

Paper Quilt

Materials:

- 8 inch squares of white paper with a 1 inch pencil-drawn border creating an inner square
- 9 by 11 construction paper or other colored paper cut into 1 inch strips
- Scissors
- glue sticks for each child
- liquid white glue
- magazines or precut collage images
- masking tape – 1 to 2 inches wide
- books on quilting or a quilt

Instructions

1. Before you meet with the children, figure out how you will assemble the squares depending on how many children you have. You can consider creating a center square with a title or image that befits the theme. With this intervention, a demo helps with the assembly of the borders.
2. Using a quilt as a prop books on quilting, introduce the idea of a quilt. Be sure to reference the use of scraps in forming quilts.
3. Introduce the theme of the quilt, or have children brainstorm themes. Some suggested themes include: my wish, my dream for the future, things I like.
4. Have each child select 10 to 12 images or words that are meaningful for them.
5. Have children glue images inside the pencil line square on an 8 inch square, explain that anything beyond the pencil line won't be seen.
6. Have children choose colored paper strips as a frame or border for their square. Trim as needed.
7. When everyone has completed their squares, have children place the squares in rows together into rows and attach with tape.
8. Display the quilt and have children talk about their squares.

Other information: This is an intervention designed for use with elementary school children, but it is applicable for adults as well if you modify the theme. It works well to create group cohesion. Be sure to talk to group about where/if the quilt will be displayed, and how you will decide when/if to separate it. You can use yarn (punch holes in squares and then weave together) or staples to connect squares.

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