

Shrinky Dinks



Age Group: K-8

Child/Adult Ratio: 6 to 1

Take Away Artifact: Yes

Approximate Time: 30 mins

Divisions Covered: All

Questions to ask:

Why does a shrinky dink shrink?

Precautions:

Heat gun is HOT. Use caution.

Materials:

Shrinky Dink Plastic or #6 plastic

Skills Required for Completion of Task:

Motor skills

- Bilateral upper extremity coordination
- Ability to manipulate small objects
- Hand-eye coordination
- Ability to grip objects
- Ability to stabilize objects/tasks

Process/Cognitive skills

- Ability to attend to a task for greater than 5 minutes
- Follow multi-step directions
- Ability to sequence steps
- Ability to understand safety precaution
- Ability to organize or keep materials organized for a task
- Ability to adjust to different workspace requirements

Social skills

- Ability to communicate and share equipment with peers/staff appropriately

K-8 Standards:

5.NF.B.5 Interpret multiplication as scaling (resizing).

Simple Science:

When #6 (polystyrene) plastic is created, it is heated, flattened, and cooled quickly so that the molecules are “frozen” far apart. When the plastic is quickly heated it shrinks back to having the molecules close together. Shrinky Dinks can shrink down to 20% of their original size. (A 5-foot-tall person would shrink to a 1-foot-tall person)

This activity would be appropriate completed by the following disciplines:

Occupational therapy, LCSW, Family Services, Industrial Arts

STEAM Lessons

Shrinky Dinks



Instructions:

Choose a template and color or create your own design and color on the Shrinky Dink plastic. Cut out your image. Using the heat gun, shrink your design to 20% of its original size. If you wish to create a necklace or bracelet, punch a hole in your design before shrinking.

THE 7 TYPES OF PLASTICS <i>and how recyclable they are</i>						
SYMBOL						
						
PET Polyethylene Terephthalate	HDPE High-Density Polyethylene	PVC Polyvinyl Chloride	LDPE Low-Density Polyethylene	PP Polypropylene	PS Polystyrene	PC Other
RECYCLABILITY (Check Locally)						
Commonly Recyclable	Sometimes Recyclable	Not Often Recyclable	Sometimes Recyclable	Sometimes Recyclable	Rarely Recyclable	Rarely Recyclable
EXAMPLES						
 	 	 	 	 	 	 

STEAM Lessons

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Design Ideas:

