

Enjoy these creative activities with your child as you explore the amazing world of superheroes

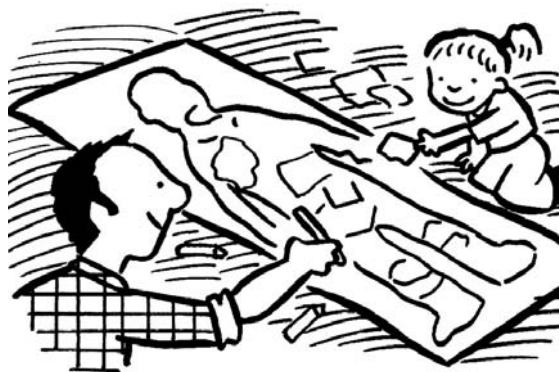
'Superheroes' is an exciting theme for young children and it offers many opportunities for interesting play and craft activities at home and in the early years setting. For example, creative skills can be developed by painting giant

portraits of favourite superheroes, social skills can be encouraged during role play based on each character and skills in exploration can be developed while finding out about each heroic deed.

Life-sized superhero

Encourage your child's creative skills by inviting them to create a life-sized picture of their superhero. Lay flat on a long strip of paper, such as the blank side of a sheet of wallpaper, and invite your child to draw around your body or vice versa. Help your child to decorate the life-sized outline with paint or collage materials to represent their special hero. If necessary, collect pictures, posters or photographs of the character as a visual reference.

Top tip: Display the life-sized superhero in your child's bedroom or on a convenient door to help inspire discussion about the character and their heroic actions.



Super card

Develop your child's hand control and decision-making skills by helping them to create a superhero's greetings card for someone special. Give your child a copy of the 'Celebration card' photocopyable sheet (see opposite) and help them to draw a picture of their superhero in the circle. Glue the picture on to a piece of folded card and help your child to write a personal message inside the card, for example, 'Happy Birthday', 'Get Well Soon', 'Congratulations' and so on.

Top tip: Help your child to post or hand deliver the card to the special person.

Colourful collage

Encourage your child's manipulative skills by helping them to create a colourful, abstract or 'pop' collage of their favourite superhero. Work together by cutting out as many pictures of the superhero as possible. Invite your child to glue the pictures on to a sheet of thick card, making sure that each image slightly overlaps the one next to it. Add a selection of labels to the collage showing words that are relevant to the hero and frame the completed collage with narrow strips of ribbon, braid or paper.

Top tip: Tape a loop of string or thick wool to the top of the collage so that it can be hung on the wall or used as a gift.



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Useful books and resources

● Look out for a range of books and comics that focus on fictional characters who perform heroic deeds. Traditional favourites include Superman, Super Ted, Batman and Spiderman.

● The 'Topsy and Tim' series of books by J and G Anderson (Blackie) focus on the everyday world including professions that can involve heroic actions such as firefighters, ambulance crew, hospital staff, police officers and so on.