

**Level:** Preschool

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Mess factor:** Some

**Suggested location:** Kitchen table



Making a bookmark will help your children express their creativity, and at the same time, they will be making something useful!

**Children will experience:**

- Creative art
- Writing

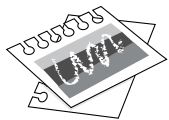
**Materials:**



- Paper cut into wide strips
- Markers
- Crayons
- Any art supplies like construction paper, confetti, stickers
- Contact paper

**Beginning:**

Show children any examples you might have of bookmarks. If you don't have any, explain that people use something called a bookmark to hold their place in a book, rather than bending down a page or losing their spot. Show them the strips of paper and say this is what bookmarks usually look like. Put out the markers and art supplies and tell them they can decorate their bookmark any way they would like.



**Middle:**

As they decorate the bookmark, make encouraging comments like "Oh, I see you are using a lot of colors" or "Tell me about your drawing."

When they are finished decorating a bookmark, cover it in contact paper to preserve the art work and lengthen the life of the bookmark.



**End:**

Ask your children if they would like to read or look at one of their favorite books. When they are done, ask them if they would like to mark the page of their favorite picture or simply place the bookmark in the book to be ready for the next time!

**Cleanup:**

Let children tell you what they want you to clean up and then you get to tell them what to clean up!

**Younger children:**

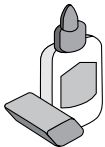
- Younger children will still like to draw and decorate on the paper!
- Have younger children decorate a simple cardboard box. Place the box in their room or wherever they sleep. Let them place their favorite books in the box!

**Older children:**

- Let older children poke a hole at the top of the bookmark with a hole punch. Have them cut some yarn to make a long tassel.
- Have children make bookmarks for their school class for Valentine's Day or any special celebration!
- Have children make a bookmark and donate it to a local literacy charity.

**Hints:**

- These make great holiday gifts for family members!

**More!**

- Anything you can do to excite children about reading will pay off in the long run. Let them be creative and have fun during this project. Who knows? They might begin reading chapter books before you know it!

**Special Needs Accommodations:**

- For children with limited vision, let them decorate awards that they can tape to the covers of books-on-tape, to indicate their favorites!
- For a child with limited fine-motor skills, increase the size of the paper. Help the child peel stickers instead of drawing, if necessary.

