

Paper Sculpture Collage / Math

There are so many mechanics to folding paper, today we are going to try practicing them! You can roll, curl, fringe, fold, and even cut paper into spirals. All of these techniques, or most of them, turn flat paper into 3-dimensional mini sculptures. Put them all together and you have a collage. There are so many geometric math elements to discuss, such as shape, dimension, scale, space, symmetry, and proportion. Today kids will also practice their cutting skills (for the older kids), which is always good for small motor development.

Prep

Today's prep will be fairly simple. All you need is a pile of colored paper, or if you don't have colored paper, just white printer paper will work fine! Clear off space on a table and use the paper sculpture techniques below to make some of your own. If your child is young, you can do this with them until they have figured out some techniques that they can do on their own. Older kids can look at the chart and make everything by themselves.

Supplies

- ~ Colored paper or white paper
- ~ Scissors
- ~ Glue stick or tape (or white school glue if that's all you have)

Activity

1. Cut (or tear for younger kids) your paper into smaller pieces and fold, crimp, curl, and roll to make 3-dimensional shapes.
2. Use a glue stick to adhere your pieces onto paper or cardboard to create a sculptural piece.

Variations

Younger kids can:

- ~ Practice tearing paper and crumpling to make a collage.
- ~ Roll paper into mini-tubes and glue upright onto cardboard, using white school glue.
- ~ Wrap paper strips around sticks to create spirals, then glue onto paper.
- ~ Crumple paper into balls and then paint them, then uncrumple and see the different painted patterns (like this). Cut and use in a collage if desired.

Older kids can:

- ~ Fold and paint "rainbow ladders" then make a collage.
- ~ Create a "Paper Sculpture Techniques" chart (see above).
- ~ Make paper pinwheels ([click here for tutorial](#)), paint them, and hang them in your room.