

Hilarious Hat Crafts

(Target Audience: All Ages)

The following are a few ideas that you can use to have the children create their own fabulously funny hats. Please, feel free to pick and choose from these ideas (and maybe create some more of your own!) and adapt the level of difficulty (e.g. how much you have pre-cut, the number of steps required, etc.) based on the age level of the children in your program. Having several “hat-making stations” is one good way of making this program accessible to children of many different ages at the same time.

You could also encourage everyone to come to the program wearing their own funny hats. Have a fashion show and/or a contest which determines the funniest hat; this can be done at either the start of the program (using the “store bought” hats people came in with) or at the end of the program (with the ones that were just created).

1. Band of Animals

Materials:

- construction paper in pre-cut strips
- construction paper or paper for “ears”
- scissors (if children are cutting out their own “ears”)
- crayons, markers, etc.
- glue
- stapler and staples

Directions:

- a. Cut strips of heavy construction paper that is large enough to fit around a child’s head. (Remember, the size can be adjusted when the band is assembled.)
- b. Cut a variety of different types of ears, legs, and other body parts depending on which type of animal you would most like to be and decorate them as you wish.

Here are some suggestions:

- floppy dog ears
 - pointed (triangle) cat ears
 - long rabbit ears
 - antlers for deer, reindeer, or moose
 - eight pipe cleaner legs and two or more eyes to make a whole spider hat
- c. Attach the animal body parts to the band with glue or staple them on (one on either side of the band if you’re making ears or antlers).
 - d. Fit the band to the child’s head and staple the ends together to form a ring.

- e. Wear your hat with pride (especially if you're a lion!) and act like your animal creation.

2. Funky Fish Visor

Materials:

- construction paper or old file folders
- scissors
- construction paper, paper plates, etc.
- crayons, markers, etc.
- glue

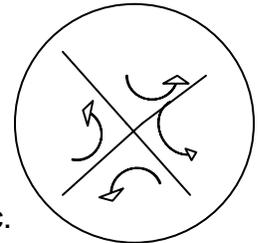
Directions:

- a. Cut a sun visor shape out of heavy construction paper or an old file folder. (Hold the paper over your head and get a friend to trace the proper size and shape for you before you cut it out.)
- b. Cut a wide slit in the sun visor so that it will fit on your head.
- c. Using more construction paper, paper plates, or other craft material, create a fish tail. Decorate your tail with crayons, markers, etc. and then cut it out. Glue the tail to the back of the hat (the end closest to the slit).
- d. Create two fish fins in the same way that you made the tail and glue them to the sides of your hat.
- e. Colour in the brim of the visor so that it matches the fins and the tail and becomes the body of the fish.
- f. Draw eyes, lips, and any other fishy things you like and add them to your hat to make it as funky as possible.

3. Crowning Glory

Materials:

- pre-cut paper plates
- paper (to create shapes) or pre-cut shapes, flowers, etc.
- crayons, markers, etc.
- glue



Directions:

- a. Before the program, cut four slits in the centre of a paper plate making sure as to leave about one inch at the edges of the plate.
- b. This should create small triangles that can be bent up to form the points of your crown.
- c. Create shapes, flowers or other objects that you would like to adorn your crown with by using paper and crayons. Or choose from pre-cut shapes and colour them in.
- d. Glue your chosen shapes to the points of your crown.

- e. With much fanfare, place your crown on your head and act like royalty.

4. Wizard Wishing Hats

Materials:

- heavy construction paper
- tape
- scissors
- paper (to create objects) or pre-cut stars, moons, etc.
- crayons, markers, etc.
- glue

Directions:

- a. Roll the construction paper into a cone shape, making sure that the bottom open end is large enough to fit the child's head.
- b. Tape to secure, trim off the uneven pieces around the bottom to create a smooth circular rim and form the base of the hat.
- c. To make this a "wishing hat", use paper, crayons, etc. to create pictures or cut-outs of the type of things that you would wish for if you were a wish granting wizard and then decorate your hat accordingly.

Examples:

- If you want to be a "sporty" wizard, decorate your hat with balls, skates, wheels, or whatever best represents your favourite sport.
- If you're a hungry wizard, decorate with cookies, apples, or other yummy treats.
- If you want to grant all kinds of wishes, decorate with stars, moons, lightening bolts and other "magical" things.

5. Cup O' Hat

Materials:

- paper cups
- crayons, markers, etc.
- paper, foam bits, pom-poms, etc. (optional)
- pre-cut lengths of string or yarn

Directions:

- a. Prepare the cups ahead of time by punching two holes on the opposite sides of the opening by the rim (this will be how you attach the string that holds the mini-hat to your head).

- b. Use crayons, markers, etc. to decorate the cup. Or you can cover the cup in paper and decorate as you wish with foam bits, pom-poms or other materials.
- c. Thread the string or yarn through the holes in the cup, knotting at both ends to secure. (The string should be long enough to tie to the cup and go from the hat to underneath the child's chin and back up to the hat.)
- d. Put your cup on your head and laugh at how silly you and your friends look in your mini-hats.

Although this can be used as an all craft program, you can also choose to share some age appropriate books, stories, and poems about silly hats.

Here are a few books and poems that you can share with your audience. Check your shelves for other possibilities.

The Magic Hat by Mem Fox

Uncle Harold and the Green Hat by Judy Hindley

Twelve Hats for Lena: A Book of Months by Karen Katz

Aunt Lucy Went to Buy a Hat by Alice Low

Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys and Their Monkey Business by Esphyr Slobodkina

Circus Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Ho for a Hat! by William Jay Smith

"I'm Wearing an Enchanted Hat" from Jack Prelutsky's poetry book, *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*

Old John Muddlecombe lost his cap.
He couldn't find it anywhere, the poor old chap.
He walked down the High Street and everyone said,
"Silly John Muddlecombe, you've got it on your head."