

THE PARENT-CHILD BOOK CLUB

CONNECTING WITH YOUR KIDS THROUGH READING

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO ORGANIZING AND
CONDUCTING YOUR FAMILY BOOK CLUB

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We always recommend water-based, non-toxic, and washable materials. In addition, we have found over the years that it is best to give each child his own set of certain materials, such as glue sticks and water-color trays. This avoids fighting over the materials and distractions from the book club project.

Using labeled, clear bins is helpful in organizing both set-up and clean-up of the materials. The book club members are then able to assist in cleaning up the project and it gives them a sense of responsibility.

And of course, if you find a great project, but you cannot assemble all the supplies in time for the book club, save the project for another similar book. The idea is not to be stressed when creating the project, but instead to enjoy providing creative opportunities for your group to make strong connections between art, science, and literature.

General Supplies:

- Floor and/or table coverings** — large plastic garbage bags, inexpensive drop cloth, plastic shower curtain, plastic table cloth, newspapers
- Individual project tray**, such as an aluminum baking tray
- Clean-up supplies** — paper towels, napkins
- Smocks** (store-bought or old t-shirts)
- Writing and drawing materials** — pencils, pens, colored pencils, magic markers, pastels, face paints, gel pens
- Painting materials** — water-color paints, finger paints, poster paints, paintbrushes in varying sizes

- Papers** — construction paper, plain white computer or photocopy paper, lined paper, finger paint paper, poster board, tissue paper
- Glue** (in the bottle and/or stick); glitter glue pens
- Toothpicks**
- Clear contact paper**
- Popsicle sticks**
- Pipe cleaners**
- String and colorful ribbon**
- Clay** — soft clay, hardening clay, Model Magic™
- Scissors** — child-safe, plain and/or with fancy cutting designs, suitable for both right-handed and left-handed children
- Tape** (clear, masking tape, double-stick, colorful)
- Rulers**
- Hole punchers**
- Toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls**
- Materials to collect** from around your home: old shoe boxes, film canisters or other small plastic jars, empty water bottles
- Collage materials** — sticks, pom-poms, fabric scraps, ribbon scraps, glitter, googly eyes, foam shapes and alphabet letters, old magazines for cutting out pictures, buttons, sparkly gems, styrofoam pieces, pieces of scrap wood
- Stickers** — we try to have varieties of stickers on hand — most children love stickers, and younger children especially enjoy them and can work with them while the older children are writing in their

question books. We also try to buy stickers that relate to the specific books we are reading.

- Plastic bags
- Four-color set of food coloring
- Beads and beading string
- Stamping materials — stamps and ink pads

Quick Tips for Easy-to-Assemble Adaptable Art Projects

If you have these materials on hand, you can do an easy-to-assemble project that could connect to most any book your book club reads:

- Undecorated picture frames** — decorate the frame in the book theme using collage materials
- Sticky clear contact paper** — make a book club book mark — decorate a book mark shaped piece of poster board or paper using the themes and/or characters from the book, and then laminate the book mark using the clear contact paper. For an additional decoration, punch a hole at the top and tie a colorful ribbon.

Another easy project with clear contact paper is to make a theme-related place mat. Decorate a sheet of construction paper and cover it on both sides with clear contact paper for a permanent mealtime reminder of the book.

- Plain white T-shirts or fabric bags and fabric markers** (the exception to our rule about washable materials) — any book club could decorate a shirt or bag using the themes of the book.