

Teach Children To Be Creative

In this "do-it-yourself" age let's not forget the children. Many educators feel that children are spending too much time in passive recreations. Planning and constructing inexpensive toys and gifts can help to develop a child's creative ability and pride of accomplishment.

Children from six to 12 can spend many enjoyable and profitable hours making things with such common household items as paper cups, paper plates and clothespins. Here are a few suggestions for toys and gifts which are easy for small fingers to make with only a few basic materials:

CELEBRATION BONNETS:

Little girls will delight in making and wearing this chaparral. **Materials:** nine-inch paper plate, nine-inch round paper doily, six-ounce paper salad or dessert container, ribbon, glue.

Directions: Place the paper container in the center of the plate and draw the outline of the top of the container on the plate.

Follow the penciled outline to cut the center out of the plate. Use the circle cut from the plate as a guide to cut the center out of the doily.

Push the container through hole in the plate so that the plate is now the brim and the container the crown of the bonnet. Fit the doily over the container and glue onto the plate. Glue a piece of ribbon on each side of the container for ties. Glue a ribbon bow on top of the container.

SOLDIER'S SHAKO HAT:

This easy-to-make cap for the boys will draw salutes from all. **Materials:** one-quart paper container, small paper plate, pipe cleaner, paper ribbon, plastic tape.

Directions: Cut a pie-shaped wedge from the plate approximately two inches wide at the widest point. Fasten this wedge to the inside of the container with plastic tape so that the outer rim of the plate forms the visor of the cap.

Fringe a two-inch strip of ribbon for the tassel and attach it to a piece of pipe cleaner with plastic tape.

Insert the pipe cleaner tassel into the top of the container; secure inside with additional plastic tape.

SKIRT HANGER:

Children will enjoy making attractive hangers for gifts or as an accessory for their own clothes.

Materials: Wire hanger, two spring-type clothespins, paint or nail polish.

Directions: Paint the hanger and clothespins a matching color. Clip clothespins onto bottom wire of

hanger to hold skirts, slacks or trousers.

WINDMILL:

This little bit of Holland made with paper cups and plates can be used for a gift table decoration or as a toy for baby brother or sister.

Materials: nine-ounce paper cold drink cup, six-inch paper snack plate, all-purpose straight pins or plastic tape.

Directions: Divide the back of the plate into four equal sections; use scissors to cut each section from the rim to within one inch of the center of the plate. Fold each section in half lengthwise to make the four sails of the windmill.

Turn cup upside down; push a straight pin through the center of the sails to fasten to the cup.

Push pin through the bottom rim of the cup to hold sails securely.

SEÑORITA DOLLS:

Pretty little dolls make lovely favors for parties. **Materials:** five-ounce paper cold drink cup, small paper doily, pipe cleaner, straight wooden clothespin, glue.

Directions: Push the clothespin through the bottom of the paper cup leaving just the top of the pin showing.

Cut a hole in the center of the paper doily to fit over the head of the clothespin. Loop pipe cleaner around the top indentation of the pin to make arms.

Draw eyes, nose and mouth on the head of the clothespin with pencil. Press one-half of the doily around the cup to make a skirt and bring the other half up around the head of the clothespin for a mantilla.

Glue in place on the head.

Tips Save You Steps, Time

If you're interested in stretching one minute into two, heed these time-saving kitchen hints from dictations at the University of Michigan medical center:

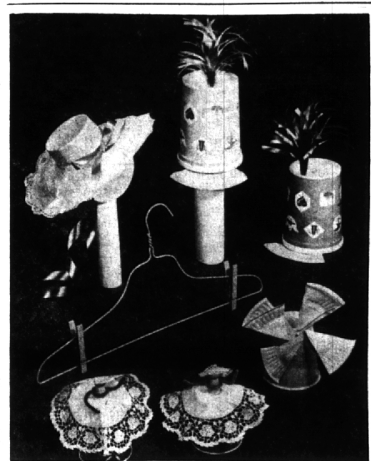
• Cook the potatoes for tomorrow's potato salad while you're preparing tonight's dinner.

• Include a pie shell to bake along with those cookies; later an instant cream filling provides a quick dessert.

• Keep four or five hard-boiled eggs on hand for snacks, salads and quick lunches.

Such steps as these, say the U-M dictations, will save the average housewife about 15 minutes a day—almost eight hours of kitchen time every month.

March 14, 1963 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-D



HOMEMAKING

Winter Rhubarb—Rosy Treat

Have you seen rosy red hothouse rhubarb in your food stores? This rhubarb is raised with tender loving care by growers expert in the culture and handling according to the consumer marketing information agent, Mrs. Josephine Sawyer.

Michigan now grows about 60 per cent of the country's hothouse rhubarb. Approximately five and one-half to six million pounds are grown in the Maconch county area under carefully controlled temperature and moisture conditions.

Hothouse rhubarb grows without benefit of sunlight. According to growers, this accounts for its mild flavor, tenderness, and brilliant color. The mature stalks are carefully pulled, not cut, from the root.

Rhubarb remains crisp at temperatures under 42 degrees.

A POUND of rhubarb will go far in perk up appetites at the table. A pound will make about five one-half cup

servings of sauce and two pounds to make a generous eight or nine inch pie. Rhubarb and apples or rhubarb and strawberries are interesting flavor combinations.

If rhubarb is to be kept for several days, remove the leaves, wash the stalks if necessary, Mrs. Sawyer directed. Dry thoroughly and wrap in foil, or place in a moisture proof container. Store in the refrigerator.

Use hothouse rhubarb without peeling, but remember to remove and discard the leaves. Cut several stalks together in half to three-fourth inch pieces.

Money and space problems bring some apartment dwellers to look for dual purpose furniture. Sofa that makes into bed is a good example. Ordinary chest, with an addition, can be china cabinet, bookcase or hutch. Chests may also serve variety of purposes, stacked or lining a wall, or as a room divider.

Few Easy Ideas Aid in Decorating

If you've run head on into a room which defies your best decorating efforts, short of complete remodeling, try making the area more appealing through the use of simple ideas like color, proper furnishings and mirrors.

Skilfully used, the three can bring surprising new life into a room on a comparatively low budget.

But before you pitch in with roller and paint or decide to replace the furnishings, it's advisable to have some idea of how color, form and line can be used to alter appearances and create illusions of space where space is limited or "shrink" larger areas into cozier quarters.

Meat Law Goes Into Force Soon

Several amendments to Michigan's committed meat law, regarded as the strictest in the nation, will become effective on March 28. Most of these concern the manufacturer rather than the consumer, but a standard has been established for ground beef that is of interest to Mrs. Housewife.

There can be no more than 25 per cent beef fat content in ground beef.

The maximum permitted fat content of hamburger remains at 30 per cent.

Hamburger and ground beef must be identified for what they are.

Soya products are illegal in both, but soya flour is permitted in meat loaf or liver sausage.

Use of eggs is permitted in sausage, except made exclusively of pork.

ALL SAUSAGE sold in the state must be labeled "Grade 1," said Director G. S. McIntyre of the Michigan department of agriculture.

This agency, through its foods and standards division, has responsibility for enforcement of laws regarding sausage and all committed (ground) meats.

So exacting are Michigan's requirements on committed meats that some large packers doing a national business use a special formula for shipments into this state. Only skeletal meats may be used, which is different from the laws of many states. No animal organs may be utilized in sausage manufacture, with the exception of liver sausage, tongue sausage or blood sausage.

Artificial coloring is not permitted, but the addition of up to four per cent dried milk is allowed in sausage unless the product is advertised as all meat.

One of the new amendments going into effect on Mar. 28 requires the director to hold a hearing on suspension or revocation of the sausage maker's license in instances where there have been violations within a 12 month period.

television or buffet.

Such a setting will go well in nearly every decorating situation, adding to the height of the wall while enhancing the beauty of the furnishings placed in front of it.

Don't overlook the help available from the floor covering, as materials with linear designs can be used

either to help "lengthen" or "shorten" the floor area.

WHEN SELECTING colors, it is important to remember the difference between "aggressive" and "receding" shades.

Generally, light colors are receding and seem to add space while the darker colors, de-emphasize space.

Similarly, finely patterned wallpaper has the same effect as the receding colors while bold patterns, like the darker colors, de-emphasize space.

ROOM DIVIDERS or partitions of pattern glass in lieu of conventional walls are another economical way to make small rooms seem larger, or divide a big room into two areas without creating a "walled-in" feeling.

The pattern glass which is available in many different designs, effectively separates the activities of one room from another without creating a "light barrier."

The trouble with worrying so much about your "security" in the future is that you feel so insecure, in the present.

Following Mr. Roseman's lecture there will be a question and answer period. An award to the author of the most comprehensive question will be given by the University's continuing education department.

The award is a free course, of the winner's choice, in the liberal arts department of the continuing education department.

Bringing out the vertical highlights in a room will "shrink" the length of a wall and elevate the ceiling. Here it's a good idea to work in a furniture grouping made up of a rectangular mirror hung vertically behind a small table, cation department.

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