



Alexander Calder
Stabile or Mobile Sculpture

Materials:

- A piece of clay (1x1 inch cube), sheet of sticky foam and/or foam shapes, scissors, pencil, four pieces of wire

Directions:

1. The children can use the pre-cut shapes or they can make their own. If they choose to make their own shapes, they can draw a free form shape onto a square of foam the foam. It should be no larger than 1 ½ inches and no smaller than ½ an inch (around two or three fingers width for the children). It can be a circle, square, triangle, the shape of a flower or just a free shape. Cut it with the scissors, then use that piece of foam as the template for the other piece. They need two of each shape to stick the foam onto the wire. They need four sets of shapes. When all the pieces are ready place them aside.
2. Take a piece of clay and model it into the base for the sculpture. It can be round or a cube, just not too thin. The base needs to be compact.
3. Take a piece of wire and fold in a half to make a U. It can be wide or narrow. Place both sides in the clay. Repeat this with the other pieces of wire. With one of the pieces they can make a loop with the wire using their fingers to mold the loop.
4. Take the foam pieces and place them on the wire in pairs. If there are any ends that are not in the base they need to be covered with foam. Do this on each piece of wire, sticking one pair of foam on each one.

Tips:

- Encourage the kids not to waste the foam.
- It may be easier for the younger ones to use all the same shape.
- The younger children may need help cutting the foam.
- Tell the children to draw very simple shapes, just a circle or a triangle and cut them the best they can. They can trim the shapes so they match closely.
- Don't peel the white paper off the foam until the wire is in the clay.
- Don't stick the wires into the clay before they are (very close to) the final shape. Try not to bend the wires after they are in the clay.
- If the wire U is too open it will not stay in the clay properly.