

Easter Eggs



Basket Activity



TIC TAC TEACH

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Easter Egg Basket Activity

This activity guides you through how to make an Easter egg basket from a used beverage container. Through this activity children gain competence in a variety of skills; and it can also involve the community and teach recycling concepts.

SKILLS

This activity develops and refines the following skills:

- Fine Motor: Eye/Hand Coordination and Manipulative skills - through threading, pulling, gluing, cutting and tearing
- Emotional: the children take pride in their work
- Gross Motor: through a participatory egg hunt
- Sensory: this is a tactile activity
- Learning color, shape, size and texture
- Language: through talking about textures and colors
- Perseverance: the children need to attend to the task until it is completed

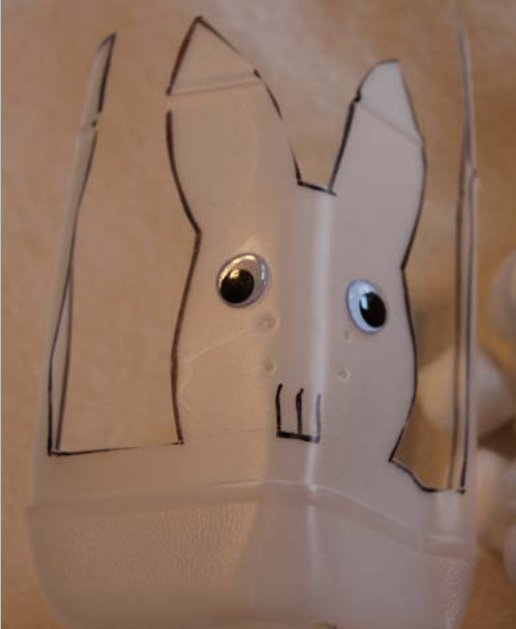
THEMES



MATERIALS: (Per Child)

- 1 Used (square-based) milk or juice plastic carton
- 1 pipe cleaner cut in half
- 2 pink felt cut out ears
- 2 wiggly eyes
- Cotton wool
- Black marker
- Shredded paper filling egg made from magazines
- Stapler
- PVA glue





PREPARATION

Time: it will take about 5 minutes to prepare each basket once you have the materials.

This is a great Easter activity to involve parents and your local community. If you have a local cafe or corner store then you may be able to visit with the children. Alternatively write a letter with the children, to be delivered to the cafe requesting 20 (or however many you need) empty plastic milk or juice cartons.

Another option is to involve the parents by requesting that they bring in a clean plastic carton for use in the activity.

This activity is a fun way to introduce/reinforce ideas of recycling to the children and to embed lifelong sustainability practices.

Use the template provided to trace (or alternatively free draw) the design on the bottle. The face, 2 handles and tail will each be cut on the corners. Position this about 2 inches from the bottom of the bottle so there is enough room to fill the basket with the shredded paper.

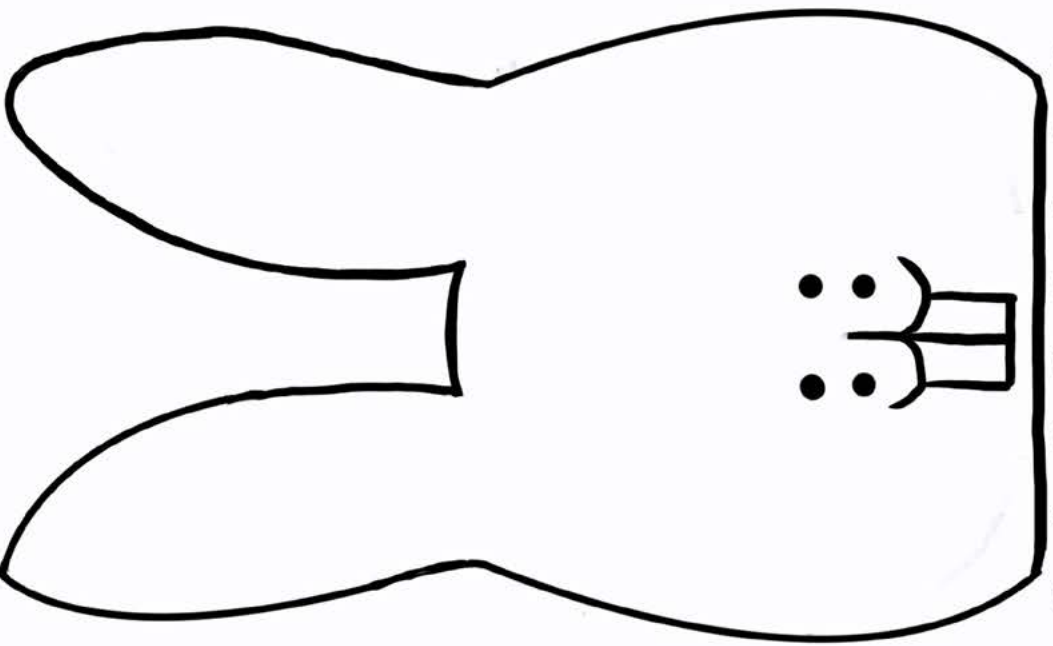
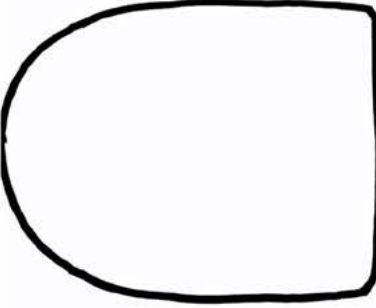
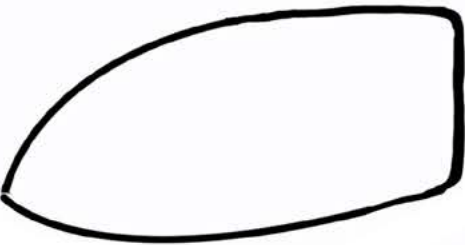
Once you have cut one bottle it is easier to use this first one as the template on all the other bottles, using the marker to trace the design. (see picture)

Draw the teeth on the bottles and pierce 4 holes to be used to thread the whiskers. I just used a metal skewer to pierce the holes.

Staple the 2 handles together to make a loop.

Write the child's name on the bottom of the basket before you start.

Cut the pipe cleaners in half - 2 halves per child.





CHILDREN

Now, the fun part!

I find it's best to do this activity over 3-4 days, particularly as you need time for drying. It doesn't have to be consecutive days.

DAY 1

Get the children to pull apart and stretch the cotton wool balls so that it goes further. This is good for fine motor strengthening and they have to concentrate so they only pull it to its limit (where possible!) and it doesn't break.

After they have done about half a dozen they can start to glue them on. Expect to have furry little fingers!!

Glue the cotton around the base, on the tail and the handle.

Let the basket dry - I usually find this is enough for one day and come back another time.

DAY 2

Whiskers: Children will work on the whiskers first, by threading a pipe cleaner through one hole and out the opposite hole.

Do this with both pipe cleaner halves and the remaining pierced holes.

Ears: Glue the cut-out felt ears onto the plastic ears of the basket.

Eyes: The next step is to stick the eyes on.

You might need to lay the basket down to dry so the eyes don't slide down. If you are running out of time, you can use a hot glue gun.

DAY 3

Easter or bright colored tissue paper can be used to fill the baskets. You can use the shredding as a cutting exercise where the children are cutting thin strips of paper, or alternatively as a tearing exercise.

I like to use recycled colored or magazine paper for this activity. This further solidifies the idea of sustainability and reuse.

When the basket is dry, the children can place the paper into their baskets.

OPTIONAL DAY 4

A fun way to fill the basket with eggs is by having an Easter egg hunt. Be sure to note any allergies in the class before doing this. I always discuss with parents before the Easter egg hunt to ensure that they are happy for their child to have a small treat, then take the rest home.

I'd love to see what you come up with; please email your pictures or put them up on the TicTacTeach Facebook page!