

Get Creative

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I can still remember watching Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street years ago, two friends with different hobbies, interests, personalities, and temperaments. I was fascinated by Bert's serious and focused enjoyment of paper clips and pigeons while Ernie's pranks and imaginative play wreaked hilarious havoc. Through it all, songs were sung including the lines "I may not like all the things that you like, but I like you." Despite their differences in opinion, Bert and Ernie have remained a model of friendship including appreciating others' interests and trying new things.

March is National Craft Month, and we hope you will consider the many wonderful resources the library has to support you in your next project or in learning something new. COVID may have put a damper on some of our in-person programming, but the library still has lots to offer to keep you going. Be sure to watch out for Ms. Kathryn's STEM tutorials released online. Stop by the Children's Room to pick up the accompanying kit, and then watch and create together when the video is released. You can also get games or puzzles through our Library of Things now available for checkout.

In addition, we're excited to offer thousands of easy to follow, award winning art and craft classes through Creativebug's video library. Just signup with your library card number and your catalog or Overdrive password to get started. If you haven't setup a password or forgot what it was, you can stop by the circulation desk or call us at 359-8331, and we'll be happy to help you. If you're looking for a bit more structure or guidance, we've got you covered. We'll be offering communal art and craft classes tied to Creativebug courses on a variety of interests. In March, I'm hosting a Creative Doodling class through Zoom. Registration is full, but keep an eye out for our in-person classes coming up in April and May!

This past year has been a stressful one, for a variety of reasons. Why not use one of your hobbies or try something new to help relieve stress? Studies by the Association for Creative Industries about the mental and emotional effects of participating in arts and crafts show that taking time to get creative can bring a sense of accomplishment, relaxation, enjoyment, contentment, and fulfillment. In addition, participating in crafts with others, especially children, can help people develop warmer relationships. It's a handy benefit if your house is feeling a bit of cabin fever.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we also have a wide variety of books on arts and crafts available for checkout in our collection. Whether you take back up an old hobby or try something new, we hope you find some enjoyment in creating this month. As librarians, we'd be happy to assist you in accessing our resources or in celebrating your creation when you finish a project. As a final note, I would like to personally thank our wonderful patrons, my excellent co-workers, and the community of New Ulm for welcoming me and my family. We arrived in New Ulm a year ago, and we look forward to being here for years to come.