

Directions for the Angel Craft (Pssst... Don't tell them it's an angel ahead of time, though!)

Supplies: acrylic paints, paint brushes, paint shirts, cups for water, canvas (I bought inexpensive 8x10 inch canvas at WalMart in their craft section), pencils

Main idea: This craft is a fun way for children to work on an art project that will produce a painting of an angel without realizing at first that this is what they are doing. The surprise is part of the fun!

Directions:

1. Have students sit at tables, with paint shirts on, but with paints set aside at first. Explain to the group that they will be sketching an outline for their painting first, in pencil.
2. Have the children turn the canvas over and write their names on the canvas or frame so you will be able to identify each project when it's all done.
3. Here are the verbal directions you will give to the children. Make sure that you hold up an example that you are doing with them to avoid confusion.
 - a. "Start by drawing a piece of pizza with the broad end at the top and the point towards the bottom of your canvas. Put the pizza right in the middle of your canvas."
 - b. "Next, pretend there were two little pepperonis that didn't quite make the pizza, and they are waiting here near the broad end of your pizza slice, ready to jump on."
 - c. "Now, not all the pepperonis missed the pizza... make one piece right at the tip of the pizza, something you'll get on your first bite!"
 - d. "From that tip, and surrounding the pepperoni you just drew, draw a large oval, like an open mouth... chomp! It's going to take a bite of the pizza."
 - e. "Now, let's switch gears for a minute with our imaginations... from pizza, I want to think about other things. Next, draw two rounded hills with flat bottoms on either side of the pizza slice. Place them on either side of the pepperoni that just got swallowed by your oval mouth."
 - f. "We're almost done! Now, I'd like you to draw a nice round ball off the end of the pizza tip, just a little. Make sure it's a little bigger than your pepperoni, but not as big as your mouth. That's right! Good job."
 - g. "Finally, let's say this ball was like a beach ball, filled with air. What happens if we poke a beach ball with a pin? Yes! It deflates... now draw a deflated ball underneath the ball you just drew... nice and flat, but not completely squished."
 - h. "Okay... we're done! A great sketch for us to fill in with our paints... but before we do that, maybe we should turn it right side up!"
 - i. "What is it we have sketched here? Can you tell? That's right, it's an angel!"
4. Have the students use whatever colors of paint that they would like to paint in their angels. I encouraged details and backgrounds as well. Children 5-10 really got into this project and were able to express themselves and enjoy painting without it becoming a mess!
5. Clean up and close with one of the angel stories from the Bible... I did this craft around Advent time, so we talked about the angels that appeared to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds.