



Craft Book

Welcome and thank you for your willingness to work in the crafts area this year! In this packet you'll not only find the instructions on how to create all the crafts for the week but also lots of helpful tips and hints to make **Robot Academy VBS** the best it can be and tons of fun.

Spiritual Preparation

- The best place to start is always prayer. Before you begin planning for the week of VBS spend some time talking to God about the children He plans to bring and how you can help reach each one of them. You can ask your director for a list of children who have pre-registered and pray for them by name.
- Each day, kids will watch a cartoon about the bots at Robot Academy that will display what it looks like to live the lives they were programmed for. (You can find a summary of each story, the Bible lesson, and verse for the day on your Week Overview.) Each craft ties into the robot school theme or story of the day. Explain to the children why they're making the craft they are, and, if they've already had their lesson time, use the opportunity to ask them about it and reinforce what they learned. For kids that have craft time earlier in the day, you can introduce the biblical theme as you interact with them. (Check out your daily schedule to know best how to talk to them.)
- A great way for kids to see faith in action is through prayer. While crafts isn't usually an area where kids are used to praying you can change that. End your time together with a quick prayer thanking God for the fun you've shared.
- While craft time is meant to be fun and give kids a chance to be creative, it is first and foremost (like all areas of VBS) intended to help children grow spiritually. Keep that in mind as you interact with the other leaders, take time to get to connect with each child, and study the Bible stories and verses during the week.
- Throughout the week kids will learn they are programmed for special actions: kindness, forgiveness, service, and telling others the good news. As you see kids living out their faith in these ways point it out and encourage others to do the same.
- VBS is certainly made to deepen children's relationships with the Lord, but it's also an opportunity for adults to do the same. Ask your director for copies of the lessons and devotions. You too can be reminded of some incredible truths, strengthen your faith, and be better prepared to share with the kids each day.

Experience Preparation

- Kids will love the awesome crafts you teach them to make, but you can make craft time a real experience. Start by naming your craft area something like The Robot Creation Station or Mrs. Bot's Craft Classroom.
- Decorating is a great way to get kids excited. You don't need much. Sectioning off a small area and decorating that makes a little go a long way. Make your craft room look like an art classroom or gallery; hang paintings of robots on the wall and display art supplies. Or turn your area into a robot building facility; hang tools on the wall, print and cut out clip art of gears and control panels (ask your director for these) and hang them from the ceiling. Use your imagination and the possibilities are endless.

- Creating a character for yourself is another fun way to reinforce the robot theme. Paint your face silver and wear a homemade robot costume. Talk in a robotic voice or walk in a robotic fashion.
- Set up an example table. By letting kids see what crafts are coming up throughout the week you get them excited to come back.

Practical Preparation

- Make a sample of each craft ahead of time. It not only gives you an example to show the kids, but also provides you with a better understanding of what parts may take more time or be more difficult.
- Get preparation help. Before VBS begins, gather a few fellow church members to help you with prep, like cutting, printing, or separating small parts into baggies for each child. More hands makes for lighter work, but also gives others a chance to be involved.
- For crafts with many small parts put together individual kits in sandwich bags. Then simply pass out one to each child on the appropriate day.
- Start each day by lining the tables with butcher paper. Tape it down underneath the table top. When kids finish their crafts early pass out crayons and allow them to color on the paper.
- Take large old T-shirts and cut a slit up the entire back. On the days with messier crafts let the youngest classes wear them as smocks.
- Always keep wet wipes on hand and help make sure kids are cleaned up before heading out of craft time.
- Keep paper towels and old bath towels nearby to mop up spills or wipe down kids.
- Ask the teachers bring the kids' workbooks to crafts to be used if they finish something early.
- Have several large garbage cans easily accessible.
- Make labels with the children's names on them ahead of time. Stick them on a portion of their crafts to save time identifying them later.
- Use your best judgment when it comes to prep. We make a few suggestions of what to do beforehand, but your group might require that more or less work be done ahead. If this is your first time leading crafts talk to someone who has done it before.

Needed Materials - Every Day

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Old bath towels
- ☐ Old T-shirts
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Wet wipes
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Garbage cans
- ☐ Labels

Day 1 - Picture Day Frames

Needed Materials

- ☐ Cardstock frames (1 per child)
- ☐ 4x6 photograph of each child
- ☐ 1 Inch pieces of magnetic tape (2 per child)
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Robotic stickers or sticky back foam shapes and letters (optional)
- ☐ Glitter (optional)
- ☐ Glue (optional)
- ☐ Scissors

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Print a cardstock frame for each child. For the smallest children, cut them out completely.
- ☐ If you're not using precut magnetic tape, cut 1 inch strips till you have enough to give each kid two pieces.

Directions

Take a picture of each child during craft time. During the week have a 4x6 of each photograph printed.

Pass out the frames and scissors. Have the children cut them out. Next, let them color their frames with crayons or markers and decorate them with stickers and foam shapes. Turn the frames over and attach the magnetic tape. If you're using glitter let them glue it on after adhering the magnets.

Day 2 - Percussion Instruments

Needed Materials

- ☐ Empty soup-sized cans (1 per child)
- ☐ Balloons (1 per child)
- ☐ Dowel rods, approximately 6 inches each (1 per child for the oldest classes only)
- ☐ Washi tape
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Robotic stickers or sticky back foam shapes and letters (optional)
- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Construction paper, variety of colors
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Lentils or rice
- ☐ Extra-large labels (1 per child for youngest classes)
- ☐ Rubber bands (1 per child)

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Wash out the cans and remove the labels.
- ☐ Cut the dowel rods into six inch pieces and sand the edges till smooth.
- ☐ For the youngest classes cut off the open end of each balloon near where it starts to expand.
- ☐ If your cans are all the same size, you can cut pieces of construction paper to wrap around each one, but don't attach them.
- ☐ If your cans aren't all the same size, cut long strips of construction paper (varying widths) long enough to wrap around your biggest can.

Directions

Pass out an empty can to each child. For the oldest kids, let them cut pieces of construction paper large enough to be able to wrap around their cans. For the youngest classes pass out a mailing label to each kid. Have the children begin decorating their paper or label with the crayons, makers, stickers and foam.

Next have the children spoon a small amount of lentils or rice into their cans. Let children select what color balloon they would each like. If the ends are not yet cut off assist the kids in doing so. Then stretch the balloons over the tops of the cans, creating a drumhead. Secure the balloon in place with a rubber band.

When they are finished help them wrap the papers around their cans and secure them with a piece of scotch tape, or assist them in peeling the back off the label, adhering it to the can.

For those using construction paper, help kids cover the scotch tape with a decorative piece of Washi tape.

Allow the oldest kids to use the Washi tape to wrap around the dowel rods, creating a decorated drumstick.

Variations & Suggestions

If you have a variety of can sizes, rather than having kids decorate a single piece of construction paper and cutting it to size, have them wrap different colored strips around the can, taping each on in place along the back. Then cover the seam with the Washi tape.

Day 3 - Robot Costumes

Needed Materials

- ☐ Foam sheets (variety of colors) (approximately half a 12" x 18" sheet per child)
- ☐ Elastic string
- ☐ Foam shapes (with sticky backs when available)
- ☐ Pipe cleaners (1 per child)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Yarn cut into approximately 18" pieces (1 per child)
- ☐ Glue or glue dots (optional)
- ☐ Additional foam sheet scraps (optional)

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Cut the foam sheets into 6" x 9" rectangles. One per child. These will be the control panel portion of the costume.
- ☐ Cut another rectangle this time 3" x 9" for each kid. These will be the masks. Next cut a 1" x 5" slit in the middle of each mask for the kids to see through.
- ☐ Punch a hole in the middle of the short ends of the masks. Finally, punch two more holes near the top above the eye slit about 5" apart.
- ☐ In the control panels punch two holes at the corners of the long side of the rectangle.

Directions

Pass out a control panel and mask piece to each child as well as a pipe cleaner. Have the children string one end of the pipe cleaner through one of the holes above the eye slit. Then do the same with the other side. Instruct them to bend the pipe cleaner into their desired shape (zig zag, squiggle, arch, etc.) to look like an antenna.

Next, pass around the foam shapes (and glue or glue dots if you don't have foam stickers). Let the children decorate their rectangles to look like control panels and add details to their masks. If you're using foam sheet scraps allow the kids to cut out their own shapes and adhere them to their costumes.

Finally, complete the costumes by tying a piece of elastic string to one of the holes on the side of the mask. Cut it to length for each child and tie into place on the other side. Then have the kids string the yarn through the holes of the control panels and tie the loose ends together so they hang around their necks.

Day 4 - School Supplies

Younger Classes - Jumbo Rainbow Crayons

Needed Materials

- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Foil cupcake liners (1 per child)
- ☐ Cups or containers for sorting (optional)
- ☐ Oven
- ☐ Cupcake pans
- ☐ Sheets of paper
- ☐ Razor (optional)
- ☐ Baggies
- ☐ Sharpie

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Begin by peeling away the paper wrapper of every crayon. Using a razor to cut the paper is very helpful.
- ☐ If the crayons aren't already broken, break them into pieces, about 1/3 the size of a full crayon.
- ☐ If you wish to, you can also sort the crayons into containers by color (all the different blues together, greens, etc.)
- ☐ Number the slots of your cupcake pan.

Directions

Begin by giving each child a foil cupcake liner (or more if you are having them make more than one). Explain that they will be making giant rainbow crayons so they need to select their colors by looking through the containers and filling their cupcake liner with the pieces of their choice. Have the kids fill the liners to the top but not overflowing.

Place each one in a numbered cupcake slot. On the sheet of paper note the child's name and number of his or her slot.

Bake the crayons at 250 degrees and check after five minutes to see if the wax is melted. When it is, remove the pans from the oven and let them cool.

Finally, pop each crayon out of the tin and, noting the number and your list, place the finished crayon in a baggie. Write the name of the child on the bag.

Variations & Suggestions

This is a great time to sort through your old craft supplies. Pull out old broken crayons and use those. Ask your congregation to look through their crayons at home and do the same. Half the fun of this craft is the recycling aspect of it.

This craft can go quickly and since it is so inexpensive it is easy to have kids make multiples to share with their friends and family.

If you wish to do so ahead of time you can carefully number the bottom of the foil wrappers (1-however many children you are expecting). Then number your sheet the same way. As you pass out the tins to the kids put their name on your list next to the number(s) you are giving them

Day 4 - School Supplies

Older Classes - Pencil Pouches

Needed Materials

- ☐ Quilt fabric (variety of colors and patterns) (12" x 9" rectangle per child)
- ☐ Tacky glue
- ☐ Sticky back Velcro pairs (1" per child)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Wet wipes
- ☐ Pencils (optional)

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Cut the fabric into 12" x 9" rectangles so you have one per child.
- ☐ If you're not using precut Velcro pieces cut the tape into 1 inch pieces keeping the pairs velcroed together.

Directions

Begin by letting the kids choose their fabric.

The first step is to create finished edges. Have the kids turn their fabric upside down and draw a very fine line of glue along the edges of their fabric (one side at a time) and fold each up about one inch, creating four "hemmed" edges. Press them down tightly and smooth them out.

Next, help them fold the bottom up so the fabric is almost in half, but leave a little more than an inch at the top. The top portion will become the closing flap. Press down hard on the fold so it creates a crease.

Unfold the fabric and draw another thin line of tacky glue on the left and right sides, below the crease. Refold the fabric and press the sides into place, creating the pouch.

Finally, peel off the back of one of the Velcro pieces and stick it to the top flap. Keeping the Velcro stuck together, peel of the other side, and fold the flap down pressing into place again.

If you wish, after the pencil pouches dry, put a fresh new pencil in each one.

Variations & Suggestions

Using tacky glue on fabric is a bit messy, but fun. As the kids press and seal their pouches it's inevitable they'll get a little sticky. Have wet wipes ready to help them clean up.

We recommend using quilt quarters. They are pre-cut into nice rectangles and simply need to be quartered. Using them saves you time measuring each piece and will allow you a greater variety of colors and patterns for the kids to choose from.

While most brands of tacky glue are for use with fabrics, check yours ahead of time just to be certain.

Day 5 - Robot Bookmarks

Needed Materials

- ☐ Cardstock robot bookmarks (1 per child)
- ☐ Brads (4 per child)
- ☐ Small googly eyes (2 per child)
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Glitter (optional)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Zip top sandwich bags (optional)

To Do Ahead

- ☐ Print a cardstock robot body, arms, and legs for each child.
- ☐ For the smallest children, cut them out completely and punch holes on the X's. For the older classes simply separate the pieces without cutting them out all the way.
- ☐ To keep things simple, create a kit for each child containing: all five robot parts, two eyes and four brads.

Directions

Pass out a kit to each kid. First, have them cut out each robot part completely. When they are finished encourage them to create a robot design with the markers and crayons.

Next, have them punch holes on the X's. Help them connect the arms and legs by overlapping the pieces and inserting a brad into each hole.

With glue, add on the eyes and any glitter you may be using.

When the bookmarks are dry the arms will rest over the top of the page of a book.

Variations & Suggestions

You can also print the robot bookmarks on brightly colored cardstock and let the kids piece their bots together out of different colors.

For smaller groups, or for longer craft times, print only a few cardstock bookmarks and cut them out completely. Then, allow the kids to trace the shapes onto construction paper and draw on their own details.

Craft Materials - Complete List

To print from included materials

- ☐ Cardstock robot bookmarks (1 per child)
- ☐ Cardstock frames (1 per child)

To purchase or collect

- ☐ 4x6 photograph of each child
- ☐ 1 Inch pieces of magnetic tape (2 per child)
- ☐ Robotic stickers or sticky back foam shapes and letters
- ☐ Balloons (1 per child)
- ☐ Dowel rods, approximately 6 inches each (1 per child for the oldest classes)
- ☐ Washi tape
- ☐ Empty soup-sized cans (1 per child)
- ☐ Lentils or rice
- ☐ Extra-large labels (1 per child for youngest classes)
- ☐ Foam sheets (variety of colors) (approximately half a 12" x 18" sheet per child)
- ☐ Elastic string
- ☐ Foil cupcake liners
- ☐ Zip top sandwich bags
- ☐ Quilt fabric (variety of colors and patterns) (12" x 9" rectangle per child)
- ☐ Sticky back Velcro pairs (1" per child)
- ☐ Wet wipes

Items generally found on hand

- ☐ Scotch tape
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Glue or glue dots
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Construction paper, variety of colors
- ☐ Pipe cleaners (1 per child)
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Yarn cut into approximately 18" pieces (1 per child)
- ☐ Tacky glue
- ☐ Cupcake pans
- ☐ Oven
- ☐ Sheets of paper
- ☐ Sharpie

- ☐ Brads (4 per child)
- ☐ Small googly eyes (2 per child)
- ☐ Rubber bands (1 per child)

Optional items

- ☐ Glitter
- ☐ Cups or containers for sorting
- ☐ Razor
- ☐ New pencils