



ART ACTIVITY: CRITTER COLLAGE

ART WITH HEART LESSON: MAGNIFICENT MARVELOUS ME!, FACE IT

MAGNIFICENT MARVELOUS ME! WORKBOOK p 20 | MAGNIFICENT MARVELOUS ME! LEADER'S COMPANION p 86-87

TIME: 60-90 min (Activity can be split into two sessions.)

SUGGESTED GRADES: 2nd-3rd grade

THERAPEUTIC GOALS:

(Consider the goals of your participants.)

SEL:

- Identity Building
- Emotion Identification
- Empathy

INTRODUCTION: PRIMING ACTIVITY (10-20 min)

(Begin to set intention for art making.)

Have participants work in their *Magnificent Marvellous Me!* workbooks by following the prompts on page 20. Next, give each child a piece of paper with a circle on it. Tell them they have five minutes to make the circle into an animal of their choice showing an emotion of their choice. Explain that once five minutes is up, they'll come back to the group and other members will guess the animal and emotion. While the children are working, work on a picture of your own in the same time frame. Explain that this isn't meant to be perfect. Once they're finished, go around the circle and have the group guess each emotion. Ask children why they think a picture looks happy or sad—is it the eyebrows? How did they show emotions with lines or shapes?.

ART ACTIVITY: CRITTER COLLAGE (35-50 min) VIDEO TUTORIAL

(Time for depthful creative expression.)

MATERIALS: Mod Podge, thick paper/cardstock, glue brushes, small cups for glue and water, paper towels, magazines with animal images (or precut animal images), markers

PREP: Cut out a variety of animals from magazines. They can be cartoon or real, and can be found in *National Geographic*, *Zoobooks*, or other children's magazines. If time doesn't allow, collect whole magazines, checking them beforehand to ensure there's nothing inappropriate in them. Create an example of your own critter collage to share.

EXPLAIN: *We're going to collage our very own animals. Maybe they can have the head of a goat and the legs of a giraffe. Maybe they can fly as well as swim. It's up to you! Show children how to collage using Mod Podge. Show that a thin layer of Mod Podge goes a long way. Also show how to brush right over an image to make it flat, assuring children that it will dry clear (have a dried collage to show). Also show how children can use markers or pencils to draw an environment around the animal, but discuss how marker will not work on top of glue.*

CREATE: If children are cutting out their own images, hand out a magazine and scissors to each of the participants. As with all collage projects, it's best to give children a time limit on how long they can search for images in the magazines so they don't get too distracted. After children have collected their images for their animal, have them cut out their images and arrange them on the cardstock. Have participants use Mod Podge to stick the images on the cardstock and set aside to dry. When the Mod Podge is dry, children can use markers to create an environment for the animal. As they're working, explain that you're going to ask them three questions: Where does your animal live? What does it eat? How is it feeling today? That way they'll be thinking of those answers and won't feel put on the spot

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (15-20 min)

(Be sure to spend time sharing, discussing, and reflecting.)

- *Ask the questions mentioned earlier: Where does your animal live? What does it eat? How is it feeling today?*
- *Elaborate on animal questions: What is your animal's greatest strength? Greatest challenge?*
- *Think about how you think your animal is feeling. Why do you think they feel that way?*
- *What happens in your body when you have that feeling (my stomach hurts, my muscles feel tense, etc.)?*
- *What do you do when you feel that same way?*
- *When is a time you've felt that way, too?*

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

(Extend today's thinking beyond the group.)

Together with a loved one, create a new animal drawing. Share with each other what the animal means to you, and take some time to add an environment, more legs, eyes, or whatever you want.

[WATCH OUR VIDEO ON HOW TO LEAD CREATIVE EXPRESSION.](#)