



# Craft Recycling Club

## Aims:

The aims of craft recycling club is to look at everyday items that could be reused and made into something else, rather than throwing them away. Children can use and learn new craft skills whilst making these items into something new.

## Ideas to raise the profile in school:

- Sell items you have made at coffee mornings or school events.
- Make a recycling newsletter for children and parents.
- Have a section on the school website to show your work.
- Visit another school to teach them your new skills.
- Make a display of some things that you have made and how other artists have made things from recycled materials.
- Have a collection point in school for items that you might be able to use (you may need a start and end date for collections so you don't end up with more than you need).
- Give surplus recycled items to specific charities who could benefit from them.

## Making plans:

In this pack you will find many different craft recycling project ideas. You may choose a different one every week, or you may want to expand on just one of the projects. You will find that there are tutorial videos available online for each of these craft projects, which are sometimes useful in either learning new techniques as a teacher, or showing the children before they try for themselves.

# 1

Craft Recycling Club

## T-shirt Bags



### You will need:

- 1 old t-shirt for each bag (the larger the t-shirt, the larger the bag)
- Fabric scissors

### Instructions

1. Lay your t-shirt out flat on a table. Cut off the neck and the sleeves so the top of the t-shirt now looks like it has two carry handles (you may want to create a template for this to help your children).
2. Cut the bottom of the t-shirt into a fringe. Each bit of fringe should be approximately 8cm long and 2cm wide.
3. Turn the t-shirt inside out and lay it flat again.
4. Tie each front fringe strip with its pair on the back in a tight double knot.
5. Once the front and back pairs have been tied, go along the line and tie each strip again with the strip that is next to it. This will further secure the bag.
6. Once all the knots are finished, turn your t-shirt the right way out to complete your t-shirt bag.

### Experiment

- Don't turn the bag inside out before knotting the strips to have the fringe look on the outside.
- Try different handle lengths.
- Round off the bottom by cutting the fringe into a curved shape.
- Cut small holes in the t-shirt to make a string-bag.
- Decorate your bag by either sewing on additional scraps of fabric or using bows and sequins.
- Use child or baby t-shirts for smaller bags.

Photo courtesy of (Julie Finn@craftingagreenworld.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# CD Fish



## You will need:

- PVA glue
- Coloured foam
- 2 old CDs
- Ribbon
- Sticky tape
- Sequins and jewels
- Googly eyes

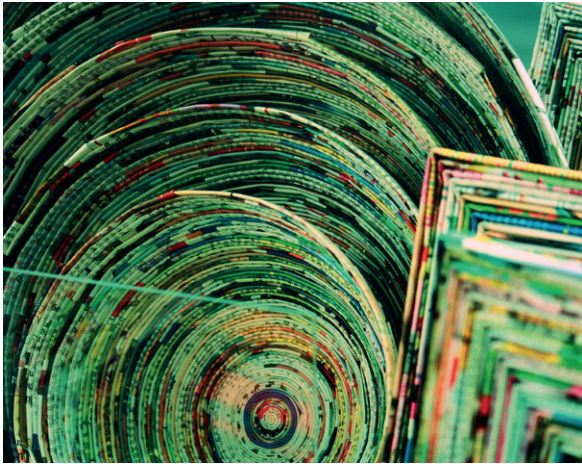
## Instructions

1. Draw two fins, a tail piece and lips onto the coloured foam. Carefully cut the foam shapes out using scissors.
2. Tie a length of ribbon into a loop, then tape this onto the non-shiny side of one of the disks.
3. Using PVA glue, stick the fins, tail and lips onto the non-shiny side of the CD. Do this so that they hang over the edge.
4. Take the second CD and spread PVA glue on the non-shiny side of it. Stick this onto the back of the other CD, so that both shiny sides are visible.
5. Using PVA glue, stick a googly eye just above the fish's lips on both sides.
6. Now decorate both sides of the fish. To do this, stick sequins and jewels on using small amounts of PVA glue.

## Experiment

- Try to make other animals
- Try creating different things with the CDs. Broken CDs can be used to create a hanging mobile.

# Magazine Bowls



## You will need:

- Old magazines
- PVA glue
- Thick dowel lengths

## Instructions

1. Create magazine strips using the following method:
  - a) Neatly cut pages out of magazines.
  - b) Taking one page at a time, roll it tightly around a thin piece of dowel to make a tube.
  - c) Slide out the dowel leaving a magazine tube.
  - d) Flatten the tube.
  - e) Repeat this process until you have made enough strips for your bowl. The more strips you have the larger the bowl will be.
2. Once you have created enough strips, it is now time to make the base. Do this by rolling one strip from one end to the other (a bit like a liquorice pinwheel) to make a circle.
3. Continue wrapping strips around this circle, using PVA glue to secure in place, until you have created the desired size circle for your base.
4. To build the sides of the bowl, continue wrapping strips around the circle base, however, placing the strips gradually higher up the previous strip.
5. Continue building up the sides until you have achieved the desired height.
6. Once completed, use PVA to seal the finished bowl.

## Experiment

- Create coasters or table mats instead of bowls.
- Create several initial strip circles which can be glued together to make shapes or wall art.

# Paper Weaving

**You will need:**

- Old magazines, newspapers or books
- Sticky tape or glue

## Instructions

1. Neatly cut pages out of your old magazine, newspaper or book.
2. Using one page at a time, fold it vertically to create a strip approximately 2cm wide. A good tip is to use the edge of a ruler to fold the paper against in order to create a straight edge.
3. Keep folding the paper on top of itself until you have folded the whole sheet and are left with a stiff strip of folded paper.
4. Repeat this process to create several paper strips.
5. Once you have created enough strips, line a few up in a row and secure along the top using sticky tape or glue.
6. Using the remaining strips, weave under and over the taped/glued strips.

## Experiment

- Experiment using different coloured paper to create new patterns.
- Try changing the width of your strips.
- Use the woven paper technique to create coasters or table mats.
- Elongate the strips from a woven mat so that there are excess strips on all four sides. These can be folded upwards and the weaving continued in order to create a basket or waste paper bin.

# 5

Craft Recycling Club

## Rag Rugs



### You will need:

- Old scraps of fabric in many colours (T-shirts or stretchy materials are easiest to work with for beginners)
- Hessian with wide holes
- A pencil or something to 'prod' with such as a crochet hook or tweezers

### Instructions

1. Cut a small square out of the hessian. This will be the foundation for the rag rug.
2. Cut the old scraps of fabric into strips that are approximately 12cm long and 7cm wide.
3. Using a pencil or crochet hook, weave a strip of fabric down through one hole and back up through the hole next to it.
4. Pull the fabric to ensure that it is even on both sides and then secure it by tying it into a knot.
5. Repeat this process until you have filled the hessian square and completed your rag rug.

### Experiment

- Work on a larger piece of hessian as a group to create a bigger rug.
- Try to consider colours or creating a picture on your rug (a rainbow is good starting point).
- Weave the whole strip of fabric in and out of the hessian to create a flatter rug.

Photo courtesy of (Andie712b@flicker.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# 6

## Recycled Paper



### You will need:

- Newspaper or old phone books
- A tray for water
- A blender or tools to mash wet paper
- A frame (you could use an old photo frame or one designed especially for creating paper)
- Mesh or loosely woven cotton stretched tight and stapled onto the frame
- A flannel or cloth and a towel

## Instructions

1. Cut or rip the newspaper or phone book into small pieces or strips.
2. Soak the paper in warm water for a reasonable amount of time until soggy (this step is best done the day before and left overnight).
3. Mash up the paper using tools or a blender until it is the consistency of runny porridge. If using newspaper, you can add vinegar to help neutralise the grey colour.
4. Put the paper-pulp into the tray of water and mix it up.
5. Dip the frame and mesh into the water and collect a layer of pulp. Once collected, gently lift out of the water.
6. Drain the frame and mesh above the tray so it collects any excess water. Dry the layer of pulp as much as possible by using a flannel or cloth.
7. With a towel placed onto a flat surface, flip the 'new paper' out of the frame and mesh. Leave on the towel to help soak up any excess water.

## Experiment

- Use food colouring to make different coloured paper.
- Whilst the paper is still wet inside the frame, add in ribbons, glitter, sequins, dried flowers, or other decoration which can dry as part of the paper.
- Use larger frames to create wrapping paper.
- Use your paper to create a notebook by hole punching each page and using thread, strips of fabric or ribbon to tie together.

Photo courtesy of (jimmiehomeschoolmom@flicker.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# 7

## Crocheting and Braiding with Carrier Bags



### You will need:

- Carrier bags
- Scissors
- Crochet hooks if required

### Safety!

Always supervise children around carrier bags and never allow them to be near their face. Do not make anything that goes around the neck as this plastic can be very strong when woven.

### Instructions

1. Cut the carrier bags into strips.
2. Practice first by plaiting three strips and making a simple bracelet. When you have tried this you might want to make a skipping rope out of a longer plait.
3. As you get better at using the carrier bags, try one of these:
  - a) Use thinner strips and make friendship bracelets. Try using some of the various different knotting methods that can be found on line.
  - b) Use the crochet hook to crochet coasters, table mats and more.
  - c) When you get really good you can have a go at making a basket.
  - d) Weave the carrier bags with thread or ribbon to create table mats or hanging wall art.

### Experiment

- Think about colour and designs using the different types of carrier bags.
- Weave some picnic mats or sitters for use at playtime.
- Search online for some amazing things that people have made from carrier bags.



# 8

## Quick Craft Ideas



### Tin Cans:

You can soak off the labels, reuse and decorate old tin cans to create pen pots, skittle games, cutlery holders or plant pots. Using a hammer and a nail, you could also safely punch holes into the sides of the can to create a tea light holder.



### Old Fabric and Clothes:

Why not use old fabric to make new bags, collages, patchwork cushions and blankets, purses, pencil cases or sew them onto other clothes to customise them.



### Plastic Cartons or Bottles:

Use empty plastic cartons or bottles to create planters for your garden or just for your classroom. Cut the bottom off two plastic bottles and join together with a zip to create a pencil case or a stationary organiser.



### Papier Mâché:

You could create a wide range of different crafts using papier mâché. You can use newspaper, atlases, old books or even wrapping paper, and then a mix of PVA glue and water. Use a balloon to stick the paper onto, covering only the bottom to create a bowl or basket.



### Cardboard Tubes:

Use cardboard tubes from used kitchen roll to create stationary desk tidies, napkin holders, pattern stamps or toys.



### Clothes Pegs:

Decorate old or broken clothes pegs to make handy fridge magnets, photo holders or memo boards.

Photo courtesy of (bymanu, hilarybravo1@flicker.com) and (Bonnie Getchell, Julie Finn, Becky Striepe, Wenona Napolitano@craftingagreenworld.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution