



Dancing Hats!

Toddlers love to scribble and move. Combine the two for great fun—make party hats to wear for dancing!

Group

Baby Club Med/ 12 months to 24 months

Materials Needed

Beginnings™ TaDoodles™ Crayon Buddies
Beginnings™ TaDoodles™ First Marks
Beginnings Tidy Tops
clear adhesive tape
white paper

Safety Guidelines

- **Age recommendation for this craft:** 18 months and older
- Close adult supervision is required to ensure children's safety.

Requirements for Younger Children

- For children from ages 12 through 17 months, use **ONLY** Beginnings TaDoodles Crayon Buddies.

Prepare the Room

1. Make sure the room is safe and ready for active toddlers. Experiment with the markers and crayons. Create a sample hat like the one toddlers and their parents will make. Make it festive with lots of colors!
2. Post colorful pictures of local dances and celebrations. Display hats typically worn by people in the area.
3. Select a book (or excerpt from one or more) about the country and/or dancing. Practice adding gestures and different voices for dramatic effects.
4. Post step-by-step hat-folding directions.
5. Lay out supplies. Set up local music.



Set the Scene for Toddlers and Parents 8 to 10 minutes

- Welcome toddlers and their parent(s) by name. Make sure everyone finds a comfortable place to sit (toddlers may prefer a familiar lap).
- Share hats from the display. Has anyone seen people wearing hats like these? Talk about the different kinds of hats people wear.
- Present one or more of the books, showing the pictures for all to see. Show a particularly colorful hat. What colors are on this hat? Tell the toddlers and their parents that they will play together to make colorful hats to wear for dancing!

Activity for Toddlers 10 to 15 minutes

1. Parents help toddlers put on their artist smocks. "Artists wear smocks. It's time to put yours on, too."
2. Show the Beginnings™ TaDoodles™ Crayon Buddies and First Marks. Demonstrate how the TaDoodles naturally fit a toddler's palm grasp. Toddlers and parents select one or colors and a sheet of white paper. Children from 12 to 17 months use only Crayon Buddies.
3. Encourage moms and dads to show their children how to hold their TaDoodles. Suggest they help their children scoop them up and turn them over. Some toddlers will immediately scribble on the paper. Others may need time to warm up to the idea. A few may want to roll the TaDoodles like balls. Exploring is what toddlers do best!
4. Invite children to create exciting, colorful designs on their papers! Suggest that parents offer encouragement. "Those splashy red and yellow colors are so exciting! Look what happened when the red got mixed in with the yellow! What color did you make?"
5. When children finish, show parents how to help their children fold the decorated papers into hats in a style that suits the resort location. Demonstrate each step and allow time for everyone to make their folds. See step-by-step drawings. Encourage families to try other folding methods for different shapes of hats if they like!



After the Activity 8 to 10 minutes

Mexico

Children hold their hats or place them on the floor in front of them while listening to Mexican Hat Dance music! Parents and children dance along to the songs. Invent steps and words to the music!

Movement & Music

Play recordings such as these while children decorate their papers and afterwards for festive dancing!

Mexico

- *Cinco de Mayo Party Music* by DJ's Choice
- *Fiesta Musical: A Musical Adventure Through Latin America for Children* from Music for Little People
- *Mariachi From Mexico* by Mariachi Lopez Varanga and Los Lobos

Variations by Destination

Mexico

Mexican hats are called sombreros. The really big ones are called sombreros galoneados. These large hats provide lots of shade (sombra means shade in Spanish). Sombreros are typically part of mariachi performers' clothing. The hats have wide brims and high crowns and are made from felt or velvet. Today, they are embroidered with colorful or metallic thread, often in radiating rays, and the edges are decorated with trim or buttons.

The Mexican Hat Dance comes from a traditional courtship dance, Jarabe Tapatio. This dance became popular when famous ballerina Anna Pavlova included it in her repertoire. The music is a medley of Mexican folk songs and often singing goes along with the dancing.

Books to Keep Kids Reading

Mexico

Baby Dance by Ann Taylor

Barnyard Dance! by Sandra Boynton

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Colors of Mexico by Lynn Ainsworth Olawsky & Janice Lee Porter

El Sombrero del Tia Nacho (Uncle Nacho's Hat)

!Hola! Jalapeno (board book) by Amy Wilson Sanger



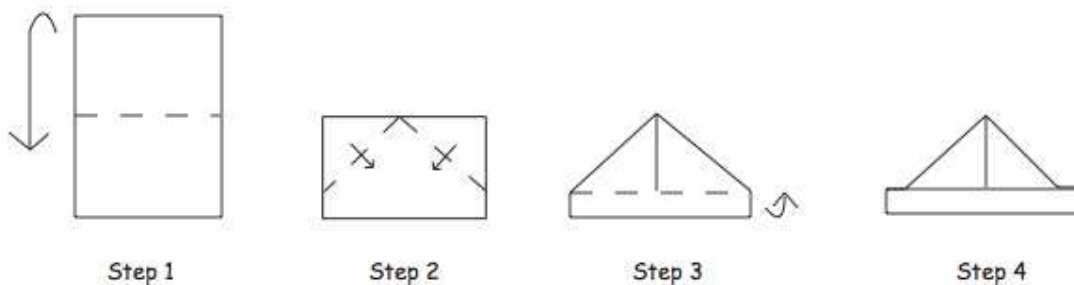
Market Day by Lois Ehlert

Mexico ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of Mexico by Sarah
Heiman

Graphic Directions/Examples

Mexico

Step-by-step folding directions for sombrero-style hat



Step 1. For sombrero-style hats, fold the paper vertically in half.

Step 2. With the folded side at the top, fold the top left and top right corners down to the center of the paper. Leave about 1" of paper on the bottom.

Step 3. Fold up that 1" strip of paper.

Step 4. Flip the hat over, and fold the other 1" strip of paper up. Open the bottom of the paper to form a hat!

More Fun Ideas

Some toddlers may decorate their papers quickly. Enjoy these easy activities with parents and toddlers who finish early.

- Demonstrate how to tear decorated paper into streamers or fun shapes. Tape to the hat.
- Design more hats! Fill paper with colorful designs and tear or fold into any style of hat. Experiment with different ways of folding.
- Encourage parents and their toddlers to browse through the books and hats on display.



Surf Crayola.com

Children might enjoy these similar colorful projects, all found on Crayola.com. Substitute age-appropriate craft supplies to assure children's safety.

- Match the Colors
- Paper Petals
- Toddler Dot and Dash Painting

Fun Facts About Crayola Colors

Fiesta food is colorful! Red salsa sizzles, yellow corn is sweet, and green guacamole is good to eat!

Connect With Families

Distribute parent handouts.

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Fiesta Hats!

Mexico

Dear Parents,

We hope you and your toddler enjoyed making a colorful Fiesta Hat for our Mexican Hat Dance! Take it home as a souvenir of your trip. Your child will enjoy showing friends and family how exciting it is to scribble and dance!

Encourage your child to talk about the project. Share observations: "These swirling lines make me think of the dance we just did!" Ask questions and prompt thoughtful responses: "Show me how you made these red zig zags." Children enjoy talking about the unique qualities of their work.

We have suggestions for more resources about the colors and rhythms of Mexico, especially books that will engage your child's imagination. Just ask us!

Thanks for bringing your toddler to Baby Club Med featuring Crayola® creative fun!

Visit www.Crayola.com for these and other cool, colorful activities as your toddler explores the wonderful world of art.

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- Paper Petals
- Toddler Dot and Dash Painting

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