

Wax Seals



My mum's button box turned out to be a good source of old buttons with a raised pattern on them. Alternatively you could try car boot sales or second hand markets for interesting buttons.

Equipment:

Textured buttons	Corks
Glue	Scissors
Play Doh (optional)	Paper
Candles, wax crayons or microwaveable wax	

Method:

1. We tested all the buttons on a piece of rolled out Play Doh first to see which ones left the best impressions.
2. Using the scissors, make a hole in the end of a cork big enough to fit the shank of the button into (the bit you would normally thread the cotton through).
3. Glue the button onto the cork.
4. Fold a piece of paper into 3, ensuring the last fold finishes in the middle and not at the edge of the sheet.
5. **Option 1:** Follow the instructions on the pack of microwave wax. Or, using an old ceramic pot, melt a couple of wax crayons in the microwave, about 40 secs is long enough. Note the pot heats up and you can then roll the crayon around inside to melt it completely. Using an oven glove, let the children pour a puddle of wax onto the join of paper.
Option 2: Light a candle and let the wax drip onto the paper. This is the easiest method (but uses a naked flame). Also the colour is often not as strong.
Option 3: Use a lit candle to melt the end of a wax crayon to drip onto the paper. You need quite a deep puddle of wax for best results.
6. Wait for the wax to cool - it goes from shiny to matt - then use the button/cork seal to press onto the wax. Don't press too hard. Leave to set hard.

Tips: We found metal buttons worked better with the wax than plastic.

It's handy to have a tea light on the go as a constant source of flame, rather than lighting lots of matches.

If you are using a candle to melt a wax crayon, short candles are easier to handle.

For microwave wax try www.hobbycraft.co.uk

If using any of the naked flame options, conduct a thorough risk assessment first!

See our Facebook page for more photos of this activity!

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PSED	Personal, Social and Emotional Development
PD	Physical development
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