

Ages 8 and Up



Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.
—Pablo Picasso

When did you stop doing arts and crafts that came in a box with a minimum age requirement such as *Ages 8 and Up*? There is no maximum age for this activity, so go to a crafty store and find a kit that appeals to your inner child. If the girlfriend hosting *Ages 8 and Up* is not afraid of turning her kitchen into an explosion of random designs, select Baboushka Russian doll painting, glitter art, or make your own volcano. Origami, crochet art and balloon modeling are better choices of clean crafts for girlfriends who want to keep their playrooms pristine.

Once you have selected your kit, complete the art or craft according to the instructions (or just wing it) while your girlfriends do likewise, and then compare results and share key discoveries.

Wine is not recommended with *Ages 8 and Up*, but it's a good ingredient to add to the mix, particularly if papier-mâché and balloons are involved.



Lynne's Giggles

I'm not sure why I chose a papier-mâché dino-making kit, but I think it had something to do with a false childhood memory of the joys of papier-mâché. I

FUNNY BONE

ignored the inner voice that told me that, due to my innate inability to follow detailed instructions or instructions of any kind, I should choose something in the Ages 5 and Up category.

Here is the finished product (and what it should have looked like):



MY DINOSAUR BECAME EXTINCT SHORTLY AFTER SHE SCARED MY HUSBAND DURING A POWER OUTAGE

J Julie's Giggles

I chose a lovely fairy princess window mosaic and won the prize for the craft that most closely resembled the picture on the box (for this accomplishment Lynne called me a bitch, but it was artistic jealousy and bitterness about her dinosaur difficulties that made her say it).

If you decide to do Ages 8 and Up, be sure to pick a craft that does not have many little bits and pieces and, if it does, ensure that it comes with glue that is sticky. If the box says "Choking Hazard - Small Parts," select another box.

My mosaic hung upside down on my daughter's bedroom window until a flurry of fairy tiles scattered on the floor prompted me to toss out the entire mosaic. I'm still finding little plastic bits and pieces in my daughter's bedroom, but I'm glad she's still holding onto a few of my fairy tiles.

*Deb's Giggles*

I chose a paint-by-numbers dolphin set that brought back fond memories of when I used to do paint-by-numbers at my grandma's house. Grandma would make such a fuss over the completed project and would hang my masterpiece on the corner of the big mirror in her living room. Back then, when I went outside the lines or used the wrong color crayon, I just corrected it as best I could and moved on. Doing the paint-by-numbers as an adult I found myself being extra careful not to make a mistake, as if there was no margin for error. We all took the quality of our craftwork quite seriously. When did we become so critical of ourselves?

Mostly, paint-by-numbers is a relaxing way to enjoy and pass the time. I think I'll do this activity again...