TOY MASH-UP

Duration: 30 minutes-2 hours
Institution: TELUS SPARK
Skill level/Age Level: 5th Grade - Adult
Group size: 10-30 participants; more if there is enough space and resources

INTRODUCTION

Participants take apart toys to create a new character. They do this by cutting, dissembling, and putting pieces together with added embellishments such as buttons, beads, jewels, ribbons, etc. Participants then display their creations for everyone to enjoy

KEY CONCEPTS AND/OR SUBJECT AREA

Repurpose previously loved stuffed animals and toys into new creations. Test your creativity and learn new skills like sewing or using hand tools safely

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

Essential Materials:
- Toys (see below for types)
- Hot glue guns and glue gun sticks
- Needles and thread
- Embellishments (see below) in small containers
- Power cord and power strip
- Garbage bag
- Screw drivers
- Pliers
- Other hand tools as need

Optional Materials:
- Plush stuffed animals
- Small plastic toys (e.g. McDonalds, Kinder figures, etc.)
- Large plastic toys (e.g. Barbie's, dinosaurs, dolls)
- Any toy with a face or character identity
- Buttons
- Jewels or sequins
- Beads
- Googly eyes
- Ribbon
- Metal Washers

- Pompoms
- Cardboard
- Electronic take apart bits (e.g. LEDs, wires, capacitors, resistors, tiny circuit boards, etc.)
- Trophies (e.g. old bowling trophies)
- Straight pins and foam for display

SET UP

- Set up tables and chairs to accommodate all participants. You may wish to set up glue guns at each table or set up a glue gun station on another table close by.
- Ensure that you have power strips set up to plug in available glue guns where they are needed.
- On the table, evenly spaced, place the small containers holding embellishments
- Off to the side, have a space for participants to display their creations
- Do not put out all of the toys you have at once, start with 7-10 toys and add more as more people join the activity. On a stool or small side table have a large bin of toys 'to be taken apart' so participants can choose their own. Also, have already cut toys on the materials table for inspiration and for participants to work with.

FACILITATION TIPS

- Have participants work at the same tables that all of the materials are on. This allows for creativity and sharing to happen spontaneously
- People tend to fee off each other's ideas listen for participants asking to share parts or asking each other for tips. Encourage this sharing and make sure there are a good variety of supplies out.

FACILITATION PROMPTS AND QUESTIONS

- What do you think this bear could use? A new tail?
- Do you have a plan or are you just letting 'it' happen?
- Are you using this? Someone could use it as a pair of ears!
- What could you do next?
- For participants that don't know where to start suggest: Take two toys and switch their heads OR try to add to a toy. "Could it use button eyes or new arms or a cape?"
- Younger participants might hesitate to dissemble a toy. Suggest that they add something to make it better. "Can you make this toy for your grandfather or little sister? How might you change something to make it better for them?

GENERAL FACILITATION TIPS

1. The main role of the facilitator is:

a. To ensure a clear work space, especially from stuffing as the plush toys are opened
    b. To restock materials
    c. To encourage participants
2. Real world connections
    a. Take apart objects give insight into how they were originally put together.
3. Safety and Troubleshooting
    a. Set up a hot glue station where adults can more easily help and supervise
    b. Empty Beanie Baby toys of beans first, before they are put out to be used by participants
    c. Help younger participants with scissors and other hand tools

MATERIALS SOURCES

Encourage participants to bring old or unused toys or advertise in your community for a used toy drop off at your location. This will not only save on cost but it will allow participants to repurpose some of their previously loved toys into new creations.

- Glue Guns can be found at Wal-Mart or dollar stores

IMAGE GALLERY