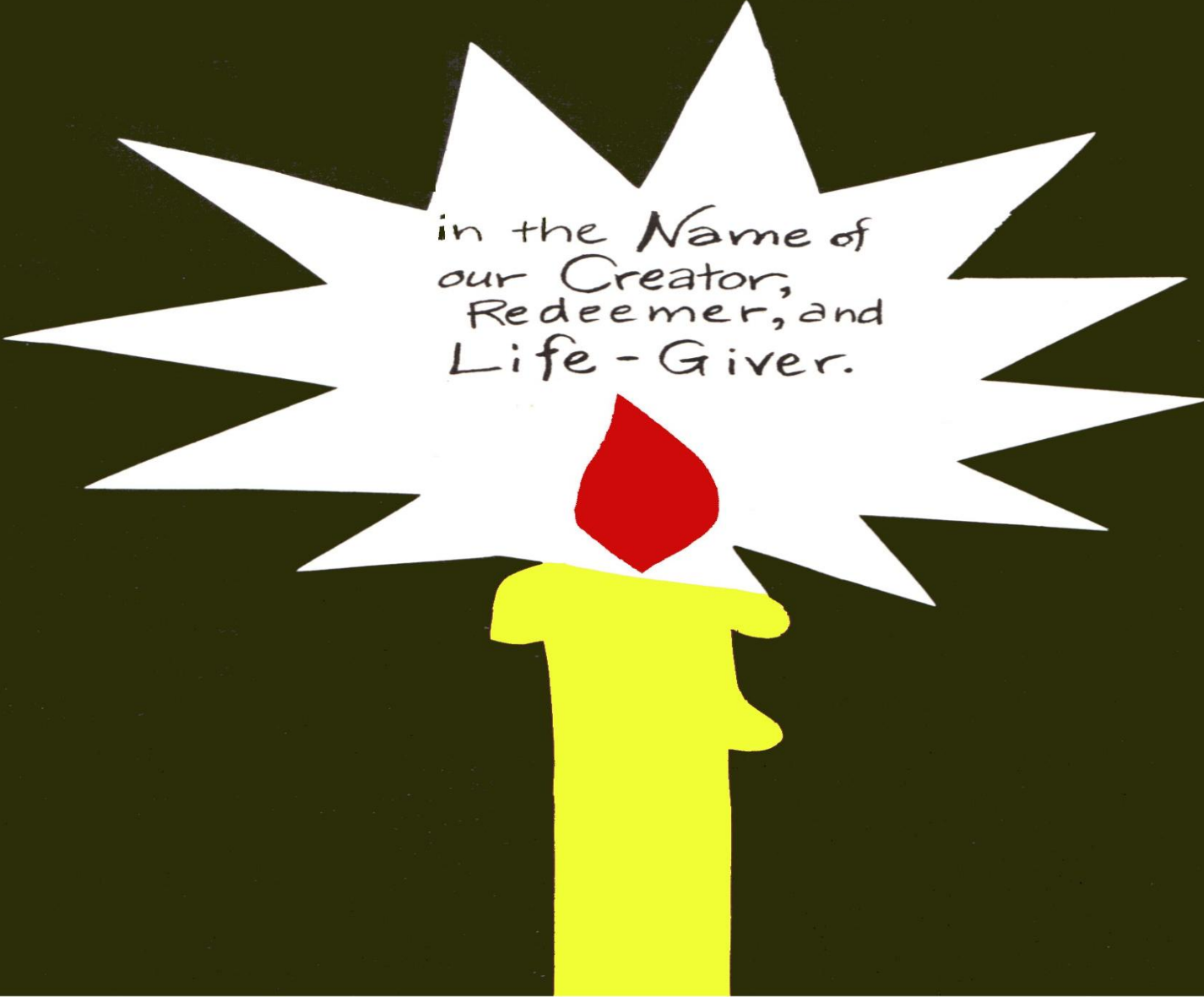


THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY CRAFT BOOK



Burton Everist

A hand-drawn illustration on a dark green background. At the bottom center is a yellow candle with a red flame. Above the candle is a large white starburst shape. Inside the starburst, the text "in the Name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Life-Giver." is written in a simple, hand-drawn font.

in the Name of
our Creator,
Redeemer, and
Life-Giver.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY CRAFT BOOK



by
Burton Everist

Illustrated by
Joan Reynolds

ADAPTED FOR COMPUTER

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Page 42 The stanza from "Now the Green Blade Riseth" (tr. J.M.C. Crum) is from *The Oxford Book of Carols*, published by the Oxford University Press. It is used by permission of the publisher.

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What's the Christian Family Craft Book?

It's a book for Christian families who want to create crafts with Christian themes.



It's a book suggesting crafts a family can make together easily, including children of almost every age (except infants-in-arms — but they can smile at the fun that your family is having.)



It will give you ideas and simple directions for ornaments and household decorations that remind your family and your guests of the Lord.



It's a book of crafts to make for birthdays gifts and greetings, Christmas presents and ornaments, everyday cards to cheer folks up and tell them of God's love in Jesus Christ..



It's a book of craft ideas prepared to help your family think still more deeply about

our **Creator** - even as your family creates,

our **Redeemer** - even as you save and give more lively use to "scraps," and

our **Lord and Life-Giver,**
the **Holy Spirit** - as new ways of seeing inspire you.



It's a book that the larger family of
God can work with, at Sunday Schools,
and summer programs, family nights
and youth groups, married couples'
and singles' clubs.



It's a book
that grew out of
twenty years of
youth work, eleven
years of pastoral ministry
in local congregations, count-
less education workshops, and
sixteen years of stimulating family
life with only one wife, three active
boys, three cats (successively), one
dog, and many guests welcome to our home
from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America
and our own homeland continent, all the creative
craft of our Creator, Redeemer, and
Life-Giver **GOD!**



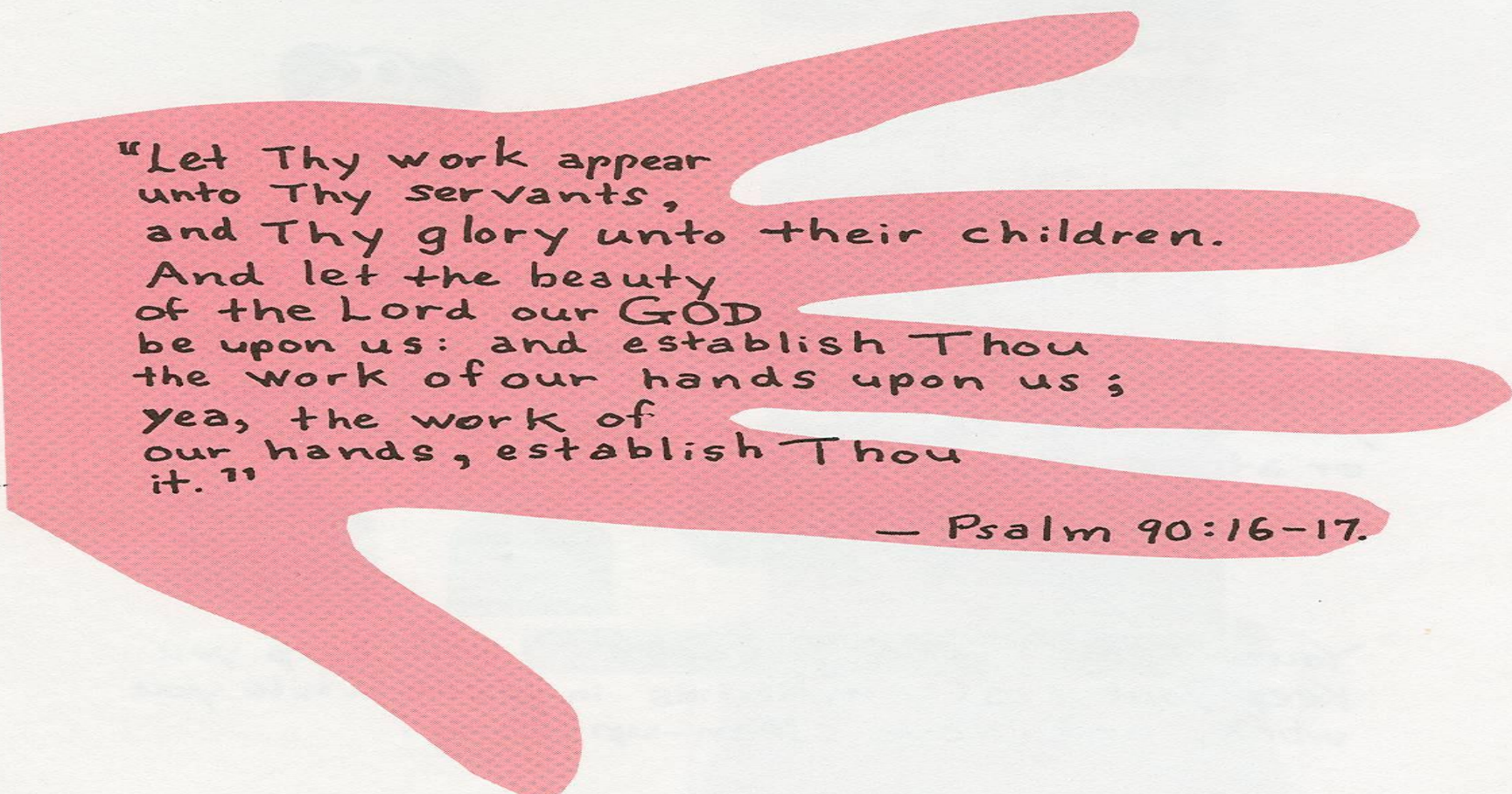
The Christian Family Craft Book is most of all a book for any family who knows that **DOING** together and **PLAYING** together in Christ's Name is a delightful way of **STAYING** together, but above all, of **PRAYING** together.

We suggest that you begin each project, even before you start reading about it, in the Name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Life-Giver. This is a way of giving your craft creation to the Lord of all Creation.

It would be a pleasant thing to hum a hymn or sing a song as you work together (at least between moments of fun conversations and thoughtful reflections).



When your work is over, stop to thank GOD for the gift of time, materials, and others with whom (or for whom) you create. Then, perhaps, each time you look at the work you have done you will not think as did the plum-thumb Jack "What a good boy am I", but you will pray with the Psalmist :



"Let Thy work appear
unto Thy servants,
and Thy glory unto their children.
And let the beauty
of the Lord our GOD
be upon us: and establish Thou
the work of our hands upon us;
yea, the work of
our hands, establish Thou
it."

— Psalm 90:16-17.

INTRODUCING THE CRAFTS...

(A DESCRIPTIVE TABLE OF CONTENTS)

But FIRST you'll meet some ideas for a **FAMILY CRAFT CENTER**! I find that many activities don't happen in families because no one can find the equipment at the right time. Your **FAMILY CRAFT CENTER** will store

scissors,

glue,

paper,

thread,

wire,

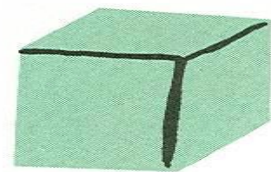
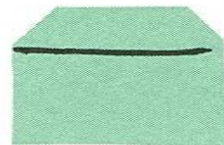
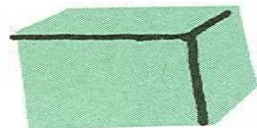
felt-tip pens,

egg-shell scraps, and

nails just where you want them to be.



It won't cost much either, and you will be recycling boxes and other containers that you usually see thrown away in the stores or at schools.



Your **FAMILY CRAFT CENTER** will help you keep your craft materials in place while you work, and save clean-up time.

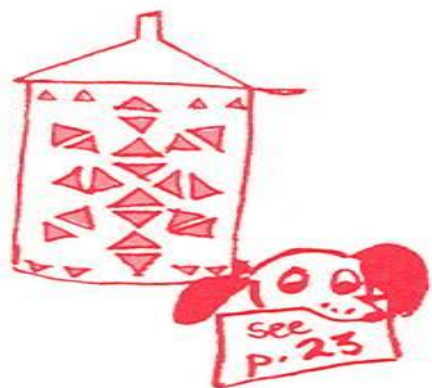
The first two crafts to do are **SIMPLE CANDLE HOLDERS** two very different candle holders. It is appropriate that we begin as did the Creator, who said "Let there be light!" For us who separate our saying from our doing, it's not that simple to make holders for the light, but the doing will be delightful.

First you might make lovely **STAINED PLASTIC CANDLE HOLDERS** At a recent youth gathering in New England I "discovered" a new process using felt-tip pens and ordinary plastic glasses to design glowing candle-holders. The young people and adults came up with exciting designs right there on the spot! You'll see some examples of their handiwork.



Then you could dig out your old tin cans, top them with funnels and create **TIN-CAN CANDLE HOLDERS!**

This is an adaptation of a craft from Spain, so I'm told. It also gives any home a lovely way to let the light shine.



The second set of projects are two ways of doing

PERSONAL CHRISTIAN GREETING CARDS

In spite of Hallmark's claim, "the very best" is still hand-made and homemade. We keep our Christmas cards for awhile, and the ones we save the longest are those handmade cards.



CONSTRUCTION PAPER CARDS

were an old idea I dreamed up as an assistant for a Christian Day School art class. Sixth graders did a beautiful job with them, and many others do now.

The bold colors of construction paper, accented sometimes with a bit of foil or a felt-tip pen, are bright spots for any shut-in, memorable for any marriage anniversary, and a keepsake for any occasion.

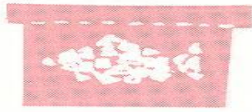
For several years in a row my grade-school children have come home with pictures done in crayon-resist. They never fail to look exciting and refreshing. So why not transform them into miniatures in making some

CRAYON-RESIST CARDS

? Vivid colors against bold backgrounds share the joy of the Lord in many ways



Mosaics are an ancient art, one of the earliest used to praise the Lord of All. Our third project adapts the mosaic method to family crafts.



Small wooden and cardboard boxes (tin ones, too) are transformed with **EGG SHELL MOSAIC** craft. For such small work the earliest Christian symbol, the fish, or other symbols such as the cross, the chi-rho, the star, and the open tomb are best. It is a good way to use dyed egg shells or plain white ones.

The final project is an old favorite of mine that occurred to me while I was still in college:

PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

Those one-colored bright, shiny Christmas balls became for me an inexpensive but meaningful gift to share with whole families whose homes I was invited to share at Christmas-tide.

Sometimes the individual's name would suggest a Christmas-related symbol. In some instances I would do the designs in folks' homes, and the design would grow out of our conversations. Many of these ornaments still adorn Christmas trees!

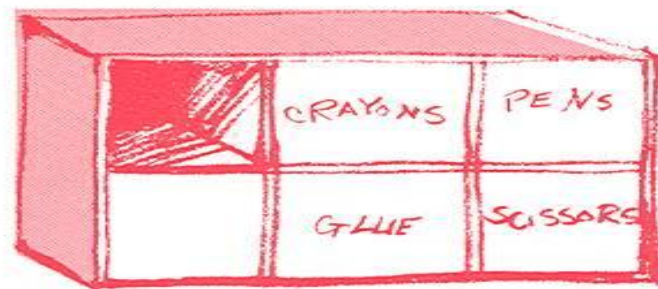
FAMILY CRAFT CENTER

To encourage frequent family activity, it is a good idea to develop a place where your family can sit right down and have everything at hand: scissors, glue, construction paper, felt-tip pens, scraps, and other items. Some families have family rooms, ideal places to store materials in nearby cupboards.

Most families don't have extra room where crafts can be readily at hand. For both situations this chapter describes a craft storage system that you can use anywhere. It includes portable storage units, materials you will store, and some tools you will need.

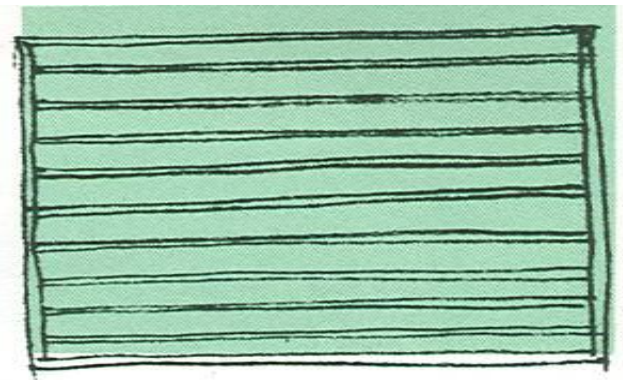
LITTLE BOXES ; BIG BOXES

My favorite storage system uses American cheese boxes. I get them at a high-volume dairy store six at a time. If possible, I like also to have the larger box in which the six are usually delivered to the store. In the latter box, the smaller ones can be stored in sets, easily carried, and a single box can be taken out without upsetting the others.

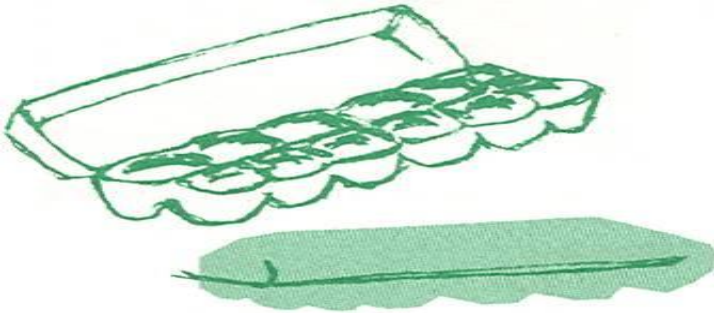


Larger boxes such as clear plastic shoe boxes, often on specials at discount stores, offer excellent stackable storage units. Unlike cardboard cheese boxes, they don't absolutely need to be labeled (but a label is still helpful). Actually, any group of identical boxes will do quite well. You may wish to look at your storage closet or shelves to decide the size box that fits best.

A different type of storage unit can be obtained from schools that have a certain kind of hot lunch program. This is a set of trays on which frozen meals have been set for rapid heating. The trays are clean, large cardboard, and provide space for larger poster-size paper, magazines, and rulers. I usually remove one of the trays to make it easier to withdraw the others. The large, strong cardboard in the extra tray can be used for other projects (jigsaw puzzles, poster backing, etc.).

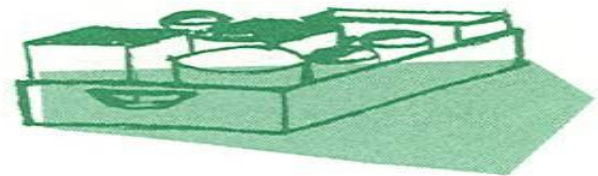


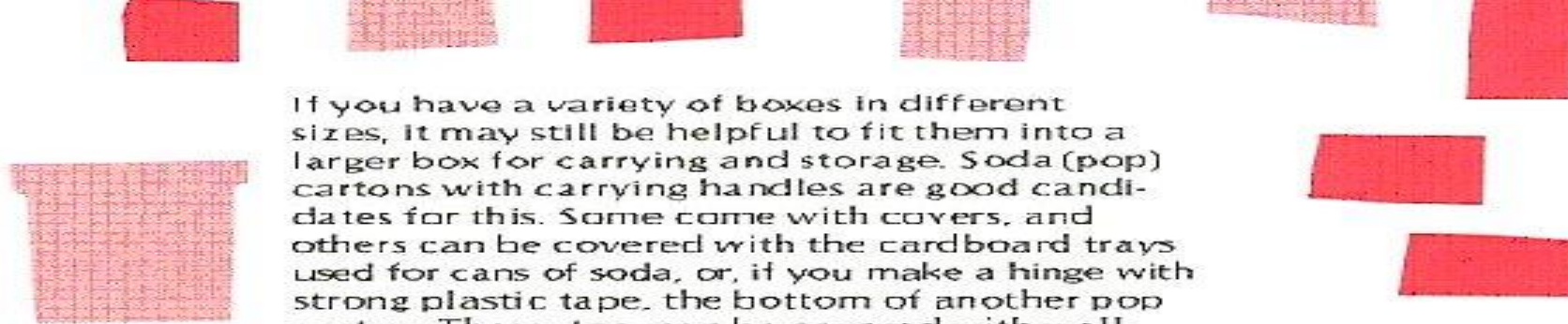
If you are recycling cardboard boxes you may wish to cover them with wallpaper (especially if you have some that matches your storage area or your work area). You will still want to add a label at one or both ends.



↖ You can get free samples at most wallpaper stores.

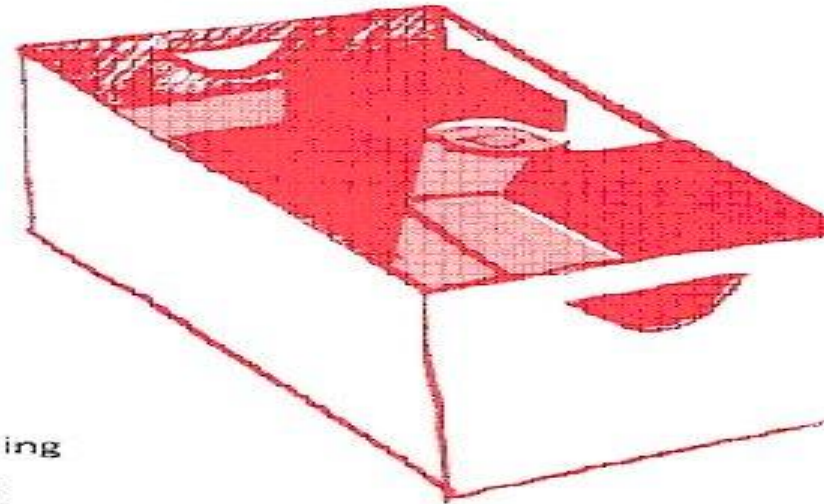
Egg cartons or muffin tins make excellent sorting trays and storage places if you cover them with plastic wrap to keep each section in place. The egg cartons that close stack well. Since you may be doing the eggshell mosaics, the carton will be a natural item and will permit you to sort the colors of eggshells, too.





If you have a variety of boxes in different sizes, it may still be helpful to fit them into a larger box for carrying and storage. Soda (pop) cartons with carrying handles are good candidates for this. Some come with covers, and others can be covered with the cardboard trays used for cans of soda, or, if you make a hinge with strong plastic tape, the bottom of another pop carton. These, too, can be covered with wallpaper or contact paper, and labeled accordingly.

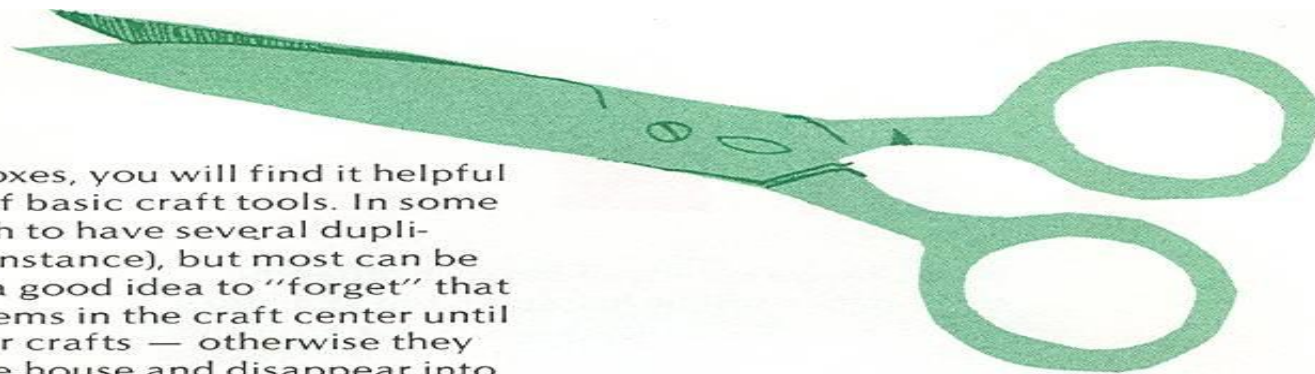
*Soda containers
work very well.* →



There are, of course, also the portable sets of sorting drawers sold for hardware or sewing purposes that you could purchase and use. These are particularly good for small items you don't want to lose, it shouldn't be necessary to have more than one of these sets of drawers.



Into one or more boxes, you will find it helpful to pack a number of basic craft tools. In some cases, you may wish to have several duplicates (scissors, for instance), but most can be one-of-a-kind. It is a good idea to "forget" that you have stowed items in the craft center until you want to do your crafts — otherwise they will drift around the house and disappear into drawers or cabinets.



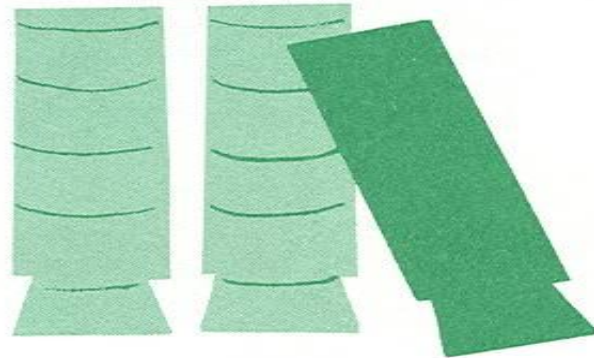
Scissors — at least one good 9" pair, and several smaller snub-nosed (baby) pairs. The baby scissors should have a slight curve to them — they cut curved letters more easily. It is a good idea to store the 9" pair in a plastic sheath or a foam casing.

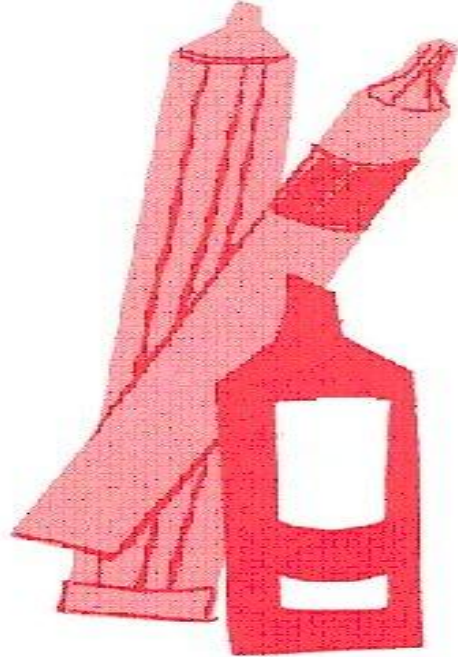


A good-sized bottle of white glue should be stocked, along with several smaller self-dispensing bottles of the same glue. You can refill the smaller bottles, giving more members of the family ready access to the glue when they need it.

For gluing paper to paper, you will want to squirrel away several glue sticks. These little glue applicators have none of the risks of white glue (spilling), all of the advantages of rubber cement (holding paper securely), and can be easily worked by tiny hands. They look like lipsticks and work like lipsticks: turn the bottom and the glue rises. It is important to cap the glue securely at the end of projects. These sticks come in at least two sizes, but the smaller ones are the most easily held and used.

(By the way, if your white glue dispensers clog, soaking them in hot water helps open them up.)



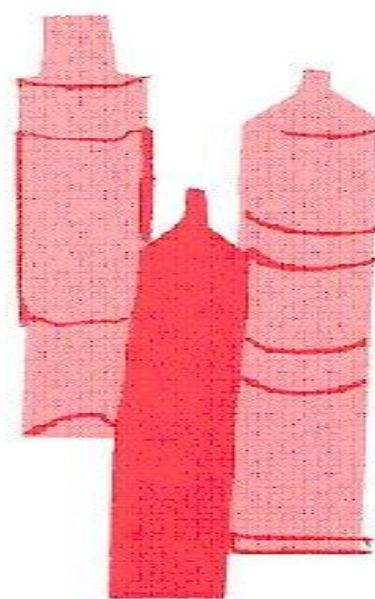


Felt-tip pens, both permanent and washable, narrow and wide-tipped, can be purchased in sets, already cased. Most cases do not endure handling, so they might as well be packed into labeled boxes in your center right from the start. Capping these pens is, of course, crucial. Several other pens similar to felt-tips (nylon, liquid ball-point) are also useful. You will want to experiment with them.

The "washable" pens are not unlike watercolors (in fact, they are water-based). They smear easily if water gets on them. This trait can be used to get the sort of fuzzy edges that watercolor paints give — so you may wish to experiment with them.

The permanent pens will be used in the candle-holder craft. Different companies make pens with different chemical bases. Some will "etch" into the plastic itself, giving an interesting effect. Others will color the plastic but not etch the material, creating still another contrasting effect.

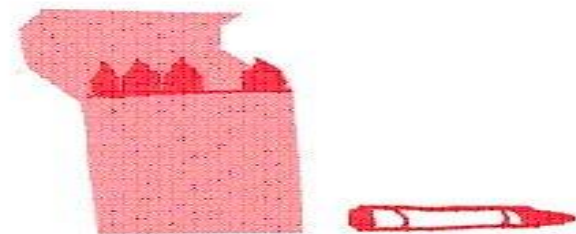
Art stores have them.



(Permanent markers are available at many dime and discount stores.)

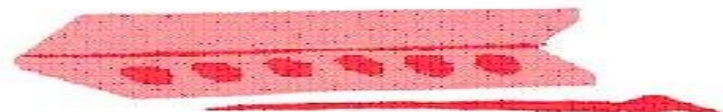
Crayons, the old standby, should find a special place in your craft storage center. It is not a good idea to rely upon the children's stockpile.

These get lost, broken to small bits, and otherwise become more difficult to use. Several sets of the greatest variety of colors would be worth stocking. It is also a good idea to buy a set of larger crayons for broad strokes. Some even come as flat sticks.



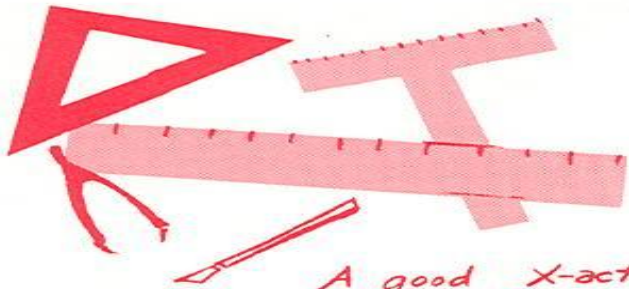
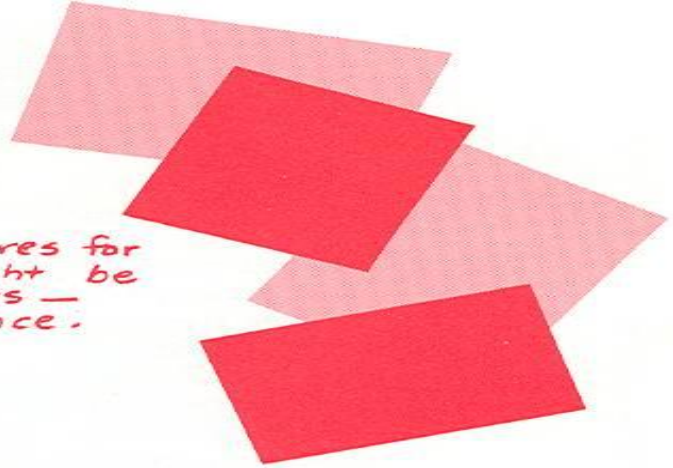
Watercolors (the kind you get in the 10¢ store) are also indispensable to your craft center. You will need them for the crayon-resist cards. You may wish, however, to use water-base tempera colors. These will work as well as watercolors.

Although, in this book, we don't suggest uses for colored chinks, several boxes would be in order for other crafts you create or adapt.



If you like to experiment with papers you will want to consider blotting paper, typing paper, blueprint paper, tracing papers, even the pink "step one" paper that is thrown away in the 3-M two-step copying process.

Try both art and stationery stores for papers. 3-M pink "paper" might be given to you by the 3-M dealers — it can be used by them only once.



A good ruler, such as the C-Thru ruler with its simple system of parallel line-making, is essential. You may also want a small T-square, a triangle, and a protractor. A compass is important for making quick circles, but caution is important in its use by children. X-acto type knives can come in handy for some cutting tasks too.

A good X-acto set with attachments for carving as well as cutting.

You will think of other items to store, ready for carrying to your craft center. Remember: avoid borrowing these items for odd jobs around the house, or they will not be at hand when you want them. Having your craft center stocked and ready, will encourage your family to create for yourselves and others.

MEMO: I want to add:

