

Arts and Crafts Kits

Create your own arts & craft to-go packs using ziplock bags for residents to enjoy in their rooms!

Safety First

Safety is always a top priority, but it is especially important when you are dropping off items for residents to use in their rooms or apartments. It's a good time to make safe decisions like:

- Follow your community's policy on disinfection
- Make sure anything you put into a ziplock bag is either one-time use or washable
- If you are going to reuse any items, the items need to be easy to disinfect (markers, laminated instruction sheets, etc.)
- Never give items to residents who are not able to use them safely without supervision
- Use non-toxic materials

10 Tips for Optimal Results

Keeping individual art and craft kits available for residents is a great way to encourage creativity, decrease feelings of loneliness, and to work on fine motor skills. You can make it easier on your staff, as well as make it more effective for residents if you follow these tips:

1. Make multiple kits of the same craft (for example, make ten beaded necklace bags at a time)
2. Have a new craft kit available each week to make things more interesting and exciting (*Check out our featured craft kit of the week!*)
3. Laminate instruction sheets if you want to be able to reuse them, otherwise just print out instruction sheets that the resident can throw away
4. Include a photo of a completed project as an example
5. Pass out kits to interested residents during an *Art Cart* time where you roll a cart of projects down the hall. You can even have a completed project on the cart so residents can see if they would like to do it
6. Let overnight and evening staff know where the kits are in case residents want a kit when your activity staff is unavailable
7. Remember which residents grabbed a kit by charting their participation so that you can return over the next few days to see if they have any questions
8. Try to choose craft kits that include a finished project they could display and enjoy in their room
9. Take photos of completed projects to send to family members

10. You can start an Art Gallery wall somewhere in the community where residents can admire the work when they are out for a stroll

17 DIY Art & Craft Kits

You can break down any of your arts and crafts projects into single servings. In fact, now is a great time to sift through your activity closet to see if you have some materials you could transform into a fun individual project for residents. You can also use a few of our ideas:

- [Stained Glass](#) Kit: [window markers](#), photos of stained glass windows, painter's tape
- Beaded Necklace Kit: string, beads
- Photo Frame Kit: acrylic photo frames, paint pens
- Spring Wreath Kit: [kits like this](#) are already separated individually, or you can pass out foam wreaths, cutouts, glue sticks, and a ribbon
- Flower Pot Kit: small terracotta pots, paint pens, glue sticks, foam cut outs
- [Tissue Paper Flower](#) Kit: tissue paper, pipe cleaner, scissors
- Bird Feeder Kit: pre-assembled bird feeder, paint pens or paint
- [Tissue Paper Kites](#) (or [any shape](#)) Kits: black construction paper pre-cut, contact paper (pre-cut), tissue paper squares
- [Suncatcher Kits](#): mason jar lid, string, parchment paper, colored pencils or markers
- Stationery Kits: blank cards and envelopes, stamps and ink pads
- Coloring Kits: adult coloring books, colored pencils
- Sketching and Doodling Kits: sketch pad paper, charcoals or pastels, inspiration photos
- Photo Ribbon Kits: long piece of ribbon to hang over the door, tacky glue, favorite family photos
- Yarn Kits: crochet hooks or knitting needles, yarn, pattern
- [Knotted Garland](#) Kit: yarn, rectangle fabric pieces
- Collage Kits: construction paper, glue stick, magazine pages (have a little fun by making the kits [scavenger collage](#) themed)
- [Fabric Carrot](#) (or any vegetable or fruit!) Kits: pre-cut fabric, filler, glue

You just may be surprised and how many residents take a craft kit and complete it. Uncertain times bring out the inner artist in all of us!
