Adaptive Repurposed Tools ART kits

“Creativity takes courage.”
~Henri Matisse
These kits were designed to assist students in the multiple disabilities classrooms with accessing the art curriculum. They were developed by Judith Schoonover, M.Ed., OTR/L, ATP and Deborah Schwind, M.Ed., OTR/L.

If you have any questions, please contact your occupational therapist in your school building.

Enjoy and Create!
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Versatile Adapted Tool Holder

Materials
• 3½ inch long, ½ inch in diameter PVC pipe
• 2½ inch long, ½ inch in diameter PVC pipe
• Two ½ inch elbows

Directions
• Cut the PVC pipe into the correct lengths and add the elbows.

Uses
• Add large brushes into the PVC holder or large markers.
• If the tool is too small to fit into the PVC holder, add Rubbermaid shelf liner to build up the tool or wrap the tool in Wikki Stix to make the tool diameter larger.
Versatile Adapted Tool Holder

Other Uses

A variety of tools and instruments can be placed inside this holder
PVC Whiteboard Pen Holder

Materials
• 3-4 inch ½ inch PVC
• PVC intersection connector
• Wikki Stix

Directions
• Cut the PVC and place into connector.
• Slide pen into holder. You may need to wrap Wikki Stix around the barrel to secure it.
PVC Holder with Screw Adaptation

Materials
- Same as the materials for the versatile adapted tool holder
- Small screw
- Drill

Directions
- Once you fabricate the versatile adaptive tool holder, drill a hole about ¾ of an inch from the end where the tool will go.
- Twist the screw into the hole to secure smaller diameter instruments such as pastel crayons or even Q tips.
PVC Holder with Screw Adaptation
T Bar PVC Holder

Materials
• One 5 inch x ½ inch diameter PVC
• Two 2¼ inch x ½ inch diameter PVC
• One ½ inch PVC T joint
• Two ½ inch PVC end caps

Directions
• Place the two smaller pieces of PVC on top forming the T and put the end caps on.
• Place the long PVC piece on the bottom forming the bottom of the T.
• Place crayon or other tools inside the PVC.

Uses
• Can be used for children with weak grasp or poor grip control as well as students who have poor forearm movements
Variations

Place glue sticks in the holder.

If the tool has a wider barrel then use wider PVC.

Use only the T joint for smaller hands.
Crayon Rubbing Tool

Materials
- 3½ x 2 inch block of wood
- Wooden handle
- Velcro strips
- Velcro dots

Directions
- Place Velcro strips on bottom of wooden block.
- Use a glue gun to attach a wooden know to the top.
- Wrap a glue dot around each crayon and attach to the Velcro strip.

Uses
- Use for crayon rubbings or coloring as a way to cover large surfaces for children with limited range of motion, poor strength or poor endurance.
Crayon Rubbing Tool

Additional uses
Pool Noodle Grip

Materials
• Pool noodle cut into 2-inch parts
• Dycem, Rubbermaid shelf liner or Wikki Stix

Directions
• Place the art tool or writing tool into the pool noodle hole.
• If the tool is too big, wrap the tool with Wikki Stix, shelf liner or Dycem to build up the diameter of the tool.

Uses
• Can be used for a variety of tools such as paintbrushes, markers, crayons, etc.
Milk Jug Holder

Materials
• Plastic milk jug (1/2 gallon for crayons, 1 gallon for markers)
• 1” piece Hook (hard) sticky back Velcro
• 1” piece Loop (soft) sticky back Velcro
• Scissors and marker or crayon

Uses
• The Milk Jug Crayon/Marker Holder is a clever way to modify writing utensils for individuals who have fine motor difficulties. They can also be used to hold drum sticks, scarves or ribbons (for play during music class), glue sticks, or paint brushes.

www.theoatc.org/resources/milkjughandle.asp
Milk Jug Holder Directions

1. Using scissors cut off the handle of the plastic milk jug. Use your scissors to trim off any sharp edges.

2. Place the 1” piece of loop (soft) Velcro inside the bottom opening of the handle.

3. Put your marker (or crayon) as far inside the handle as is practical. Notice where you will need to place the hook (hard) Velcro on the marker to match up with the loop (soft) Velcro inside the handle.

4. Take the marker out of the handle and put the 1” hook Velcro on the correct place on the marker.

5. Put the marker back into the milk jug handle. The Velcro should keep the marker in place. You now have a ‘Milk Jug Crayon/Marker Holder’.

Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SCIENCES - COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH
Adapted Crayon Holder

Materials
• Discarded 35 mm film canister
• Utility Knife
• Crayon

Uses
• Film canisters may be used to create easy hold grips for many items. They are available free from any store that does film processing.

Directions
• Cut an X in the bottom and top of the film canister. Insert the crayon through the Xs. Note: By using both top and bottom of canister the crayon is more stable.

From D.E.S.K. (Designing Environments for Successful Kids), Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (WATI), CESA 2, 448 E. High St., Milton, WI 53563, Phone 608-758-6232 X 340 or 800-991-5576, Email: info@wati.org
Adapted Crayon Holder

Variations
Other containers that can be used for crayon holders include: small playdoh containers, water bottles, hair rollers and honey bottles. Playdoh or clay can also be used. Make a ball with the clay and then slide the pencil into the ball. Make it as a large as you want.

If the tool does not fit snuggly in the hole, wrap Wikki Stix around the tools and the opening for a more secure fit.
Crayon Nibbles

Materials
- Crayons (new or broken)
- Mini muffin pan (one that you don’t mind getting a little crayon on)
- Exacto knife (optional)

Directions
- Preheat oven to 265 degrees.
- Cut paper with exacto knife and remove from crayon.
- Break them into ½ inch to 1 inch pieces.
- Place 2 or 3 broken crayons in each muffin slot.
- Bake 6-8 minutes until melted. Remove and let cool.

From Tots ‘n Tech
Crayon Nibbles

**Uses**
This is great for little hands that aren’t steady enough to hold thin crayons. They can wrap their whole hands around them and go to town without breaking them.

**Variations**
Place in donut tins so there is a hole for little fingers to grasp onto. They can also be made in regular mini muffin tins. They can be made by spreading them out onto a cookie sheet and then cutting them into shapes.

**CAUTION:** Wax is very hot. Students should not be handling hot wax!
Crayon with Handle

Materials
- Broken crayons with paper removed
- Tempered glass measuring cup
- Muffin tins
- Shower curtain rings

Directions
- Melt crayons by placing about ½ cup of crayons in measuring cup and place in microwave on 1 minute intervals, checking the wax after 1 minute.
- Pour into muffin tins.
- While wax is still warm, place shower curtain ring into tin so wax hardens around it.
- Turn tin upside down and pop out.
Crayon with Handle

Uses

Can be used for students who have difficulty isolating their digits

Can be used for students who have limited forearm movements, specifically no supination
Glue Stick Fat Crayons

Materials
- Old glue stick containers
- Old crayons, broken into 1-inch pieces
- Tempered glass measuring cup

Directions
- Remove old glue from glue stick holders.
- Melt crayons in microwave in tempered glass measuring cup.
- Pour melted crayons into glue stick holder.
- Let cool and color.

Uses
- A nice fat crayon that is easy to grasp and will not break
Glue Stick Fat Crayons

Variations

The glue stick can be placed inside a PVC holder if fine motor control is difficult.
“C” Foam Holder

Materials
• Scissors
• 1-inch x 3-inch piece of Foam

Directions
• Cut 2 small slits in each end of the foam.
• Place pen or other tool through holes.
• Place hand through the foam.

Uses
• A great way to help students who have a weak grasp to use a variety of tools.
Variations

A spoon or fork can also be placed inside the foam holder to help with grasping eating instruments.
Hair Bobby Holder

Materials
• 1 hairband or bauble (hair bobby)

Directions
• Slide one end of the hairband onto the tool or utensil.
• Grasp the tool.
• Slide the other end of the hairband onto the end of the tool to secure the hand onto the tool.

Uses
• Perfect for children who have low muscle tone, a weak grasp or who fatigue quickly.
• Great for eating skills as well
Variations

This can be used for eating instruments as well so the child does not have to sustain a grasp on the eating tools.
Wiffle Ball Holder

**Materials**
- Wiffle balls – large and small
- Fat crayons
- Thin crayons removed from Twistable

**Directions**
- Slide fat crayon into the slots of the large ball.
- Slide thin crayons into the golf ball size wiffle balls.

**Uses**
- Perfect for children who have increased muscle tone in their hands or who tend to fist their hands.
Variations

A rubber band can be threaded through the holes and can help with grasping of the wiffle balls.

Small golf ball size wiffle balls can be used for the crayons that are inside the Twistable crayons. Twist the crayons out of the cylinder and then place them into the wiffle ball.
Standard Grips

Materials
• A bag of grips

Directions
• Place grip onto pencil towards point where you would typically grasp the tool.

Uses
• Increases the barrel size for easier grasp and requires less strength
• Helps with fatigue and stress on joints
Alternative Grip Ideas
Adapted Writing Wrist Band

**Materials**
- 6-inch or more in length, 1-inch wide Tempo Loop
- 2-3 inch strip of sticky back hook Velcro

**Directions**
- Punch 2 holes approximately 1 inch apart in the middle of the strip.
- Attach Velcro to one end.
- Push tool (crayon, etc.) through holes.
- Wrap around wrist and secure with Velcro.

**Uses**
- Grasping aid
Weighted tools

Materials
• 3/8 inch hex nuts
• Electrical tape or colorful duct tape

Directions
• Wrap metal end of pencil with several layers of tape.
• Thread several hex nuts onto pencil.
• Wrap other end of pencil (directly below hex nuts) with tape.

Uses
• Grasping aid
• Weight on the tool can help stabilize uncontrolled movements due to ataxia
• The weight gives some more sensory feedback to the hand while writing

alternatives: http://therapyfunzone.net/blog/making-a-comfortable-weighted-pencil/
3 Ring Binder Easel

Materials
• One 3 ring binder
• 2 binder clips
• Velcro
• Rubbermaid shelf liner

Directions
• Open notebook completely and set on table.
• Place artwork on notebook and stabilize paper with binder clips.
• Use Velcro to keep notebook from collapsing.
• Place notebook on top of shelf liner that is placed on table to act as a non-slip surface.

Use for ease in viewing
Pizza Box Easel

Materials
• One pizza box
• Cardboard

Directions
• Get a clean pizza box.
• In order to make a tray for holding paints, fold a portion of the box’s lid flat. Score where you want the fold using a butter knife (be sure not to cut through the box!).
• Tape another piece of cardboard to the back of the easel for the back of the drawing board of the easel.
• Use a binder clip to hold paper in place. Consider putting a layer of Press and Seal Saran Wrap on the paint tray to protect it from drips.

http://munchkinsandmoms.com/how-to-make-pizza-box-ease/
Easel

Uses

Easels can be helpful for students who have poor shoulder and arm strength so they have a supportive surface.

Easels can also be helpful for students who have poor head control.

Easels can also be beneficial for students with low vision.

Variations

Easels can also be made by keeping a large (3-inch) 3 ring binder closed and placing paper on top of the notebook so you have a slanted surface.

Easels can be made from wood pieces.
Adapted Scissors

Materials
• 1 pair of regular scissors
• 1 strip of hard plastic from folder
• Stickyback velcro

Directions
• Place a strip of loop (soft) sided Velcro along the handles of the scissors
• Place a strip of hook (rough) sided Velcro on each end of the folder strip
• Bend the plastic folder strip and attach to the Velcro to create easy open scissors

Uses
• For children who have difficulty separating out their fingers into holes or who have a weak hand grasp
Other Classroom Tools

Stencils
- Fiskars (hard plastic)
- Foam shape puzzles
- Cardboard
Wikki Stix

Materials
• Bag of Wikki Stix (wax sticks that are flexible and sticky)

Uses
• Can be used as an adhesive
• Can be used to increase the diameter of tools
• Can be used as a border to help students stay in the lines
• Can be curled up and placed on top of objects forming a handle of sorts or can be used to pick up a small piece of paper like a piece of tape
Wikki Stix

Variations

- Place Wikki Stix on the bottom of a wiffle ball so students can pick up small pieces of paper.
- Smaller wiffle balls can be used as well to pick up small rubber stamps or game pieces.
More Uses

- Border areas to help with staying in the lines.
- Make letters or shapes and learn tracing with tactile feedback.
- Use to highlight an area if there is low vision.

- [www.wikkistix.com/occupational-therapy](http://www.wikkistix.com/occupational-therapy)
Crayon Alternatives
Clay Alternatives
Ruler Adaptations

Adding a handle on the ruler makes it easier to stabilize the ruler. It helps keep fingers off the ruler edge and off the paper so the student can strike a line with less interference.
Tactile Ruler

Materials
- Ruler
- Adhesive backed fun foam

Directions
- Use hole punch to create small dots of adhesive backed fun foam
- Apply dots to ruler at numeric intervals (one inch)

Uses
- Provides visual and tactile cues for counting and measuring
- Can alternate colors to support visual tracking
- Student touches each dot while counting and measuring.
Stamp Alternatives

Using large knobbed stamps
Using foam cutouts and placing them on old tape rolls
Using fruit (apples) or vegetables (potatoes)
Using cars to roll through the paint
Paint Alternatives

Paint rollers
Shaving brush
Cookie cutters with handles
Communication Boards

First Then Boards
Communication Devices
Visuals

http://prekese.dadeschools.net/Resources/BMDActivities.html
Art Resources - Interactive Resources

Basic pattern and color change
http://neave.com/wobble/

Create 3-D House with Frank Lloyd Wright
http://www.architectstudio3d.org/AS3d/index.html

Create fireworks type painting
http://neave.com/imagination/

Interactive Art with pixel dust
http://neave.com/pixel-dust/

Museum of Modern Art - architecture and Buildings

Museum of Modern Art interactive site
http://www.moma.org/interactives/destination/#National Gallery of Art
http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/kids.html

Online interactive games and art from Tate Gallery
http://kids.tate.org.uk/

Symmetrical Art Creation
weavesilk.com/

The Artist's Toolkit - create online works using shapes and watch basic instruction on art elements and principles
http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/explore.cfm