

Daniel in the Lions Den (I wrote this story)

How many of you have been to the zoo?

What kind of animals did you see at the
zoo?

Did you ever see lions in a den?

Did the zoo keepers let you go in with the
lions and pet them?

Well, today I am going to tell you a story that is found in the Bible in the book of Daniel. Let's look at Daniel Chapter 6. (Look up Daniel Chapter 6 to show the children that the story comes from the Bible.) Our story is about a man named Daniel. Now we all know that lions are mean and fierce don't we? But did you know that one time Daniel had to spend a whole night in the lions den!

Listen very closely now while I tell you the story about the awful night that Daniel was thrown into the lions den.

Daniel was a very hard working and faithful man. He loved God with all his heart. And he ALWAYS obeyed God. In fact, Daniel prayed to God three times a day; morning, noon and night.

Not only was Daniel a faithful man, he was a very good worker. In fact, he was such a good worker that the king soon noticed how hard he worked and how faithful he was.

The king liked hard workers so he became good friends with Daniel. He even gave Daniel one of the top jobs in the kingdom.

Now there were lots of princes that lived in the kingdom and it didn't take them long to

notice how the king liked Daniel more than the rest of them.

They became very jealous of Daniel. So jealous in fact that they were saying one to another “Something much be done to get rid of him.” But what could that be?

In order to get rid of Daniel, they had to figure out some way to get rid of him. They had to find out something about him that they could use against him. But they couldn't find anything.

Well the princes began to watch Daniel and study everything about him. They had to come up with a way and soon.

When they began to watch Daniel, they notice something special about him.

They noticed that Daniel prayed to God three times a day. Every morning, noon and

night, Daniel would bow down before God
and pray to him.

Soon the princes had an idea! They knew exactly how they were going to get rid of Daniel. They were going to go to the king and tell him how great he was. They were going to trick the king into passing a law that forbids anyone in the kingdom from praying to ANYONE except the KING himself.

And that is exactly what they did. When they went to the king and tricked him into signing the law.

After the king had placed his signature onto the paper, the paper was folded, and then wax was dripped onto it to seal it.

After the wax was dripped onto the seal, the king pressed his ring into the wet wax making it a done deal.

Nothing could be done to change it now, it
was the law!

The king even decided on a punishment for
anyone who was caught breaking his law.

That punishment was to be thrown into the
lions den.

If anyone was seen praying to anyone except
the king for the next 30 days, they would be
thrown into the lions den and eaten alive by
the lions.

The princes began to follow Daniel
immediately to see if he would obey the new
law or if he broke the law and obeyed God
instead.

They didn't have to wait long, because the
noon trumpets were beginning to sound.

They waited outside of Daniel's window.
Would he obey the king's orders or would
Daniel remain true to God?

Soon the window flew open, and there was
Daniel. He knelt down on his knees, raised
his hands to heaven and began to pray. They
waited and listened. Could it be?? Was he
praying? Who was he praying to.....(pause
here).....God!!!

“YES! YES! YES!” The princes surely
shouted. He was praying to GOD, he wasn't
praying to the king.

Daniel had ignored the king's law and he
remained true to God. He knew about the
new law, but he was willing to risk his own
life in order to do what was right.

Quickly the princes ran as fast as their legs
would carry them. They told the King
exactly what they had seen and heard.

Now the King liked Daniel, but when the princes told him that Daniel had broken the law, he had no other option. He had to throw Daniel into the lions den just as he had said.

The king realized how he had been tricked. He didn't want to throw Daniel into the den, but he had to do what he said he would do. It was his job to uphold the law and he had indeed written this new law.

The king ordered that Daniel be cast into a den of lions. Daniel was taken out to the den the lions were making all sorts of growling and roaring noises.

They couldn't wait for someone to be thrown into the den. They were ready to eat him up the minute he was placed into the den.

Before the king gave the orders to his soldiers to place Daniel into the den, he said to Daniel, Thy God who thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

And then the big stone that covered the lions den was pulled back and Daniel was thrown down....down....down into the lions den.

The large stone was placed over the den of lions and was sealed.

The king had a terrible night. He couldn't sleep at all. He tossed and turned all night long. He couldn't wait until morning. He wanted to see if Daniel's God had indeed protected him.

So bright and early the next morning, the king ran out to the lions den. He had his men move the giant stone that covered the lions den.

Strangely, all was quite inside the den. Usually the lions would be roaring and growling no matter what. But all was silent inside.

The king cried out to Daniel. Was he alive? Was he injured? But, when the king cried out, Daniel answered him, My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me.

He was safe! God had protected him. God had sent angels to shut the lions mouths. The lions had laid down like little kittens. They had not put one single scratch on Daniel.

The king was happy that he had his men pull Daniel out of the den.

The minute that Daniel was safe, the lions began to roar and growl once more. They roared so loudly that the ground shook beneath their feet.

Now the king had some more punishing to do. He needed to punish the princes that had tricked him.

He had the men brought to him and they were thrown down in the den of lions, along with every member of their families. The lions tore them to pieces before they could even hit the ground.

Daniel was a great man of faith and prayer. When he had to choose between praying to God or facing death for his beliefs, he was faithful to God.

Daniel was a good example to each of us.

We need to ALWAYS stand up for God. No matter what happens, we need to know what we believe and who we believe in.

Then we must ALWAYS follow Daniel's example of trusting in GOD.

Daniel in the Lions Den

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Game

Rules:

Select a person to be the lion

Have the lion sit with their back to the other players at least ten feet away

Put a stuffed animal behind the lion and have the lion pretend it is his cub.

Have the other players take turns sneaking up behind the Lion and trying to steal the cub

If the lion hears the person sneaking up it can roar and then turn around. If the lion has caught a player the player takes the lions place and the lion goes back to the other players. If there is no player when the lion roars the child remains the lion and the game starts again

DRIVING CARD

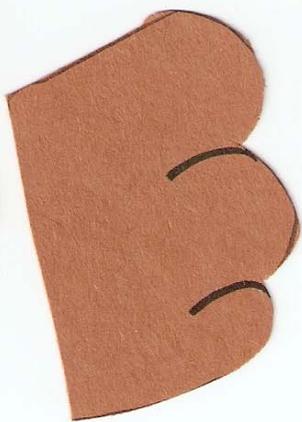
1. What was the man's name in our story today? **DANIEL**
2. Was Daniel a good man or a bad man? **HE WAS A GOOD MAN**
3. The king put Daniel in charge of all the governors and the presidents Babylon. How did these people feel about Daniel being their boss? **THEY WERE VERY JEALOUS-THEY DID NOT LIKE DANIEL**
4. Why did the king choose Daniel to be in charge of all the governors and presidents of Babylon? **BECAUSE OF HIS WISDOM AND LOYALTY**
5. When the governors and presidents found out that Daniel was to become their boss, they started looking for ways to get Daniel in trouble. They asked the king to pass a law that forbid anyone to do what? **PRAY TO ANY OTHER GOD OR PERSON OTHER THAN THE KING**
6. Did Daniel quit praying to God? **NO**
7. Did Daniel get into trouble for praying to God? **YES**
8. Was the king upset when he found out that Daniel was praying to God? **YES**
9. Why was the king upset? **BECAUSE HE LIKED DANIEL AND HE KNEW THAT DANIEL WOULD HAVE TO BE PUNISHED BECAUSE HE DIS-OBEYED HIS LAW**
10. What did the King do to Daniel? **HE HAD HIM THROWN INTO THE LIONS DEN**
11. What did the king say to Daniel when he had him thrown into the Lions Den? **MAY THE GOD YOU SERVE CONTINUALLY DELIVER YOU.**
12. Did God protect Daniel? **YES**
13. Did the Lions hurt Daniel? **NO**
14. The next morning when the king came to check on Daniel, he was surprised that Daniel was not hurt. Did he know why Daniel was not harmed? **YES HE KNEW THAT GOD HAD PROTECTED DANIEL**
15. What did the king do to the people who accused Daniel? **HAD THEM THROWN INTO THE LIONS DEN.**
16. Did these accusers die? **YES. THE LIONS TORE THEM INTO PIECES**

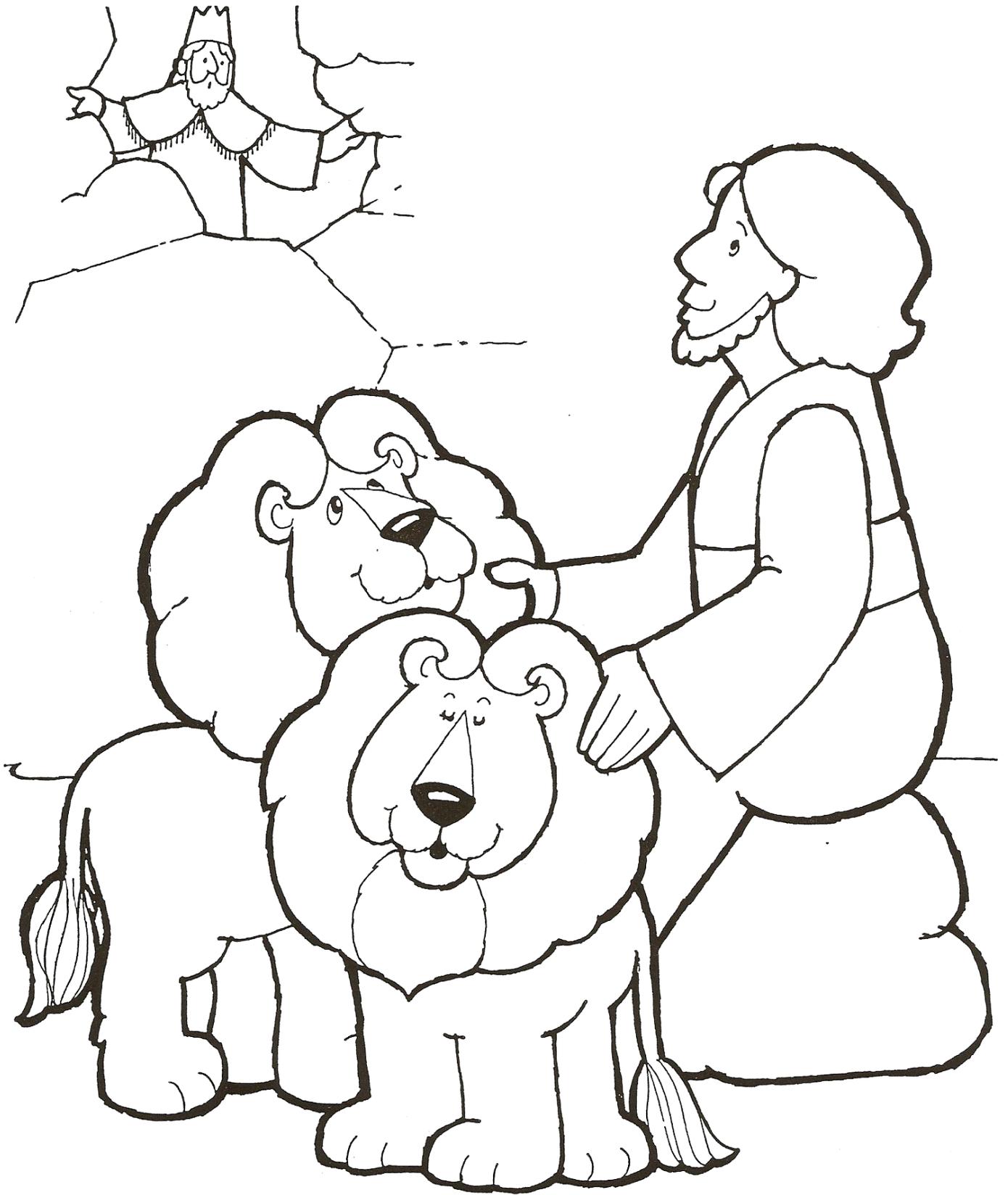
MEMORY VERSE

Parents:

Keep this driving card and memory verse in your car. Time spent waiting at stop lights or waiting for older children to finish sports activities, etc. is an excellent time to review your child's lesson with him/her. It is also an excellent way to instill God's word into their lives.







God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den.



**The king threw Daniel into a den of hungry lions.
But God sent an angel to keep Daniel safe.**

DANIEL



Daniel loved God. He prayed to God three times a day.



Lion Craft

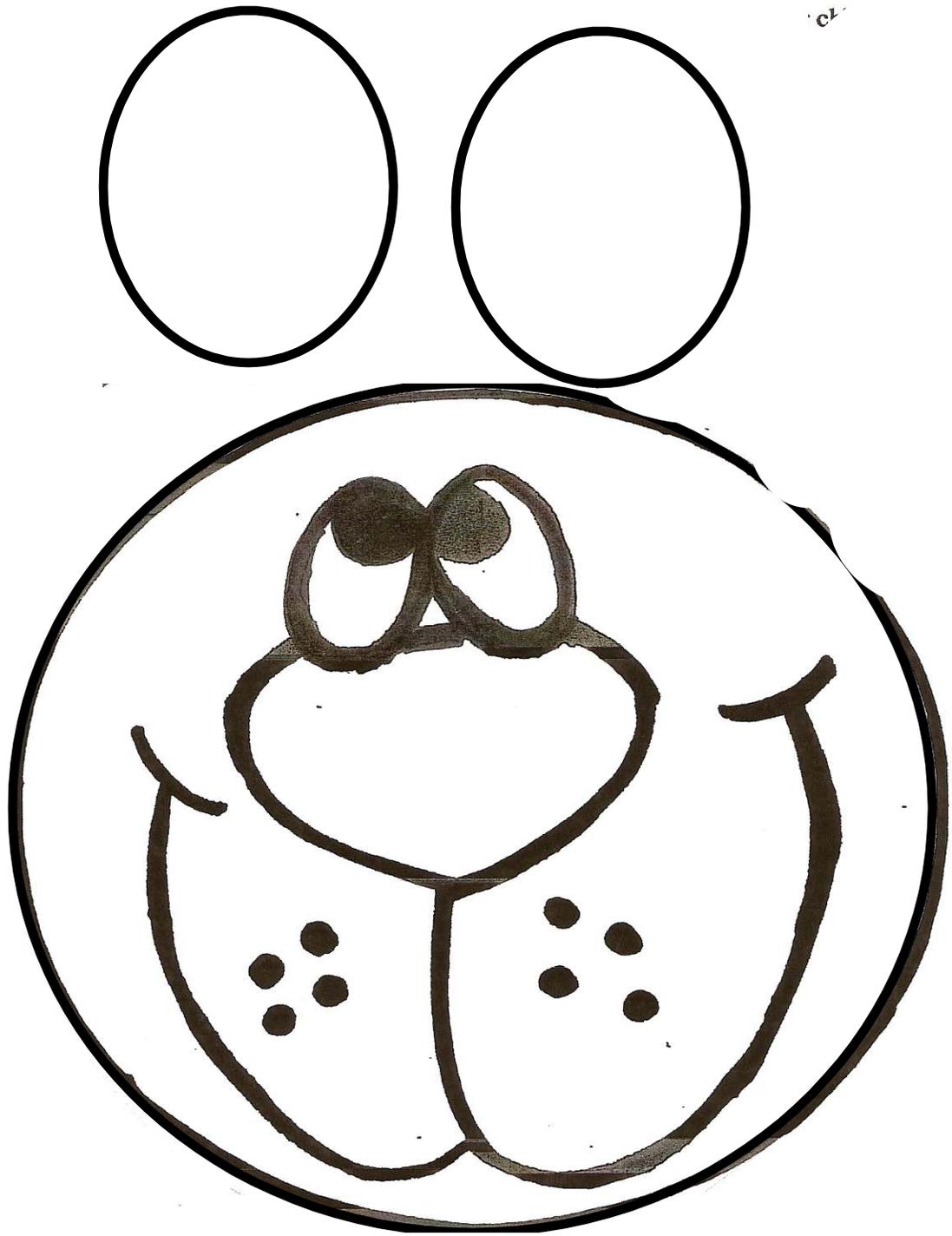
Instructions

Using brown construction paper, cut out one face and two ears for each child

Take a yellow foam plate and punch holes around the edges of plate. If you do not have a yellow plate, use any color.

Cut a 5' piece of yellow and a 5' piece of brown yarn. Lay the two pieces side by side to form one piece of yard. Tie one end through one of the holes. On the opposite end of the yarn, take a bread twist tie and tie the yard in the center of the twist tie. Now take both ends of the twist tie, pull the ends together and then twist the twist tie until it forms one solid long length. Cut off ends so they match perfectly with each other. This will be your needle.

Let the children sew around the edges of the paper plate. Starting on the underneath side and pulling through to the top side, then repeat.



Daniel in the Lions Den

Lion Magnet

Prior to class

Cut pieces from felt

Gather together- Pom-Poms- white and black, Wiggly eyes, magnet strips, glue

Child's Part

Attach magnet to the back of orange piece- 1 strip approx. 1 1/2" long

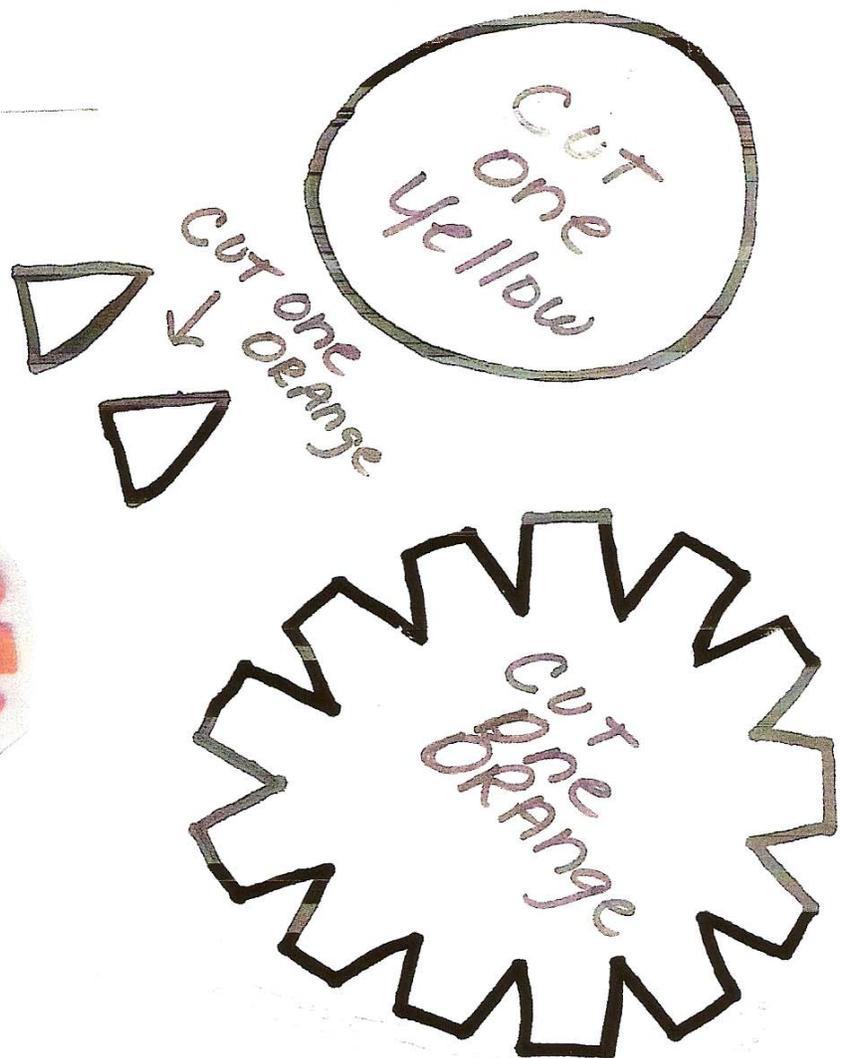
Glue the yellow piece onto the top of orange piece

Glue the ears onto the top corners of yellow piece

Glue on eyes

Glue on black pom-pom

Glue on white pom-poms



Lion Mask



Lion Mask Instructions

Run a copy of the mask for each child.

Cut out mask

Using a hole punch, punch a hole in each side of the mask.

Use a hole reinforcement over each hole

Cut a piece of elastic and run through one hole. Tie in a knot

Leave the other end loose until you measure the child's head.

Pull string through hole, measure how long the elastic needs to be, add 1" onto length for tying room.

Provide the kids with crayons, glue, various stickers, feathers, etc to decorate their masks.