

All things Egyptian

Kids (and adults, too) are always fascinated by Egyptian things: mummies and scarabs and hieroglyphics enthrall us all. Captivated by the mystique of Tut? Here are a few creative ways to expand on your child's interest while ensuring great sensory experiences:



Make a Pyramid: Assemble pyramids using sugar cubes. Use white glue to make them stick, if desired.

This activity is great for fine motor control.



Make a Beaded Necklace:

Ancient Egyptian men and women wore beaded necklaces, bracelets, and anklets. Supply children with colored beads and yarn or lanyard, or pipe cleaners (which won't wiggle) for the younger child. Let children thread beads onto yarn to make colorful necklaces.

This activity is great for hand-eye coordination and fine motor control.

Depending on your child's interest and ability, you can also make your own beads out of playdough or oven-bake sculpey clay left out to dry (be sure to use a pencil to make a hole for stringing). Let children experiment with different sizes and shapes of dough. Roll in paint or paint with a brush. Beads can be strung when they are completely dry.

This activity is great as a sensory experience, and for fine motor control.

Make Papyrus:

Papyrus was the paper of ancient Egypt. If you don't have river reeds to weave (!!!), substitute cut strips of preferably green paper. Strips should be about 1" X 10". Weave them together as if you were making a small placemat.

This activity is great for fine motor control and for visual perceptual development.

Soak the mat briefly in water, and then pound the mat flat with a rock or a hammer. Flip it over and pound the other side flat. (The pounding will no doubt be your child's favorite part of this activity). Let the mat dry outside until it is not green anymore but all brown and dry.

This activity is great as a sensory experience.

Write like an Egyptian: This site translates names or words into hieroglyphics: <http://www.quizland.com/hiero.htm>.

This activity is great for developing basic keyboarding skills and visual scanning for younger kids, and reinforcing skills and as a visual perceptual activity for older kids.

Walk like an Egyptian: show your kids the Bangles video or Steve Martin's classic "King Tut" (both readily available on the internet). Then get up and dance!

This activity is great for gross motor skills and motor planning.

