

My Monthly Rip & Tear Book

Directions:

- You can do these singly whenever you choose as an art center to increase fine motor skills and strengthen finger muscles, or you can *Teach With Me* and do them consistently, once each month, use them as a bulletin board, save them, compile and bind them into a Keepsake Book, for your students to take home in June.
- I run them off on white construction paper.
- I cut small strips of construction paper about $\frac{3}{4}$ th inch in width. You can do a 1 inch width if you want them to be able to fill up the space faster. I like the smaller width as they can maneuver around edges easier.
- For the Rainbow in April, I have taught them the correct color order.
- I give them a strip of each color. I have them rip a pile of each color. They place a square of each color red-orange-yellow-green-blue-purple and then repeat, making an arc. Then they make another arc under that one.
- Looks very cute and is easier than making a solid arc of each color. You can opt to do that too, just draw in 6 lines.
- I set the rip & tear pages up as a center.
- When children are done with their Table Top Skill Sheet work they come and get a strip of each color that they will need, their white construction paper master and a glue stick.
- They take their supplies back to their desk and write their name on the BACK of their paper.
- I tell them to rip and tear all of their strips into little piles BEFORE they start to glue.
- Using their glue stick, I have the “color in” a small section, using quite a heavy amount of glue, and then press in that color piece. I tell them to press hard, and work speedily as a glue stick dries rather quickly.
- I find if they use enough glue, and do it this way, the little pieces stay stuck.
- I remind my students that they should not have any white spaces showing.

- When I'm demonstrating at the white board, I show them how to go AROUND the piece filling from outside-in. This helps them make the CURVED edges on those sorts of drawings.
- I also tell them it's OK to overlap, but if they do, they need to put glue on the back of those pieces.
- As incentive, I tell them, "Best Effort" masterpieces, will go on my *Wall of Fame* in the hallway. In September, everyone's work goes up, afterwards, I'm pickier, because I'm teaching best effort, and taking pride in one's work. *Wall of Fame* selections get a trip to the Treasure Chest. ☺
- I have a plastic tub file that I keep all students' "Keepsake Work" in.
- Each student has a folder with their name on. Each month, as they finish a page of whatever book we are working on, I put that month in chronological order. This way I don't get behind.
- In June I collate and bind all the books and send them home a week before school ends. A few go home early for Mother's Day gifts.
- I have given you 2 different sets for each month. You can mix and match. One's a bit larger and more challenging for older students.
- I find the half sheet of paper is a great size for first grade and under.
- Anything bigger is too time consuming for little ones and becomes frustrating and loses the "fun" element.
- You can enlarge to a full page for older students.

Add on ideas:

I also give my students the option to add a bit more pizzazz to their rip & tear finished "master piece". They can do mini strip add on's.

- I cut thinner strips of paper so after they have filled in the bigger area they can decorate". I show them two different "finished products."

Here's how:

- **September:** A lime green mini strip to make a worm in their apple.
- **October:** A black mini strip to turn the pumpkin into a Jack O Lantern
- **November:** They rip and tore a yellow, red, orange and brown leaf. I give them a few mini pieces of green and a chlorophyll poem.
- **December:** Mini multi colored strips to decorate their tree with ornaments and a star.
- **January:** Mini black strips to make the snowman's coal face and a few colored strips for buttons and a carrot nose.

- **February**: Mini yellow strips to shoot an arrow through the heart.
- **March**: Mini rainbow colored strips to make an arc over their shamrock.
- **April**: Mini blue strips to make raindrops falling from the umbrella.
- **May**: Mini green strip to make grass, mini white strip for a cloud.
- **June**: Mini brown strips to make a smiley face on the sun.
- I also have them WRITE the phrase "*So long Young Fives and school; hello summer vacation!*" I also give them their school picture to glue in the corner.