

## **Big fun, low-budget programs for Tweens**

- ① **Great resource:** “The Tween Scene: A year of Programs for 10 - 15 Year Olds”

<http://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home>

Website developed by two librarians at the Oshawa Public Libraries in Ontario. Provides one tween program for every month, with full descriptions, materials lists, etc. Here are two examples:

### **Mythbusters**

Based on the popular television show, this program challenges tweens to use their scientific skills to determine whether or not a variety of proposed statements are truths or myths. For example – “Eggs can bounce.” – myth confirmed or busted? Tweens then have the opportunity to test their hypothesis with fun activities and experiments. (And to answer your question –yes, eggs *can* bounce!) Pull science experiment books to put on display for this program.

<http://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/april>

### **Is the Price Right?**

Come on down, you're the next contestant on “Is the Price Right?!!!” Based on the ever-popular television game show, this program gives tweens the opportunity to bid on – and win! – items while learning the value of the all-mighty dollar.

<http://sites.google.com/site/thetweenscene/home/november-1>

- ② **Cupcake decorating contest** (a.k.a, “Cupcake Cram!”)

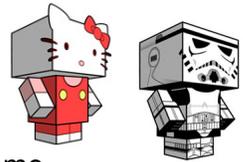
Put out tons of cupcakes, frosting & goodies to decorate with. Think up categories for which you'll award prizes – “Funniest Cupcake,” “Grossest Cupcake,” “Best Animal,” “Most Appetizing” etc. Time the creative process – about 20 minutes is good. Put all finished cupcakes on the judging table, and invite some of your library staff to be the judges. Give out small prizes to the winners, and let everyone EAT. They can frost leftover cupcakes and cram them in, too.

- ③ **Box Punx & Cubeecraft**

[www.harlancore.com/boxpunx/](http://www.harlancore.com/boxpunx/)

<http://www.cubeecraft.com/>

These involve a lot of careful cutting, folding and taping, but the end results are awesome. Print on white cardstock; cut slits with a craft knife before the tweens come.



- ④ **Build-a-Bot** -- with modeling clay, molded over a bunch of wind-up toys

- ⑤ **Duct tape roses** (or, duct tape anything!) <http://www.instructables.com/id/Duct-Tape-Rose/>

- ⑥ **Dollar Bill Origami** - Print out double-sided images of real dollar bills in B&W on green paper, oversized to fit two to a page. (easier to fold if they are large.)

<http://www.origami-resource-center.com/money-origami.html>

You can fold a shirt from a dollar bill: <http://members.cox.net/crandall11/money/shirt/>

- ⑦ **Sidewalk chalk art** - select a theme, such as TV shows, or Manga, fantasy vehicle, or “my dream bedroom.” If it's summer, serve ice pops.

- ⑧ **Tallest tower contest** -- who can build the tallest tower using only marshmallows and toothpicks?

- ⑨ **Sculpey/FIMO Clay Creations** – Make necklaces inside bottle caps, or cute robots, or whatever. Bake for 20 minutes in a 275° oven (a toaster oven works if you don't have a big oven)

- ⑩ **Board Games**

Monopoly tournament - Have tweens play a “round robin” series, with the winners playing each other; set an arbitrary time or dollar amount for winning the game. Or, put out a variety of games, like Bananagrams, Pairs in Pears, Appletters, Zip-it, (each about \$15 through Amazon), Scrabble, Othello, In a Pickle, etc.