together and paint.

Make-It-Yourself Stickers

4 tablespoons hot water
2 tablespoons flavored gelatin

Pour gelatin in a small glass bowl. Add hot water and stir until blended. Brush mixture onto the back of a small picture or magazine cut-out. Allow the sticker to set for 30-45 minutes or until dry. When you're ready to use your sticker just wet the back and stick it!

Bowling Pins

Toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls or empty 2-liter bottles
Paint/markers
Ball

Paint or color toilet paper rolls. Set up as bowling pins. Have your child roll the ball and knock down the pins!

Bathtub Fun

Empty plastic containers of all sizes

Children will have fun pouring water out of these containers. This will help develop fine motor skills.

Drum

Oatmeal container
Drawing that your child has created



Cover outside of oatmeal container with the picture from your child. Use as a drum.

Dinosaur Feet

Cereal Box
Scissors
Paint



Cut a small circle out of the middle of the cereal box. (Big enough for your child's foot to fit into) Have your child paint to look like dinosaur feet!

Ker-Plunk Can

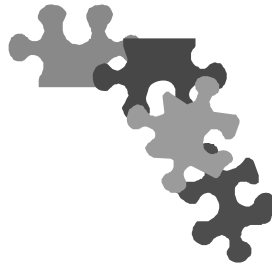
Plastic milk jug lids
Empty coffee can with lid

Collect several plastic milk jug lids. Cut an “X” into the plastic lid of the coffee can. Decorate as desired. Take turns pushing the plastic lids through the “X” in the coffee can!

Character Puppets

Toilet paper rolls
Paint/Markers
Pictures of your child’s favorite toy character

Paint or color the toilet paper roll, then glue the “character” picture onto the toilet paper roll. Place on finger as a puppet. Take turns in the role play with your child. This will encourage social skills, turn taking, and language development.



Cereal Box Puzzle

Cereal Box
Scissors

Cut sides off of cereal box. Cut into large puzzle pieces (use an old puzzle to trace)

Java Dough

1/4 cup of instant coffee
3/4 cup warm water
2 cups flour
1/2 cup salt



Mix water and instant coffee together until the instant coffee is dissolved. Combine flour and salt in medium bowl. Add water and coffee mixture to the flour and salt mixture until dough is formed. Bake finished sculptures in the oven at 300° for 30-45 minutes or until hard. Store extra dough in an airtight container or plastic Ziploc bag.

Glossy Paint

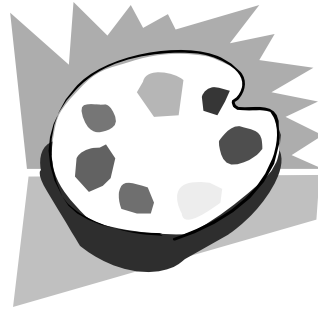
1/2 cup of condensed milk
6-8 drops of food coloring

Mix condensed milk and food coloring together in a small bowl until completely blended. Repeat above process several times to create different colors of glossy paint.

Instant Watercolors

5-7 drops of food coloring
2 tablespoons of water

Mix water and food coloring together in a small container until completely blended. Repeat above process to create different colors of paint.



Wacky Watercolors

3 tablespoons baking soda
3 tablespoons cornstarch
3 tablespoons white vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons light corn syrup
Food Coloring

Mix vinegar, baking soda, cornstarch, and corn syrup together in a small bowl. Divide mixture into several small plastic tubs or jar lids. Add 6-8 drops of food coloring to each tub or lid and mix. Use Wacky Watercolors as they are or allow them to dry into hard cakes of paint. When painting with dry paint cakes, be sure to wet your brush before painting.

Tube Pictures

Oatmeal container
Glue
Photos or magazine pictures
Clear contact paper
Scissors



Away from children, cut off the top and bottom of an oatmeal container. Glue photos or magazine pictures of familiar objects onto the sides of the container. Cover the container with clear contact paper. As baby rolls the cylinder, say the names of the pictured objects.

Food Box Book

Food boxes
Hole Punch
Yarn
Scissors

Cut off the fronts and backs of food boxes. Punch holes into the left side of the boxes. Fasten the pages together with yarn to make food books. Use the food books to talk with children about different foods.

Toys

Ring Toss

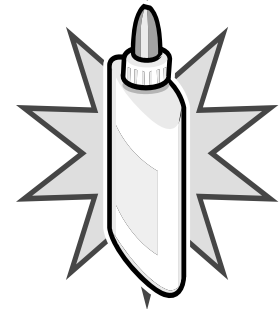
- 3 Toilet paper tubes
- One 12 inch square of cardboard (ex. cut out of cereal box)
- Masking tape
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- 3 plastic coffee can lids



To make the ring toss base, tape each toilet paper tube to the 12 inch piece of cardboard. Cut out 3 circles from a piece of construction paper. Cut a hole out of the center of each circle large enough to fit a toilet paper tube through. Draw the point values on each circle. Place each circle over a tube covering the masking tape. Cut out the center of each coffee lid to make the rings. Decorate each rim with permanent markers. To play, place the ring toss base flat on the floor, and throw the rings over the toilet paper tubes.

Super School Glue

- 3/4 cup of water
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 3/4 cup ice-cold water



Mix water, corn syrup, and vinegar together in a small saucepan until smooth. Heat the mixture over medium heat until it reaches a rolling boil. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and cold water together. Slowly add this mixture to the first mixture. Stir well until blended. Remove saucepan from heat and allow the glue to cool. Let the glue set overnight before using. Store in airtight container.

Sticky Paint

- 2 Tablespoons light corn syrup
- 4-6 drops food coloring

Mix corn syrup and food coloring together in a small bowl until well blended. Repeat above process to create different colors of sticky paint.

Bubble Mix

2 cups of Joy dishwashing soap
4 cups of water
1/2 cup light corn syrup



Pour all ingredients into a container with a lid. Stir and set aside for a few hours. Use the bubble mixture with straws or bubble wands. Be sure to supervise as the ground can get slippery!

Squishy Bags

4 cups water
1/3 cup sugar
1 cup cornstarch
Food Coloring

Mix water, cornstarch, and sugar in a saucepan. Stir over medium heat until mixture thickens. Cool 10 minutes. Divide dough-like mixture into 4 bowls. Add a different food coloring to each bowl. Knead each color separately. Divide into portions. Place some of each color into a plastic Ziploc bag and seal. Squish together and see what happens!

Edible Necklaces and Bracelets

Cheerios, Fruit Loops or any other stringable food
Licorice Strings

Thread the cheerios or whatever stringable food you have chosen onto the licorice string. Tie the licorice strings together and enjoy!



Pudding Paint

1 large package instant pudding
2 cups ice cold water

Whisk instant pudding and water together in a bowl for 2 minutes. Refrigerate for 5 minutes. This makes a thin paint. If you want a thicker finger paint texture, mix up pudding mixture as per package directions or buy the ready made pudding.