

Creating with Tubes By Gabe McRitchie

I was out several weeks ago and went into the store Urban Source on Main Street where I saw these beautiful colourful towers on display made out of cardboard tubes, colourful paper, and other found materials. Urban source is a store that has a large selection of found and recycled art supplies. I was very inspired by seeing these bright pieces of artwork, I started to wonder what the children at preschool might create given these same materials. I decided that I would make my own tower to bring into the classroom to show the group, which I introduced at circle time. The majority of the children enthusiastically said that they would like to create one of their own, and energetically came over to the table which was set up with supplies such as: cardboard tubes, paper in an assortment of colours, textures and sizes, fabric, lace, markers and more. The children spent time cutting paper, gluing paper and other materials onto the cardboard tubes, and using the markers to draw on them. Some of the children came to the table for a short amount of time, while some of the other children came back to the table repeatedly to work on their creation throughout the week. The children made a number of different things; a castle apartment, an airplane, a rocket ship, a robot, a blue mountain and towers.

I think that the children enjoyed this activity as they were able to use express their ideas and be creative. The children were proud of their creations, this was evident in wanting to show their parents what they made at pick up time. For some of the children they got to explore these new materials that they perhaps haven't gotten a chance to work with in the past. The children were able to strengthen their fine motor skills and dexterity such as when they used the scissors to cut the paper, holding the paintbrush for the glue, and practicing their pincer grasp when using the markers to draw. I am interested in talking with the children and adults about ideas of where we could take this exploration to next.