What Can I Make?

When I was young, I remember asking my mom, again and again, “What can I make?” Like many children, I loved seeing my ideas come to life in a finished product.

Each month, we include a craft in Highlights™ Genies. We hope they help you answer the question I so often posed to my mom. But instead of telling children exactly what to do, our craft directions are filled with open-ended suggestions and alternatives like draw or decorate. We want your child to decide just how his or her finished product should look.

This month, in “Fun with Straws” (page 31), we show three different ways to use straws to make some delightful crafts. Our hope is that at least one of these ideas will inspire your child to get out your craft supplies and discover what he or she can create.

Have fun helping your child make “one-of-a-kind” crafts, this month and every month.

Sincerely,

Richa Shah, Managing Editor
Email me at editor.genies@delhipress.in

Cover art by Jannie Ho  Back-cover art by Jannie Ho

Think Green!
Finished with this issue? Save it to reread in the future, or pass it along to a friend, classroom, or library. If it’s too worn to be read anymore, please recycle it.

Highlights™ Genies celebrates the early years of childhood—a time of discovery when learning happens at every turn. Our magazine is dedicated to helping parents, educators, and other caregivers nurture young children by:
- encouraging their natural sense of wonder about the world;
- promoting reasoning, problem solving, and creative self-expression;
- fostering a love of language and a rich vocabulary;
- and inspiring them to be kind, to get along with others, and to grow in self-confidence.
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Finding Home
A Highlights™ Genies Board Game
“Stand still!” I tell my shadow.
“I want to step on you.”
But every time I lift my foot,
My shadow lifts hers, too.
Spot’s ear itches.

Spot’s paw itches.

Spot’s back itches.

Spot has fleas everywhere!

“Here, Spot.”

Good-bye, fleas!

By Marileta Robinson • Art by Ron Zalme

Indi reached over to pet Charlie, but he didn’t want to be touched. He jumped back and hissed unhappily.

“Hmm. Charlie acts as if he’s in pain,” said Dad. “We’d better take him to the vet.”
“Meow! Meow! Meow!” Charlie complained the whole way there.

“It’s OK,” Tex told him. “The car ride will be over soon.”

“I’m worried,” said Indi. “What could be wrong?”

“Dr. Lee will help us figure out what’s bothering our little kitty,” said Dad.
Dad was right. Dr. Lee quickly discovered what was wrong. She found a thorn stuck deep in Charlie’s paw. Very carefully and very gently, she pulled the thorn out and then said, “There you go, Charlie. A little rest, and you’ll be as good as new.”
When they got home, Tex and Indi fixed Charlie an extra-cozy spot.

“Come lie down, Charlie,” said Indi. “You need to rest after your big day.”

But Charlie had other ideas!
Farah had one slice of bread,
But two birds came up to be fed.
She tore her slice of bread in two.
“One for you, and one for you!”

By Julie Dillemuth
Meera and Kiran

Meera and Kiran walked through the door after a birthday party, looking sad.
“What happened?” Ma asked.
“We were late! We missed the cake-cutting,” Meera said glumly.
“It’s Pa’s fault. He didn’t drive fast. He should have gone zoom!” Kiran said.
“Hmmm...Who was playing with Ginger all afternoon?” Ma asked the kids.
“We were,” the two said.
“I called repeatedly,” Ma said. “But someone didn’t hear me. I wonder who it was?”
“It was me, Ma,” Meera said. “Kiran was shouting!”
“I was shouting because Ginger was barking!” Kiran said.

“I asked someone to get their clothes ready for the party,” Ma said. “I don’t remember who it was.”
“You asked us to keep our clothes ready!” Kiran said. “But we forgot!”
“Oh, yes. Now I remember!” Ma said.
“And what happened because of that?” Ma asked.
“Ginger ran after us, so we had to bring him back into the house!” they said.

“Is it still Pa’s fault that you were late to the party?” Ma asked. Meera and Kiran thought of all the things they hadn’t done. “No,” they replied, shaking their heads.
“So, whose fault was it?” Ma asked.
“Our fault,” Meera and Kiran said.
“But we have another party tomorrow,” Meera remembered.
“And we will do everything on time,” Kiran said.
“It will be our fault that we’ll get there on time!” they laughed.
Waiting for a Train

Art by Johanna Fritz

How many brown suitcases can you find? How many black ones?

How many suitcases altogether?

What could you buy while you wait?

How many umbrellas do you see?
How many trains are in the station?
When one train leaves, how many will be left?

How many people are reading?
How many people are sitting on benches?

How many dogs do you see?
How many animals do you see?
What silly things do you see?
Brave Teddy

By Marileta Robinson • Art by Qin Leng

When thunder rumbles in the sky,
Teddy doesn’t frown or cry.
And if he tumbles down the stairs, he smiles to show he doesn’t care.
And if I put him on the slide, he wants to take another ride.
But when we go to bed at night, I have to whisper “It’s all right.” He doesn’t like the dark, you see, unless he’s snuggled close to me.
Flying Kites

Art by David Helton

How are these pictures the same?
How are these pictures different?
“Something near our fence looks as if it might be lost,” said Mom.

Kara looked out the window. “I see our cow, some white hens, and our horse near the fence. But they aren’t lost.”
Mom said, “What I see is smaller than a cow, a horse, and a hen.”

Kara said, “My red shovel is small, but it’s not lost. It’s in the sandbox where it belongs. And the gray squirrel on the branch isn’t lost. He lives in our tree.”
Mom shaped her hands like a cup and said, “It’s small enough to hold like this, and it isn’t white or red or gray.”

Kara said, “Oh, now I think I know! Is it yellow?”
“Yes, it is yellow!” said Mom. “What can we do to make sure it’s safe?”

Kara smiled at her mother and said, “It won’t be safe in my sandbox. And a tree isn’t the right place. I know where it belongs.”
So they went outside and Kara put the small yellow chick back in the barn.
Fun with Straws
By Valerie Deneen

You Need
- Straws
- Tape
- Coffee stirrers
- Chenille stems
- Lightweight white paper
- Markers

Straw rockets: Cut a paper straw the length of a finger. Cover one end with tape. Insert a coffee stirrer into the straw and blow into the stirrer to launch the straw “rocket.”

Paper Rockets: Cut strips of white paper and decorate with markers. Roll each strip around a straw. Close the long side and one short end with tape. To launch your paper “rocket,” blow hard!

Bracelets: Cut colorful plastic straws into small pieces. Thread the straw “beads” onto a chenille stem. Twist the ends together.

Photos by Guy Cali Associates, Inc. and Delhi Press studio.
By Jess Thomson

Stop and EAT the

For the flowers:
You Need
- Cucumbers
- Carrots
- Red bell pepper
- Green apple
- Pea pods
- Cherry tomatoes
- Green beans
- Broccoli
- Blueberries

For the dip:
You Need
- ½ lemon
- 500 grams cooked white kidney beans

Before You Begin
Cut the cucumbers into thin, long pieces. Slice a carrot to make small round pieces. Cut the red pepper into thin strips. Cut the apple (peel on) into matchstick-sized pieces.

1. To make the dip, squeeze half a lemon. Then put the lemon juice and the rest of the ingredients into a blender. Process until smooth. Put it in the refrigerator for several hours or overnight.

Photos by Guy Call Associates, Inc.
Background photo by iStock/tashka2000
2. To make a carrot flower, place a cucumber piece on a large platter. Add two pea pods as leaves. Put a cherry tomato at the top of the “stem” for the flower center, and arrange carrot “petals” around the tomato.

3. To make a red-pepper flower, put a green bean on the platter. Add broccoli “leaves.” Put a round carrot slice or tomato above the “stem.” Add red pepper “petals.”

4. Make more flowers. Then add green apple “grass” and some blueberry “flowers.”
On a Spring Day
An Action Rhyme
By Marilyn Kratz
Art by Clair Rossiter

Skip down the road.
Climb up a tree.
Stretch in the sun.
Pat the green grass.
Hop like a bunny, one, two, three.

Take a deep breath,

and run, run, run!

March 2017
Time to wake up!
Help the sleepy groundhog find his way outside.

Look for these pictures inside the magazine.

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Art by Anja Boretzki