

SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTIONS

- Show examples of dry paper bowls.
- Demonstrate the process.
- Have volunteers bring children up one or two at a time to make their own pulp and take back a lump of wet pulp in their plastic bowl to a table to shape it.
- Have books or games for children waiting their turn, (but they might be fine just playing with and picking out their decorations. I have them choose decorations from a table full of things and put what they want into small containers recycled from microwave meals.

LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTIONS

Of course, you can eliminate some of the steps if you have a big group of children. For instance,

1. Make one or two colors of pulp ahead of time and put in ice cream buckets.
2. Demonstrate, to the whole group, the process.
 - a) Choose a color of scrap paper.
 - b) Shred with a cross cut paper cutter or tear paper into small pieces,
 - c) Put about 2.5 cups of water into a blender.
 - d) Add about 2.5 cups of shredded paper to blender,
 - e) Blend to make the pulp; add paper/ water as needed to make pulp a thick oatmeal texture.
 - f) Pour it into an ice cream bucket.
 - Dip the strainer into the pulp and lift some out, let it drain
 - g) Pour it into the plastic picnic bowl, Frisbee, or whatever plastic you are using as a mold
 - h) Use the small damp sponge to mold/shape the pulp into the shape of the bowl.
3. **Children Be Creative!**
 - Put a bucket of pulp or two at each table for 4 to 6 children.
 - Have children use their small strainers to take turns filling the strainer with pulp, draining it, and putting it into their plastic bowl.
 - Then use their sponge to mold the shape. They might like to use their fingers to shape the pulp, too. Shaping can take a little while. Walk around and help them mold their pulp into a bowl. If they mess up, they can push it back into a glob and start over! Be sure they don't have holes or places that are too thin. Encourage them to make sure they use the whole plastic bowl, adding more pulp if needed. Also, to have a top edge that is not too thin.
 - Then they add some decorations. Shredded paper or glitter or little sequins, lace, etc. (Some children may want to add decorations to the bottom of the bowl before they put the pulp into it, however, this adds the problem of giving them the decorations too soon in the process for young children.
 - Some children will want to use more than one color of pulp to create their bowl and I absolutely think that this greatly lends to their ability to be creative.
4. **Send home instructions.**
 - Leave the bowl with wet molded pulp in safe place in the kitchen or garage to dry for 3 to 5 days. A fan going in the room will help it dry faster.
 - Do not try to remove the new paper bowl from the plastic bowl until it is completely dry or it might tear or get a hole.
 - You can "paint" the dry bowl with modpodge to make it shiny and stronger.
 - DO NOT use your paper bowl for food or liquid.
5. **Clean Up.**

To clean up, strain the leftover pulp, pouring it through the strainer into the bucket. (Or better yet, make it into bowls!) Throw away the pulp in the garbage. Wash and dry all the equipment. Strain the water from the bucket into a sink or toilet. Throw pulp and paper into garbage. Pack up all the equipment for next time!