



learning at home

IN THE AIR: MAKE A MINI BIRD

ACTIVITY DEvised BY ESTHER NESLEN

You will need

- a toilet roll
- masking tape
- a pencil
- another pencil or a wooden skewer
- modelling clay
- scissors
- paint or coloured paper and a glue stick
- clear tape

1. About three quarters of the way down the toilet roll tube, push one side of the roll onto the opposite edge at the bottom. Then fold in both sides of that taper to make a wedge shape, a bit like starting to wrap a present. The back should be flat and the front tapering, like the mouthpiece of a recorder. Using masking tape, tape it in place. Now you have your bird's tail.
2. Take a small lump of modelling clay and hold it on the inside of the tube in the middle, above the fold you've just made. Push a pencil or a wooden skewer through to make the handle. If you're worried about poking yourself, find a grown-up who will help you with that bit. You can take the skewer out for now, and take out the modelling clay too.
3. At the open end of the tube make six 2cm cuts straight down to make six tabs at the top of your bird. Fold five of these tabs inwards to meet in the middle, leaving one tab at the bottom. Tape the five tabs in place with masking tape. Fold the final tab into a beak shape (cut it into shape with scissors if that's better) and tape that too. Now you have the body of a bird.
4. Print the wing template or design your own and cut it out, then draw round it onto some thin cardboard. Cut out the wing shape and tape it to the back of the bird.
5. You can paint your bird or decorate it in other ways. I painted some sheets of paper in the colours of a blue tit, then tore the paper into little pieces and stuck those onto the body so it looks a bit like feathers.
6. When you are happy with your bird, put it back on the stick and tape them together with clear tape. Then you can take it for a fly! You can display it in your garden, or a houseplant pot. If you like you can take it off the stick, tie thread round it and hang it from your window or make a mobile.

Don't forget to take a photo and share it with us on Instagram (@morrisingallery) or Twitter (@wmgallery) using the hashtag #WMGfamilies #WGPinthear

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← William Morris's daughter May loved birds just like her father. This is one of her beautiful embroideries

