

Piece-by-Piece Fine Motor Fun: Paper Plate Faces

Children will create their own happy (or silly!) face using a paper plate as the base, adding eyes, a nose, mouth, hair, and fun accessories piece by piece. This simple, tactile activity builds fine motor skills, sequencing, and creativity, helping children see how each small part contributes to a complete whole, just like their own growth and learning!

What you need:

- Paper plates (one per child)
- Pre-cut shapes for eyes, noses, mouths, and hair (paper or felt)
- Yarn or tissue paper for hair
- Glue sticks or sticky dots (for easy application)
- Optional: stickers, buttons, pom-poms, or fabric scraps for accessories and/or different colours of paint to colour their faces.

What to do:

1. Give each child a paper plate to serve as their “face.”
2. Together, talk about facial features – eyes, nose, mouth, hair – and what makes each one unique.
3. Invite children to choose and place each piece one at a time, describing what they’re adding (“Now I’m adding my eyes!”).
4. Encourage them to add fun accessories like hats, bows, or glasses.
5. Once finished, display the faces together to celebrate how each one came together piece by piece or attach a craft stick to the bottom of each face to turn it into a puppet and children can use them for storytelling or songs.

Activity extension: Invite children to create different faces showing emotions (happy, sad, surprised, sleepy) by swapping out paper features with Velcro or sticky tack. Talk about what each face might be feeling and why. This supports emotional awareness and empathy.



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