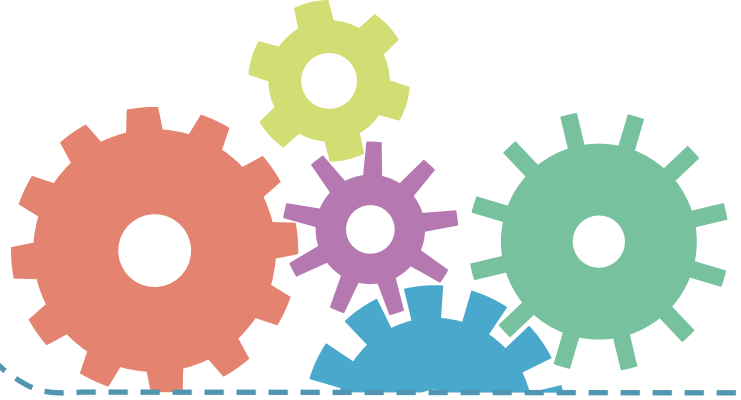


Preparing to Teach

Materials



I've met people who claim they simply don't have the tools they need to do crafts!

There really is no need for cutting machines and expensive craft tools to make memorable creations with your children. While it would be wonderful to imagine one day we will all have these clever tools at our disposal, it's not a reality yet. These three lists are a good start for making sure your cupboard has the basics.



I've grouped my top 30 kids craft essentials into 3 sets.



Ten for every teacher

- Paper** – the cheap 80g office paper. Buy it in a ream / big packet.
- Scissors** – get a comfortable pair for you and a few child sized pairs.
- Glue** – dry glue sticks work best. If you use wet glue, set out only enough for your needs.
- Sticky tape** – put it on a dispenser to save yourself hours of finding the end.
- Printer** – if you can, invest in a laser printer, more expensive but saves money over time.
- Stapler** – any size, any shape; buy the spare staples too.
- Coloured pencils** – cheapest solution to colouring is often pencils; they last ages.
- Pencil sharpener** – get a chunky one that catches the mess inside.
- Hole punch** – a single one is best, but a standard desk punch will suffice.
- Sticky tack** – for positioning, can also be used like plasticine.

Ten for every team

- Ruler** – If you can find a metal one, all the better.
- Split pins** – the simplest way to make moving crafts.
- Felt tip pens** – bright, bold, chunky ones are good; keep the lids on!
- Wax crayons** – for the younger kids and to fill large spaces; thicker ones don't snap as easily.
- Thin card** – approx. 140g often passes through the printer like paper but makes a big difference.
- Craft knife** – get a blade cover and keep it out of reach of the youngsters.
- Cutting mat** – well worth the extra to get one and they last for years.
- Push pin** – the best thing I've found to score paper with is a plastic topped push pin.
- Paint** – large bottles or tubes of red, blue, yellow, black, white and silver should suffice.
- Paint brushes** – buy the cheapest biggest pack and let the small kids do finger painting.

Ten to collect

- Cardboard** – old cereal boxes, packing boxes, anything sturdy you can stick paper to.
- Cardboard tubes** – salvage these, get them from kitchen paper, not toilet paper, if possible.
- Pipe-cleaners or chenille stems** – can be great to play with on their own too.
- Lollipop sticks or tongue depressors** – save them or buy in bulk. Often sold in colours.
- Tissue paper** – get the flat tissue paper and not the crinkly crepe paper.
- Craft foam** – buy it in multi packs and get the flat sheets to cut your own shapes out.
- Ribbon or string** – thin ribbon is great for threading and hanging alike.
- Stamp pad** – or make your own using a little paint and a piece of felt in a plastic dish.
- Fabric** – collect scraps of felt and non fray thinner fabrics in plain colours.
- Fabric scissors** – well worth having one set of blades that haven't been dulled by paper-crafts.

