

PROJECT: INDOOR EXPLORER

Your student will become an indoor explorer by making a pair of exploration goggles re-using items found in the recycling and around and house, then explore using their imagination.



CRAFT IN PLACE

Quick Overview: Become an indoor explorer by making a pair of exploration goggles using items found in the recycling and around and house, then keep playing with lots of ideas for expansion!

Objectives (students will be able to):

- Identify unique objects from the recycling and around the house that would work well to create exploration goggles and other items for their exploration kit.
- Follow instructions for an indoor exploration (scavenger hunt)
- Use their imaginations to play indoors.

Age Range: 2 - 8+ years

Activity Time:

- 20+ minutes

Materials + Tools:

- 2 toilet paper tubes (or paper towel or wrapping paper tubes)
- Hole Punch (or scissors)
- Yarn or String
- Materials to decorate the goggles (such as paper, markers, colored pencils, crayons or paint)
- Tape or glue
- Materials pulled from the recycling bin (such as plastic lids, cardboard boxes, etc.)

Preparation:

1. Create a collection of approved materials from your junk drawer, recycling bin, and from around your house. These are the items that will be used to create the exploration goggles and other items for their exploration kit.
2. Print the Exploration Check-List

Topics for Discussion/Lesson:

- Vocabulary:
 - Explorer
 - Scavenger Hunt
 - Directions: East, West, South, North
- Concepts to discuss:
 - What does it mean to explore?
 - What tools do you use to navigate?

Instructions:

1. Help your child turn two toilet paper tubes into a pair of exploration goggles by connecting them lengthwise using glue or tape.
2. Punch a hole on either side using a hole punch or pair of scissors. Add a length of string so they can carry their goggles around their neck (or more advanced: work with them to figure out a way to fasten them to their eyes).
3. Encourage them to use their imagination to add other aspects to their goggles:
 - Add "lenses" to the goggles using plastic lids from the recycling.
 - Add different filters using different colored plastic, coloring them with transparent markers, or using tissue paper.
 - Add buttons and switches. What special things can these buttons or switches do?
 - Can their goggles have removable parts that allow them to do different things? Can they add more aspects so they expand their abilities (like a microphone, headphones, lights, etc.)
4. Decorate the exploration goggles using collage, paint, or markers and crayons.

5. Explore inside using the Exploration Checklist.

Questions to ask while they are building:

1. What special powers do your exploration goggles have?
2. How do you activate these powers?
3. What kinds of things are you excited to spot through these goggles?
4. For older children: do you think these goggles will actually have an effect on your sight? How do you think binoculars work?

Extensions (ways to keep going...):

- What other objects does a good explorer need? How can you create these using more items from the recycling bin and around the house? Some ideas:
 - A map, using a paper towel tube and scrap paper
 - An explorer's bag, using a cardboard box
 - Other tools that have special abilities to help them explore
- Create another scavenger hunt for your child. Perhaps even hide "treasure" at the end...

Exploration Check-List:

- Find something purple.
- Find something round.
- Looking out the window, can you spot another person?
- Find something taller than you.
- Go to a window and look up. What do you see?
- Where do you think the darkest place in your house is? Explore a few different dark places to compare them.
- Where do you think the brightest place in your house is? How do you know?
- Find the best hiding place.