

“In the Wild”

Module 1, Create a Creature



Prompt:

You are going to create a creature! It can be any kind of creature you want. It can be an imaginary or a real animal.

Think about a few of your favorite animals.

- What do you like about them?
- What do they look like?
- If you could create your own animal, what would it look like?

Materials:

- Blank paper (construction or regular)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Small cardboard boxes, like cereal boxes or tissue boxes
- Pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, or other things to decorate with
- Glue, tape, or glue stick
- Things from your recycle bin (cardboard, toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, yogurt containers, etc.)
- Scissors
- Objects from nature, such as leaves, sticks, or pine cones

An alternative: You could also create a creature using play dough or clay.

Note for caregivers about scissors or other materials: You know your child best. If you are not comfortable letting your child use any of the suggested materials above, you can edit the list to what makes sense for you and your child.

Instructions:

- Read the prompt with your child to get them thinking about their design.
- Outline any safety parameters relevant to your household (for example, any rules around scissor and glue).

- Suggest your child start by making a picture of their animal before they build, using a piece of paper with crayons or colored pencils. Some young children may want to skip the design part and just start building. If this is the case, that's ok! We always encourage children to think about their designs first, but no need to force this part if it's not working.
- Give your child the materials they will be using to create their creature. Give them some ideas about how to stick things together (glue, tape) or cut things apart (scissors, ripping).
- Some children will jump right in. Some children may need a little more prompting to give them ideas of what to do. Here are a few suggestions to get your child started:
 - Would your animal live in a nest, cave, or somewhere totally different?
 - Would it eat berries, grass, waffles, or something else?
 - Is it really fast or really slow?
 - Does it live alone or with lots of other animals?
 - Does it have wings to fly? Something to help it swim underwater? Big ears to hear things far away?

Resources:

This video from Boston Children's Museum's YouTube page gives a great explanation, for parents and kids, of how to create something new from recycled materials: [Arts and Crafts: Silly Sculptures](#).

Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Challenge them to create the creature's home, either drawing it or building it.
- Invite them to create a story about the creature and act it out (like a puppet show).
- Ask them what other creatures live where your creature lives? Encourage them or construct another creature out of recycled materials.
- Ask them what their creature eats? Invite them to make a meal for their animal.

Together with your child, go to the "In the Wild" topic on Flipgrid and share their creature.