

Enrichment instructions

Enrichment is something that animal keepers give to the animals to keep them occupied in their enclosures. Meerkats are very curious animals and enjoy a range of enrichments, but the easiest one we can make as a group is papier mache creations.

Here's how to make something fun for the Meerkats.

NOTES

Limit the size of creations based on your storage/ transport arrangements!

Materials:

Cardboard boxes – any size or shape. Please remove any staples and tape.

Cardboard tubes (toilet, kitchen, poster etc)

Newspaper

Flour

Water

(Thick) Paint brushes or glue spreaders (although I find it easier to use fingers!)

Balloons (optional)

Scissors (optional)

Sand (optional)

Instructions

Get some ideas on what to make. Look at what's available, can the boxes and tubes be turned into another animal, a robot, a bus, a house...? There are LOADS of ideas (see attached photos)

Depending on the size, rip the newspaper into strips/ pieces to cover the entire creation.

When ready, mix flour and water into a smooth sponge mix consistency (no lumps)

Start papier mache'ing!

Remember to leave some holes for the Keepers to put food in. It's up to you if you make your creation so that the meerkats can get fully into it, or just reach in to get the food.

DO NOT put food in yourselves as we might store your enrichment for a few weeks before using, and don't want food to go off!

Once the creation is completely covered with a couple of layers of newspaper, leave it to dry. If you want to sprinkle some play sand onto the wet newspaper, this makes it an interesting texture.

Next session

Materials:

Creations from previous session

Child safe poster paints

Paintbrushes

Scissors (optional)

Instructions

Check that the creations are completely dry.

Get painting. Use as little paint as possible (better for the environment and dries quicker)

If you didn't leave holes, make some.



