

Song Box

Something fishy

Crafting is companionable, collaborative and creative. Make sure everyone in your crafting team has a satisfying task. This stuff doesn't have to be perfect! Good enough is enough.

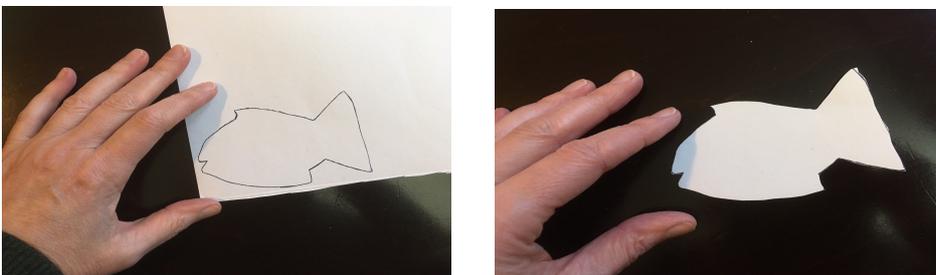
Materials: gift bags are ideal; thickish, used wrapping paper also works; scissors (age appropriate); coloured pencil or pen (age appropriate); sticky back plastic (optional); sheet or other piece of light weight fabric for games; place mat, book or magazine for games.

Skills: freehand drawing; drawing around a card template; spacial awareness and pattern recognition; scissor skills; handling sticky back plastic.

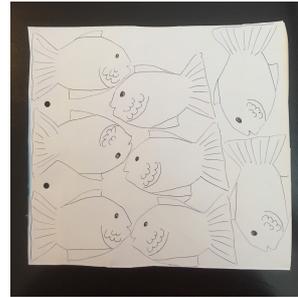
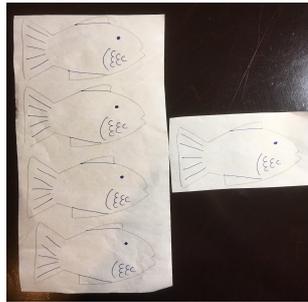
Steps:



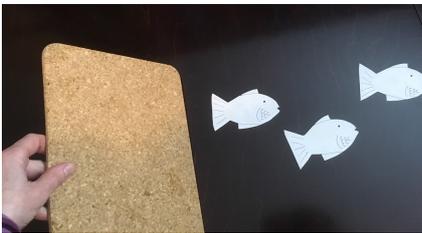
- Collect your materials.
- Cut out smooth pieces, as large as possible.



- Take a piece of firm card and draw a chunky fish.
- Cut this out carefully. This will be your template. If you have several crafters you may wish to make several templates to speed up production.



- Using the template/s draw fishes all over the white side of your pieces of gift bag or wrapping paper. Different skill levels will enjoy different layouts.
- Draw on the eye, gill, scales and fins as simply or elaborately as you like.
- NB Encourage experimentation. Model planning strategies and reflection. Be relaxed about "mistakes". It is really important to be willing to risk failing. Fear of failure can hold back learning new skills, knowledge and ideas.
- NB Avoid using wax crayon or glitter if you intend to complete with sticky back plastic.



- Cut out all your fish. (tidy up!)

Games:

- You can blow the fish across a wooden or vinyl floor, or table, using a table mat, book or magazine. Or you can blow them. You can race them; who can cross the finish line first, who can get the most fish over the line in a given time etc.
- Use a suitable piece of fabric eg a bed sheet, table cloth, large scarf or light weight fleece blanket. All sit on the floor holding onto the fabric edges. Put the fish in the middle and shake them about. Younger children love this, catching fish and throwing them back onto the fabric. Here's a chant to go with the game:

Wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle STOP!
Wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle STOP!
Wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle STOP!
Wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle STOP!

Wiggle up high! Wiggle down low!
Round and round and round we go.
Wiggle up high! Wiggle down low!
Round and round and round we go.

- Hold the sheet up at a suitable height, or arrange the sheet at a suitable height using chairs, and put your fish on top for children to see the silhouettes above them. What other sea creature silhouettes might you make? What stories can you make up? What songs can you sing? Here are a couple to start you off:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Once I caught a fish alive
6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Then I let it go again.
Why did you let it go
Because it bit my finger so!
Which finger did it bite?
This little finger on my right!

There's a terrible crocodile ay-oh, ay-oh, ay-oh
It's swimming up and down the Nile ay-oh, ay-oh, ay-oh
See it's jaws they open wide ay-oh, ay-oh, ay-oh
See the little fish swimming inside
Oh NO! Oh NO! Oh NO!



- If you want your fish to be a little more durable it's a good idea to cover them in sticky back plastic. NB they probably won't be so easy to blow around for the racing games but they will look lovely for the sheet games.

- Open up the sticky back plastic, taking great care to keep it flat.
- Lay your fish carefully on the sticky surface. Remember you can not move them once they have touched the sticky surface.
- Make sure you have enough plastic exposed. Carefully lift the fishy area and fold it neatly down onto the sticky surface, so that both sides of your fish are now covered.
- Cut off your fishy section. Tidy away the roll of plastic.
- Firmly rub over all the fish on both sides, squeezing away any air bubbles.
- Cut out each fish, going right up to the edge of the card.

Once covered in plastic they are also good for decorating white goods and windows, using blue tack, or making mobiles strung on thread under a pair of coat hangers.

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