Easy preschool crafts with six materials or fewer

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52 easy preschool crafts, one per theme, each with six materials or fewer, three steps and nothing hot, plus what twos, threes and fours can each do.

An easy preschool craft has six materials or fewer, three steps, nothing hot, and ends with something a child can name or count. Each of Peabody's 52 preschool themes has one craft built to that rule, drawn in three steps on its theme page, and 40 of them need only three or four materials. Twos need a grown-up to pour and cut; threes and fours can do most of it with a glue stick and crayons. Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

Craft ideas online come with a supply list longer than the craft. By the time you've found pom-poms, googly eyes and three colors of felt, it's Thursday. The crafts here are the opposite: what's already on the shelf.

The rule

- Six materials or fewer. Paper plates, card, crayons, a glue stick, paint and paper scraps cover most of the year.
- Three steps. Make it, add to it, name or count it.
- Nothing hot. No glue guns, no ovens, no candles. Peabody's themes are checked for those words, and a craft that names one doesn't go in.
- With a grown-up. Every craft in the planner says so.

The rule keeps setup short enough to do every week, and cleanup short enough that the craft happens at all.

How many materials, across the year

- Materials: 3 · Crafts: 6
- Materials: 4 · Crafts: 34
- Materials: 5 · Crafts: 10
- Materials: 6 · Crafts: 2

The two six-material crafts are the paper-plate apple and the five-senses touch board (card, a glue stick, a cotton ball, and scraps of sandpaper, foil and fabric). The three-material ones are the shortest of all.

Six crafts with three materials

- Pumpkin seed counting card (Pumpkins): orange card, round seed stickers, crayons. Stick on two seeds for twos, five for threes, ten for fours, then count them out loud.
- Star sky (Space): dark blue or black paper, star stickers, a white crayon.

- Kindness chain (Friends and kindness): paper strips, crayons, a glue stick.
- Body outline (My body): a long roll of paper, crayons, tape.
- Bag mixing (Mixing colors): a zip bag, two colors of washable paint, tape.
- Rock friend (Rocks and dirt): a smooth rock as big as a hand, washable paint, a brush.

Fall crafts, step by step

Paper-plate apple (Apples). Paper plates, red or green paint, a brown paper strip, a green paper leaf, a glue stick, a brown crayon.

1. Paint the plate red or green and let it dry.
2. Glue on the brown stem and the green leaf.
3. Draw three seeds in the middle and count them together.

Paper-bag barn (Farm). A paper lunch bag, red paint, white paper strips, animal stickers or drawings, a glue stick.

1. Paint the bag red and let it dry.
2. Glue white strips on as the barn doors.
3. Put the animals in the barn and name each one.

Leaf rubbing (Leaves). Leaves from the walk, white paper, crayons with the paper off, tape.

1. Tape a leaf under the paper.
2. Rub the side of a crayon over it until the veins show.
3. Try a second leaf in another color.

The apple theme post and the pumpkin theme post have the rest of those weeks.

Who does what

- Twos: a grown-up pours the paint, holds the glue and does any cutting. The child chooses, presses and sticks.
- Threes: glue sticks and crayons on their own; a grown-up cuts.
- Fours: child-safe scissors on straight lines, with a grown-up at the table.

Pick your room's ages in the theme planner and the craft line changes. For infants and toddlers it says: "let them touch and hold the materials while you make it; nothing small enough to swallow." For mixed ages: "the twos do the craft with help; the fours help the twos."

Only one of the 52 crafts is marked as needing scissors at the table, the Humpty Dumpty puzzle for the nursery rhymes week, and it lists a grown-up's scissors. Where a craft needs a shape cut, it says "grown-up cuts" in the materials, as the zebra stripes and the gingerbread person do.

Keep the small things up high

Peabody's craft guide puts it simply: anything small enough to fit through a toilet-paper tube is too small to leave on a table with twos. A few crafts use small things: the shaker (dry rice or pasta in a small bottle; a grown-up closes it and tapes the lid shut), the bean in a cup (the grown-up holds the bean), the gingerbread person (buttons or stickers). For twos, use stickers, drawn dots or big pieces instead of beads, seeds or buttons, and follow your own program's rules on materials.

It doesn't have to look like the picture

A paper-plate apple that comes out blue is still an apple week craft. The point is choosing, sticking, counting and talking about it, not matching the drawing on the plan. Hang the crafts low, at the children's eye height, and send them home on Friday with the family note.

Try this week

On the wall plan, the craft runs across the week:

1. Monday: show the materials. Let the children touch them and guess what you'll make.
2. Tuesday: steps 1 and 2.
3. Wednesday: finish it.
4. Thursday: show and tell at circle time.
5. Friday: take it home.

Open this week's theme on the theme index, read its craft and three steps, and check the shelf tonight. Most weeks you'll already have everything.

A craft, a book, a song

The craft is one of seven parts of each week: circle time, books, the craft, a song, a snack, a letter pack and outside time. A barn craft pairs with At the Farm and "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"; a leaf rubbing pairs with Pit, Pat, rain on the leaves in a pattern little ones can tap. The books are on Peabody's free stories. The crafts guide has the rule in one page.

Three things providers ask

What crafts can two-year-olds do?

Crafts where they choose, press and stick while a grown-up pours, holds the glue and cuts: the pumpkin seed counting card with two stickers, the star sky, the paper-plate apple. Use stickers or big pieces rather than anything small enough to swallow.

Do I need a glue gun for any of them?

No. None of the 52 crafts uses heat: glue sticks and tape do all the sticking.

Are the crafts free?

Yes. Every theme page, its craft and the planner need no sign-in and show no ads, and Peabody is free through the end of 2026.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/easy-preschool-crafts