



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**



# Cloverbud Fun Zone

## Hands-on Activities

### Fizzy Art

#### Materials Needed:

- Baking soda
- Cups for fizzy paint
- Cardstock or watercolor paper
- Liquid watercolors or food coloring
- Paint brushes
- Pipettes
- Vinegar

#### Instructions:

**Step 1:** To get started, mix a spoonful of baking soda and liquid watercolors together in a cup to create a paste. We also added a little bit of water to make it easier to paint on the paper.

**Step 2:** Place a sheet of watercolor paper or card stock on a tray to help keep everything contained. It also makes for an easier clean-up.

**Step 3:** Encourage your artist to mix colors, paint different shapes and use a variety of brush strokes to fill the paper with the baking soda paint.

**Step 4:** Once the painting is finished, use pipettes to drip vinegar onto the paper and create a bubbling reaction. It's so fun to see the paint colors start to bubble, fizz, and mix together!

### Kool Aid Rock Candy

#### Materials Needed:

- 4 cups of sugar
- Wood skewers
- Parchment paper
- Kool Aid packets (one per flavor you'd like to make)
- Mason jar for each flavor (or similar)
- Large cooking pot and heat source
- Clothespins (one per stick)

#### Instructions:

**Step 1:** Start by dipping sticks in water and rolling them in sugar. Place on parchment paper and allow them to dry completely.

**Step 2:** You want to make sugar water that is fully saturated with sugar. You want 1 part water to 3 parts granulated sugar. To start with, combine 1 cup water and 1 cup sugar over medium heat until the sugar is fully dissolved. Add 2 more cups of sugar and continue cooking and stirring until it is dissolved. You should only see a clear liquid. If it is cloudy, keep cooking and stirring.

**Step 3:** Empty 1 package of Kool Aid in a large canning jar. Put your sugar dipped (and dried) sticks in the Kool Aid sugar water. Use a clothespin to keep the stick upright.

**Step 4:** Now set them out on the counter to let the science part happen. You can see the rock crystals start to form on the stick. It will take about a week for your rock candy to form enough to impress your kids.

## Ice Breakers

### Whip That Smile Off Your Face

#### Instructions:

Children will sit in a circle and one person will start the game, this person will smile there biggest, ugliest, funniest smile while trying to make the other children laugh. The children must be silent while doing this and can only smile.

The object of the game is it get everyone in the circle to laugh at your smile, when the children laugh at the person making the funny smile, they get a point, then the child wipes the smile off their face and passes it to the next person. This is a fun way to be silly but also confident with the people around you.

### Telephone Game

#### Instructions:

Have the kids sit in a line. Whisper a silly phrase to the first person in line and have him/her tell the next person until everyone has been told. The last person says the phrase they think it is.

## Service Project Idea

### Craft Kits

Kids in hospitals or shelters get bored! To help them have a little fun, make up craft kits to donate in bulk.

#### Instructions:

**Step 1:** Make a call to the chosen facility before hand to see if they have any special requests.

**Step 2:** Ask each youth to donate art supplies. Items like crayons, coloring books, scissors, construction paper, tape, thin ribbon, stickers, and a small ruler or shape template.

**Step 3:** Divide up the supplies evenly and have the children place them in gallon-sized storage bags to deliver to your local children's hospital or family shelter. To make them a little snazzier, you can get plain/cheap gift bags to put the serviceable storage bags into.

In shelters, the older children usually go off to school, leaving younger children with nothing but electronics to occupy their time. These crafts kits might just inspire the next great artist of the age.