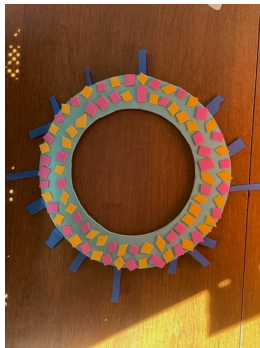**REFLECTION:**

I particularly enjoyed having to actually complete these crafts in that they reminded me of the fine motor skill demand and growth opportunities that are placed on kids when they take on art projects. The bird, in particular, as did other assignments in this class, reminded me that making art is hard and I'm not particularly gifted at most of it, all of it. The opportunities to employ counting and other math skills in the wreath became apparent as I, like a lot of kids I watch take on such activities, compulsively sorted out the colored squares and arranged them into patterns. Combined with the fine motor and composition demands, craft projects like this, I'm reminded, are multi-modal brain builders and great fun for kids. These projects make kids look forward to coming to the library and help build positive connotations that could help build interest in seeking out reading experiences and are therefore critically important activities for a wide variety of reasons.

LIS 519 Class Crafts Wreath and Bird   Jun 22, 2022 12:46PM

Chipboard Wreath Ring (Self-Adhesive):

How can this project be used in a library or classroom?

I especially like how this project can be used with kids whose motor skills might be challenged by brushes and paint. Glue sticks and paper and other materials selected according to

theme would be all that would be needed to get primary grade kids moving on this one.

How can you tie this activity to books or the curriculum?

I have to look up the title, but a Christmas story I shared with kids years ago about a bear who dives under the ice and creates a beautiful wreath from water frozen to a bare cord tangled around his neck would be a great tie-in for this project. Paper strips in blue and white, cut or folded into angles would be easy glue stick material for this project.
What age group of youth would you do this project with?

This would be a great project for pre-k and primary grades.

 What do you think the appeal would be?

Kids could have fun emulating the art from a text or creating their own designs with provided materials
Rate the project:
How easy was the project? 1=very easy, 2=easy, 3=not too easy or difficult, 4=difficult, 5=very difficult
Would the cost of doing this project with a group be acceptable?

This would be an appropriate project for those with developing motor skills. I would rate it as a "2".

How could you "jazz up" or improve the project?

Tying into themes from texts or adding additional media such as beads would only make this project more fun.

Terracotta Hanging Bird:

How can this project be used in a library or classroom?

This project could easily be tied to a library and classroom activity where characters, natural science, or seasonal celebrations were involved.

How can you tie this activity to books or the curriculum?

My first thought was of connecting the activity to a study of local wild birds or ornithology and having kids show their understanding of local bird markings by decorating the birds as much like those studied as possible. They could also make up their own bird markings. The birds could also be decorated as characters from picture books.

What age group of youth would you do this project with?

Depending on the assignment, this activity could be used with a wide variety of grades. Middle school grades could paint birds as part of a unit on scientific observation. Primary grades could use the activity in character-based lessons or imaginative play.

 What do you think the appeal would be?

Paints are fun to all ages of kids. If brush or color mixing techniques we're demonstrated, they could benefit from practicing and applying those techniques to the project as well.
Rate the project:
How easy was the project? 1=very easy, 2=easy, 3=not too easy or difficult, 4=difficult, 5=very difficult

In that my brush strokes and paint application did not turn out at all the way I hoped they would, I'd have to say that I found painting with control to be surprisingly difficult. In that

respect, I'd rate this project a "4".
Would the cost of doing this project with a group be acceptable?

I think it would be as my school and library would probably already have paints and markers on hand. A deal breaker could be the cost of the terracotta, but hopefully that unit price would be low, especially if purchasing in bulk.

How could you "jazz up" or improve the project?

Adding different media like glitter, google eye, wider variety of paint, etc would all enhance the project.