



Creating Toys

by Norma McCormack

Making things is a very important part of learning. Creating something for oneself from the things around is something children have always done. Building their own toys from old wire, empty cans, tire tubes and other cast-off things keeps children happy for many hours. At the same time they learn to concentrate. They also plan and think about what they want to make. All this makes children feel good about themselves.

Think back of how you used to enjoy making things in your early years. Perhaps you lived on a farm and made clay animals or weaved mats from bits of dry sticks or decorated pots with lovely colours. A lot of what you may remember will be the fun and pride you felt when you made things for yourself. To buy toys today is very expensive. Even if we can afford them it is good to encourage children to be creative and make their own from old things around the house.

COLLECT THESE KINDS OF THINGS

Toilet rolls, egg boxes, old empty containers, bits of coloured paper, pictures from magazines, scraps of material and wool, matchboxes, silver paper from cigarette boxes. All these bits and pieces will start your child thinking about making all sorts of wonderful things!

All you have to do is produce a clear space with glue, scissors, some crayons and some of the things you've collected. The rest is over to them to enjoy themselves!



MAKING A CATERPILLAR

- * Take any egg box and pull off the top part.
- * Cut in half the bottom bumpy part into which the eggs fit.
- * Use this to make a small caterpillar. Or the 2 pieces can be joined together with a piece of string or sticky tape to make one long caterpillar.
- * Use paint or crayons to colour the caterpillar and draw its eyes.
- * Stick 2 matchsticks into its head to make feelers.
- * Tie a piece of string to its head so that it can be pulled along the floor.