Material-Making
For the “Creatively Challenged”

I don’t know where to start.

I don’t have any ideas.

I’m just not the “creative type”.

Presented by Elizabeth Hamel
AMS Annual Conference 2018
Denver, CO
You are creative!

- What is creativity?
- What is NOT creativity?
- Creativity as an act of self-care
"You can just buy this at Target! It's so cheap!"

"Oh wow, someone's got too much time on their hands!"

"Do the children even notice?"
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Skills to Practice

Working with fabric/fiber
- Basic hand sewing
- Needle felting

Working with wood
- Natural wood stain and sealant (safe for mouthing)

You are an artist! Basic drawing/painting techniques.
Time

You don't have any. Don't wait for it to suddenly "appear" in your life.

Creativity is a process and a practice. Make time for it like you would exercise or meditation.
Materials

Basic craft materials:
- Felt/fabric/fiber (yarn, raw wool)
- Basic sewing kit and good scissors
- Recyclables (corks, egg cartons)
- Items from nature (sticks, pebbles)
- Unfinished wood items
- Hot glue gun
- Mod Podge
- Velcro
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Get inspired!

- At its core, creativity is problem solving. Think like a toddler: what will draw them in and keep them interested?
Fabric & Felt

- Basic hand sewing
  - Weather symbols
  - Color matching mat

- Iron-on fusible webbing

- No-Sew Projects:
  - Fabric Matching
  - Fabric Fractions
Fiber

- Needle Felting
  - Ladybugs
  - Strawberries
  - Bumblebees

- Knit & Crochet
Wood

- Peg people color match
- Snowflake matching
- Wooden shape puzzles
Recyclables

- Cork Lock & Key
- Cork Menorah
- Egg carton scavenger hunt box
Drawing & Painting

- Process over product (always!)
- Snack cards
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