

To make participating in NMAAHC art projects easy and accessible, art projects will primarily include items from the list below. (Projects may include additional suggested materials but they will not be required to enjoy the project.)

Use this list to build your own small collection of supplies or at-home “creativity kit.”

Mark-making materials

Markers, crayons and pencils are recommended.

Additional options include pens, colored pencils and child’s watercolor set & paint brush.

Multicultural crayons or markers

These will be used for creating skin colors.

It is important that we are all able to create art that reflects our unique, beautiful skin.

Glue sticks

Additional options may include wet white glue or tape.

Child-scissors

Scissors should be used with adult supervision.

Tearing with your hands is always a safe alternative to cutting with scissors.

Plain white paper

Options may include printer paper, sketchbook paper, the blank backside of a flyer or letter, etc.

Colorful construction paper

Old magazines and newspaper

Painter’s Tape

String

Options may include yarn, ribbon, embroidery thread, etc.

Miscellaneous collage or 3D items

See the NMAAHC Kids’ Resourceful Friends Supplies list for ideas and suggestions for how to gather these materials.

NMAAHC Kids | Resourceful Friends Supplies

Create and play resourcefully! Collect items like the ones listed below to use in future NMAAHC Kids art and play experiences.

Start your collection.

Before tossing or recycling something, think about how it could become an art-making or play material! The items on this list will often be described as miscellaneous or 3D materials in projects and activities. All items should be used under adult supervision and will likely require being made into smaller, more manageable pieces for a child's use. Some items on this list are marked with a * as they are items to consider purchasing specifically for craft use.

- Baby food jars
- Beads*
- Bottles and bottle caps
- Bubble wrap
- Buttons*
- Cardboard
 - Options may include moving or shipping boxes and cereal or food boxes.*
- CDs
- CD cases
- Chopsticks
- Clothes and fabric pieces
 - Options may include fabric cut from old t-shirts or jeans, socks, blankets, towels or pillow cases.*
- Clean cotton balls*
- Coloring book pages
- Corks
- Small crayon pieces
- Dried out markers
- Egg cartons
- Expired dry food
 - Options may include rice, beans or popcorn kernels.*
- Felt*
- Feathers*
- Foam and packing materials
- Grocery bags
 - Options may include paper or plastic.*
- Leaves
- Newspaper
- Old book pages
- Paper plates
- Paper towel rolls
- Party napkins
- Pipe cleaners*
- Popsicle sticks*
- Pom poms*
- Postcards
- Puzzle pieces
- Ribbon
- Rubber bands
- Scrap paper
- Scrapbook paper*
- Screws, nuts and bolts
- Sequins*
- Shoestrings
- Soda can tabs
- Stickers*
- Straws
- String*
- Styrofoam plates or containers
- Tin cans
- Tin foil
- Tinsel
- Tissue paper*
 - Options may include colorful tissue paper used in gift wrapping.*
- Toilet paper rolls
- Water bottles
- Wax paper
- Wrapping paper
- Ziplock bags