



ideastream<sup>SM</sup>

## • **Secret Envelopes**

*Materials:* crayons, several envelopes, assorted flat objects (penny, key, paper clip, toothpick etc.) If you have small children, watch closely so they don't swallow the objects.

First, show the children the assortment of objects and see if they can name them. Then slip each one into an envelope and close it. Give the envelopes to the children and let them feel what's inside. Can they guess what it is? Using the crayons, the children can rub over the object until the shape appears. Now can they guess? After the children have opened up the envelopes to check for sure what's inside, you can repeat the activity by switching the objects from envelope to envelope. This time the children can do the crayoning on the other side.

-Mr. Rogers' Plan & Play Book, 1983.

## • **One, Two, Three - CHEEESE!**

*Materials:* small rectangular cardboard box (one in which a small child could hold in their hands, i.e. tissue box)



empty paper towel or toilet paper roll  
crayons, paints, markers  
tin foil, construction paper  
scissors, tape, glue

Imagine what a camera looks like, a box with a round nose sticking out the front (the lens). And, a hole you can look through to see what you are taking a picture of (the view-finder).

You will use the small rectangular cardboard box as the body of your camera and the empty paper towel or toilet paper roll as the lens of your camera.

You should now have a basic idea of what your camera will look like. You could always get fancy on us and make some extra knobs for the manual film advance, shutter release, and flash.

### Steps

#### Step One: Camera Lens

- Cut a 4 inch piece off of the paper towel or toilet paper roll to use as the lens.
- Make 6, 1/4 inch slits on one end.

#### Step Two: Camera Body

- Decide which long side of the box will be the front of your camera.
- Take your empty paper towel or toilet paper roll and trace a circle on the box where you would like your lens to fit into the camera body.
- Cut a hole out of the box for the empty paper towel or toilet paper roll.
- To make the view-finder, you will need to make two, 1-2 inch rectangular holes located above the lens in the box. One in the front of the camera body and one in the back. Make sure both view-finder holes match up so you can look through the camera.

#### Step Three: Putting It Together

- Place the end of the lens with the 1/4 inch slits into the round hole in the camera body until you can't see the slits from the outside of the camera body.
- Inside the camera, fold back the slits to stabilize the lens and tape if needed.
- Now is the time to use your imagination, use your crayons, paint, construction paper, tin foil, beads, ribbon, etc. to decorate your camera. Don't forget about the shutter release and flash!