

My Amazing Self-Portrait!

Materials Needed:

- A sturdy piece of paper or a paper plate (this will be the "face")
- A hand-held mirror or access to a wall mirror
- Child-safe scissors
- Non-toxic glue stick or liquid glue
- Crayons or markers
- A variety of fun craft materials, such as:
 - Yarn (for hair)
 - Googly eyes or buttons (for eyes)
 - Scraps of colored construction paper (for cutting out shapes like a nose or mouth)
 - Fabric scraps, glitter, or stickers (for clothes or decoration)
 - Cotton balls (for fluffy hair or clouds in the background)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Identify and name their primary facial features (eyes, nose, mouth, hair).
- Use a variety of materials to create a representation of themselves.
- Practice fine motor skills, including cutting, gluing, and drawing.
- Use simple descriptive words to talk about their own appearance (e.g., "My hair is brown," "I have two eyes").

Lesson Activities:

1. Warm-Up: The Mirror Game (5 minutes)

Let's start by getting to know our amazing faces! Sit with your child in front of a mirror.

- **Sing a Song:** Sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," but change the words to focus on the face: "Eyes and Ears and Mouth and Nose, Mouth and Nose!" Point to each feature as you sing it.
- **Make Funny Faces:** Look in the mirror together and make different faces. A happy face, a sad face, a surprised face! Talk about how your mouth and eyes change. Ask, "What does your mouth look like when you smile? What shape are your eyes when you are surprised?"
- **Observe Details:** Ask simple, fun questions while looking in the mirror. "What color is your hair? Is it long or short? Curly or straight? What color are your wonderful eyes?" This builds vocabulary and self-awareness.

2. Exploration & Planning: The Portrait Designer (5 minutes)

Now, let's be artists and plan our masterpiece!

- **Gather Your Tools:** Lay out all the craft materials on the table. Talk about what each item could be used for. For example, hold up the yarn and ask, "What could this be on our portrait? Could it be long, flowing hair? Or maybe short, curly hair?"
- **Make a Plan:** Using the paper plate or paper as the head, have the child point to where each feature will go. "Where will you put the eyes? And where does the nose go? How about a big smile?" This helps them organize their thoughts before they start gluing.

3. Creative Time: Build-A-Face! (15-20 minutes)

This is where the magic happens! The goal is creative expression, not a perfect likeness. Let your child lead the way.

- **Start with the Face Shape:** Have the child choose a crayon or marker that is close to their skin tone and color the paper plate or draw a circle on the paper.
- **Add the Hair:** Help your child cut pieces of yarn to the length they want for their hair. Show them how to put glue on the paper and press the yarn down. It can be wild, neat, long, or short!
- **Place the Features:** Encourage them to choose their eyes (googly eyes, buttons, or drawn circles) and glue them on. They can draw a nose and mouth or cut shapes from construction paper to represent them. Let them decide! If they want to give themselves a purple nose, that's fantastic!
- **Add Personal Touches:** Ask if there's anything else they want to add. Freckles? A favorite shirt collar at the bottom? Rosy cheeks made with a pink crayon? This is their chance to add unique details.

4. Sharing & Reflection: The Grand Unveiling (5 minutes)

Every artist gets to show off their work!

- **Gallery Walk:** Display the finished self-portrait somewhere special, like on the refrigerator. Make a big deal of it!
- **"Tell Me About Your Portrait":** Ask your child to tell you about their creation. Use open-ended prompts like, "I love the hair you made! Can you tell me about it?" or "What is your favorite part of your portrait?"
- **Praise the Process:** Focus your praise on their effort and choices, not just the final product. Say things like, "You worked so hard on cutting the yarn!" or "I love the creative way you used buttons for eyes!"

Differentiation & Extension Ideas:

- **For Extra Support:** If cutting is tricky, pre-cut a few yarn strips or paper shapes. You can also draw light pencil outlines on the paper for where the eyes, nose, and mouth should go to provide a gentle guide.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Encourage the child to add more details like eyebrows, eyelashes, and ears. They could also create a background for their portrait that shows a place they love, like a park or their bedroom.
- **Connect to Literacy:** Help your child write their name at the bottom of the portrait. You can write it lightly in pencil for them to trace over.