

### **CUTTING SKILLS**

Using scissors is great small muscle practice and strengthens the muscles in children's hands, as well as improving cutting skills. Give them some scratch paper and let them cut. You can draw dotted lines on the paper for them to follow, or trace shapes for them to cut out. Just make sure children know what papers they are allowed to cut!

### **CREATE-A-CREATURE**

Use craft items around your home: paper plates, lunch sacks, pipe cleaners, colored paper, etc. What kind of creatures can you make? When you are finished you can tell a story or make a puppet show out of your new creations!

### **PAPER BAG PUPPETS**

Make paper bag puppets. Look online for ideas, or let your kids design their own! Just type "paper bag puppets for preschoolers" into the search window, and pick your favorites to try at home.

### **PAPER CHAINS**

Make a paper chain. Cut strips that are about 1 1/2 inches wide by 8 inches long. You can use colored paper, newspaper, wrapping paper or anything else you have on hand. How long of a chain can you make?

### **MULTIMEDIA FACES**

Using advertisements or old magazines to create faces. Use the eyes from one face, a nose from another face and a mouth from another face. Find another material to make the hair such as pasta, cotton balls or color in some hair.

### **BOOKMARKS**

Learn how to make "corner" bookmarks. Look online for instructions. There are all sorts of different styles and characters you could create, or just pull out all of your craft supplies and see what you can make from your imagination.

### **PAPER COLLAGE**

Make a torn paper collage. Tearing paper is also a good fine motor activity. You can use any paper on hand, even junk mail, and tear it into different size pieces. Take the pieces and glue them onto another paper. You can give them an idea what to create, like a monster, or let them make their own creation.

### **SELF PORTRAITS**

Use whatever drawing medium you have around the house. Situate yourself by a mirror. What do you see? Any freckles? Straight hair? Curly? What color are your eyes? Take the time to enjoy your own unique beauty.

### **ORIGAMI**

Learn some origami! You can make practical objects to help around the house like bookmarks or boxes. Or you can just create amazing works of art. Type in "easy origami for kids" in an internet search window for instructions and videos.