

Take a Break

Gratitude Collage

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Time Needed: 30 minutes

Arts Focus: Visual Arts

Age Range: 3-8

Mini-Lesson Description:

Learn how to make a gratitude collage with gathered images from magazines, newspapers, or printed photos. Learners will select images of people, objects, patterns, and colors that remind them of what they love. The collage can be for themselves or to share with others.

Key Concepts:

Gratitude; Collage; Cutting; Tearing; Glue; Three Dimensional (3D); Two Dimensional (2D); Re-purpose.

Materials Needed/Prep:

- Old magazines, newspapers, and/or photos printed out on a household printer or old photos that can be cut up and glued
- Object to create the collage on such as; a shoebox, tissue box, piece of paper, piece of cardboard, recycled envelope, toilet paper roll, etc. *Cardboard or paper can be cut into the first-letter shape of child's name*
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

Step-by-Step:

1. Take a moment to share some things in your life that you are grateful for. Invite the learner(s) to share what they love and are grateful for. What images come to mind? What colors or patterns? Once you have identified a few themes and ideas then you are ready to get started.
2. Place old magazines, newspapers, or photos and the collage object on a table with glue and scissors. Let the learner(s) select images to tear, cut, or combine for their personal gratitude collage. They can share their thoughts as they make connections.
3. Take the cut-out images and place them on the paper or cardboard, or discuss a plan for how they want to arrange their shapes on the collage object. Allow the learner(s) to lead the arrangement, there is no correct way to create a collage—allow it to be a personal to them.
4. Glue or tape images to the paper or object.
5. Allow the collage paper or object to dry.
6. The learner(s) now have a personalized gratitude collage they can keep or share.

Variations and Next Steps:

- Have learner(s) take photos with a phone and print images at home to make a collage using their own images.
- Cut wood or tape cardboard pieces together into letters or other shapes to collage onto.
- Use letters or words in the collages to create poems or personal statements.
- Engage in conversations around gratitude and the importance of finding daily joy. This activity allows the mind to focus and reflect on what is positive, which is an important early learning skill.
- These personalized collages can be made to keep or as a gift for loved ones and friends.

Watch a video of this Creative Start Mini-Lesson and find more at: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start/>