

Create Collage Portraits

In this activity, we are exploring collage to create a picture of ourselves. We are using language around facial features, lines, shapes and feelings.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT MAKES YOU SUPER-DUPER?

The word "collage" comes from the French word 'coller,' 'to glue.'

When we collage, we glue, stick or paste materials to another surface.

Many illustrators use collage to create the illustrations in a picture book. Eric Carle is a perfect example. Introduce this activity by first reading a book that explores Self.

This activity is perfect for reusing and recycling paper scraps, fabric offcuts and loose parts.

You will need:

- Sheets of paper or cardboard box offcuts (e.g cereal boxes, delivery boxes)
- Pencil or marker
- Paper scraps and any other offcuts you may have
- Glue – PVA or craft glue works best. A glue stick is fine, but often won't hold heavier items like buttons or loose parts.
- Mirrors (optional)

Consider the pencil grip and drawing skill level of your children. You could use a black marker on paper to model how to draw a round shape to represent your head. Talk about how you're trying to go from one edge of the paper to the other to fill the space.

If children don't have the pencil grip to draw a round shape, you might provide them with a sheet of paper with a pre-drawn head. Alternatively, you could provide children with a pre-cut round shape out of cardboard offcuts.

What features of your face do you need to show?

What materials will you use to show them?

- Discuss the features of your face and use specific language to describe the kinds of lines and shapes you might use to create facial features.
- *E.G "I might draw two straight lines next to each other. I might join these two lines with a little 'w' and that's my nose!"*
- *"I have two eyes. To draw my eyes, I will use two curved lines. Or maybe I can find two round objects in the collage box to be my eyes?"*



If you have handheld mirrors, you might encourage children to carefully study their faces.

- *"Is your nose above your mouth or below it?"*
- *"What does your face do when you are happy? When you are angry? How does your face change when you have different feelings?"*

Encourage students to explore the collage materials and practice placing the materials in position on the head. Once they are happy with their final product, introduce the glue and model how to use *"just a dot, not a lot"* to stick everything into position.

Once the artworks have dried, you might encourage children to share their collage portrait with a friend. Alternatively, you might run this as a whole-group activity where students discuss their work with the group.



To conclude, you might ask:

- How does your art make you feel?
 - Encourage children to reflect on the materials they used and why they used them.
- What did you use to show your eyes? Why did you choose that material?
- What makes you super duper?