

# Table of Contents

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## Concoctions .....5

A lively collection of extraordinary things you and your kids can make and do using ordinary ingredients. Stir up some goop, slime or fizz; create some bubbles, brew a concoction that gives chills on a dark night, snack on spooky candy that sparks in the dark; eat a flower or a rubber egg. There are formulas for fizzing potions, crystals, critter food, musical vegetables—more than 60 individual concoctions fill the pages of this collection of fantastic activities and projects. The formulas are presented in an easy-to-follow format with symbols for at-a-glance information. Helpful tips and educational follow-up ideas are given for every activity. Each project is designed to offer creative learning experiences that facilitate skill development and integrate into the total curriculum. If you are looking for amazing, delightful, kid-appealing, educational fun, then you will find it here!

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## Creations .....77

Years of teaching, playground and camp counselor experience (plus three active children of her own) make Robynne Eagan an outstanding resource for just the kinds of creative things kids like to roll up their sleeves and do. Learn how to whip up a Magic Lump, dabble in some Awesome Dough, stir up a batch of Rawhide Glue, express yourself with Glitter Squeeze Paint or write a mysterious message with Invisible Ink. These are just a few of the easy, affordable, environmentally friendly recipes for art supplies found in this section. Recipes are presented in a clear, step-by-step manner with symbols for at-a-glance information. Objectives, skill development goals, curriculum links, extension activities, program assessment and resources are provided as well as tips for integrating these materials into all areas of the early childhood curriculum. Here's a refreshing approach to a skill-based primary art program which enables children to create their own art materials and learn through their own senses.

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## Contraptions .....149

Turn everyday items into original kid contraptions and watch children discover what makes things work. A stimulating, do it yourself, inventive section packed with cross-curriculum science and design and technology projects that really work.

*Kid Contraptions* uses children's natural curiosity to develop essential, creative problem-solving skills. From Machine Mania to Kid Comforts, this unique collection of open-ended projects offers a balance of ready-to-use learning activities, instructional approaches and scientific explanations and information. Material is presented in an appealing, easy-to-follow format, with at-a-glance informative symbols, extension activities, ready-to-copy Challenges, patent records and skill evaluations.

If you're looking for a really unique and original material that's a little bit science, a little bit arts and crafts, a little bit math, a lot creative and a whole lot of fun . . . then this section is for you.

# Rainbow Potion

K-3



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## Materials:

jar  
1 ounce (29.57 ml) cup  
small fork  
1 T (15 ml) cooking oil  
4 drops each of red, blue and green food coloring  
water

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## Process:

1. Fill the jar with water.
2. Pour cooking oil into the cup.
3. Add 4 drops of each of the food coloring colors.
4. Beat the oil and colors with a fork until thoroughly mixed.
5. Pour the mixture of oil and food coloring into the water.
6. Keep the jar still and observe for 5 to 10 minutes.



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## Try This:

- Set this up as a center. Allow children to explore with the oil, water and colors.
- What happens when this mixture is stirred up?
- Encourage students to observe and discuss what they see.
- Small pools of oil spotted with tiny spheres of color float on the surface of the water. Individual spheres of color appear to explode outward, producing flat circles of color on the surface of the water with streams of color that sink down through the water. Food coloring is water-based, and oil and water do not mix.

# Mud Pie

K-3



A favorite old classic.

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## Materials:

sand  
clean dirt  
water (as needed)  
cake pan or pie plate

tiny stones, sand, leaves, grass,  
wildflowers, seeds  
sunshine  
large bowl or pail

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## Process:

1. Mix clean sand, dirt and some water with your hands in the large bowl or pail.
2. Add more water as needed, but keep the mixture really thick.
3. Line a cake pan or pie plate with grass to prevent sticking.
4. Pour the mixture into the pan.
5. Sprinkle on a layer of tiny stones; dry, white sand; or plant material.
6. Add another layer of mud.
7. Decorate with flower petals, leaves, seeds or black mud “icing.”
8. Bake in the sun until ready “to serve”!



## Try This:

- Have a “bake off” and allow all students to be “judges” choosing the best pie. (You may want to establish several categories so there will be many winners.)
- Encourage creative decorating techniques for this outdoor art class.
- Incorporate with a math activity. Make play money and have students buy and sell pies at the bake shop.
- Have students follow up with a written recipe or a story about the pie.
- Speed up the “cooking” process up by putting in a warm oven 150°F (65°C) until the pie starts to crack slightly on the surface. The cooking time will vary according to the size and moisture content of the pie.

# Musical Vegetables

2-3



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## Materials:

gourd or squash  
pointy object (hammer and nail)\*

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## Process:

1. Make some holes into a gourd or squash using a hammer and nail.
2. Leave the gourd or squash to dry for one month.
3. Turn the holey gourd or squash every other day.
4. In one month shake it up, and you will have a maraca.



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## Try This:

- Have every student make a maraca. Use this as a steppingstone to creating a class band. Other instruments can be made to complement the maraca band.
  - Incorporate the turning of the maracas into the class calendar. Students can use their pattern skills to recognize what days the maracas need to be turned. (Try to start this activity at the beginning of a month.)
  - If students have a building center, allow them to use the hammer and nail—punch the holes ahead of time for the sake of safety.
  - Integrate this activity with a harvest unit.
- \* Caution: Be careful using hammer and nail.