

Cheap Kids Crafts With Household Items — Template

Start Here

Welcome

This template turns household items into fun, low-cost crafts for home or classroom. Use the planner fields to prep stations, track costs, and link to standards. All fields are carefully aligned and non-overlapping for clean printing.

Notes

Starter Supply Checklist

Check what you already have:

Recyclables: cardboard tubes, cereal boxes, egg cartons, paper bags, bottle caps, lids

Paper: printer/scrap paper, old magazines

Adhesives: glue stick, white glue, tape

Color: crayons, colored pencils, markers, watercolor set

Tools: child scissors, ruler, hole punch

Extras: yarn, string, rubber bands, aluminum foil

Safety Note (adult help for cutting / hole punch):

Project Planner (1–3)

Project 1: Cardboard Tube Creatures

Best for: ages 4 to 9 • Cost: free if you have tubes and crayons

Steps:

Wrap tube with paper or paint

Draw or glue eyes & mouth

Cut arms/ears/wings; tape on

Add yarn hair inside top

Classroom Notes:

Project 2: Cereal Box Sketchbooks

Best for: ages 6 to 12 • Cost: about \$1 for glue and string

Steps:

Cut front/back covers

Stack 10 sheets of paper

Punch 3 holes on left

Tie with string/yarn

Decorate with magazine cutouts

Classroom Notes:

Project 3: Lid Tops & Bottle Cap Spinners

Best for: ages 5 to 10 • Cost: free with recyclables

Steps:

Hole in center of lid (adult help)

Insert toothpick/pencil stem

Test spin; trim stem

Decorate rings to see color bands

Classroom Notes:

Project Planner (4–6)

Project 4: Magazine Mosaic Animals

Best for: ages 6 to 12 • Cost: glue stick only

Steps:

Draw simple animal outline

Tear magazine bits

Glue inside like mosaic

Add background with larger pieces

Tips & Notes:

Project 5: Homemade Playdough

Best for: ages 3 to 8 (supervised) • Cost: a few pantry items

Steps:

Mix: 2c flour, 1c salt, 1c water, spoon oil

Add water slowly until dough forms

Knead until smooth

Store airtight container

Tips & Notes:

Project 6: Egg Carton Mini Garden

Best for: ages 5 to 12 • Cost: seeds & a bit of soil

Steps:

Cut carton in half (6 cups)

Poke drainage holes

Fill with soil

Plant seeds

Water & set in sun

Tips & Notes:

Project Planner (7–10)

Project 7: Paper Bag Puppets

Best for: ages 4 to 9 • Cost: free with bags & crayons

Steps:

Flap on top for mouth

Draw eyes on flap

Add nose/ears/teeth

Put on a puppet show

Project 8: String & Straw Bracelets

Best for: ages 6 to 12 • Cost: about \$1

Steps:

Cut straws into beads

Thread on yarn/string

Tie a knot to close

Project 9: Foil Boats — Sink or Float

Best for: ages 6 to 12 • Cost: pennies/paper clips for weights

Steps:

Cut squares of foil

Fold/shape a boat

Float in bin of water

Add weights; test capacity

Iterate on design

Project 10: Paper Airplane Flight Lab

Best for: ages 6 to 12 • Cost: free with paper

Steps:

Fold 2 designs; fly 5 times each

Record distances

Change 1 variable

Test again & compare

Setup, Budget & Classroom Systems

Setup Tips That Save Time & Money

- Use stations: put each craft in a tray with tools & supplies
- Pre-cut where possible for younger kids
- Batch cleanup with scrap bin & damp cloth per table
- Set a timer (15–30 minutes fits most projects)
- Display wins: clothesline with clips for finished art

Your Additional Tips:

Budget Breakdown

- Free: cardboard, paper bags, tubes, lids, magazines
- Under \$2: tape, glue sticks, yarn
- Under \$5: watercolor set, extra paper, seeds

Weekly Budget (enter amount): Stretch ideas:

Classroom Management Ideas

- Use labeled trays for finished work by group
- Assign roles: cutter, gluer, organizer, cleaner
- Use picture cards to model steps at each station
- Quiet-choice bin for early finishers (sketch & mazes)
- Send supply request note home (clean cereal boxes, tubes, caps)

Custom roles / adjustments:

Weekly Plan & Wrap-Up

Weekly Plan (Stations & Timing)

Day	Project/Station	Materials	Time (min)	Notes
Mon				
Tue				
Wed				
Thu				
Fri				

Standards Tie-ins & Wrap-Up

Standards/Learning Objectives (art, science, math):

Reflections & Wins (what worked best):