

Foil Sculptures

Art, Music, and Movement



Level: Preschool

Cost: Under five dollars

Mess factor: Little

Suggested room in the house: Kitchen table or patio table outside



Who knew that a simple kitchen item like tin foil could be so fun and exciting? Get ready to learn just how creative your child really is!

Your child will experience:

- Creativity
- New words

Materials:



- Roll of tin foil
- Piece of paper
- Marker

Beginning:

Give children a piece of aluminum foil to look at and explore. Ask them to describe what they see. Write down on the piece of paper the comments children make about it (for example, “it’s shiny”; “it’s flat”; “it crinkles”). Follow what children do with the tin foil and do the same thing. If they squish it, you squish it. If they tear it, you tear it. This is called imitation and they love to be the leader!



Middle:

Make comments about how the tin foil is taking on different shapes. Use words like twist, form, bend and squeeze to describe what children are doing. Tell them that the word *sculpture* is used to describe an object that is made by molding, bending, or twisting materials into a specific shape. Ask children if they can *sculpt* their foil into something. Offer children more tin foil when needed. Twist your foil into different shapes and comment on what you’ve done. Then comment on what they are doing and listen to what they have to say.



If possible use the paper to write down the words children use to describe their work. However, don’t let creating the list get in the way of having a fun art experience with children.

End:

Give children an opportunity to share what they have done. Reread what you have written on the paper and ask them if there are any other words they would like to add.

Cleanup:

Have children help clean up any scraps of tin foil. Let them find a place in the house to display their sculpture.

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Younger children:

- Young toddlers probably won't talk as much about what they are doing. They will be more interested in just making things and exploring the tin foil.
- Young children enjoy when others copy what they are doing. Follow your children's lead and copy what they do!
- Describe what you see them doing like "Oh you are tearing that into lots of pieces."
- Give them other kinds of materials to explore like tissue paper, construction paper, plastic wrap and wax paper.



Older children:

- School-age children love this activity because sculpture is a very different way for them to express themselves. Their sculptures will have many details.
- Give them a shoebox and let them create scenes.
- Challenge them to sculpt themselves.
- Add other props like toothpicks, yarn, and toilet tubes to extend their creations.
- They might like to do this project over several days so make sure you have a place to keep the works-in-progress.



Hints:

- Some brands of tin foil are very thin while others are thick. Most children like sculpting with the higher quality tin foil because it will hold the shape better.



More!

- If you have a local art museum, see if they offer free days to the community and check out any sculpture art they may have.
- Go online and find different sculptures to show your child.
- Go to the library and check out books on art.
- Drive around town and try to find sculptures. Home improvement stores and places that make garden art are great places to find sculptures!

Special Needs Accommodations:

- **For a child that might be sensitive to touch**, try using different kinds of materials. Shaving cream can be sculpted and some children enjoy the softness.
- **For children with a physical need**, you can place the tin foil over their hand, foot or even face to create a personalized sculpture.

