



# Kinder Critters Contest



Creative artistic expression is encouraged as Kindergarten students create “Criticter” using common items and give the creations a creative name.

Contest Support provided by the University of Texas at Tyler School of Education and Psychology

## Contest Rules

(Revised July 2021)

1. The contest is open to Kindergarten students only.
2. The project **MUST be completed at school under the direction of the teacher.**
3. Each student will create a “Criticter” using supplies at school or from home limited to the following types of items: cotton balls, toothpicks, straws, pipe cleaners, paper, construction paper, tissue paper, paper clips, twigs, sticks, acorns, pinecones, fabric, buttons, yarn, ribbon, lunch size paper bags, play dough, modeling clay, thread spools, coffee filters, paper cups, Styrofoam balls, or other similar items. Items used should be able to withstand several weeks of display without deterioration during Academic Rodeo.
4. The student may use glue or any of the above items for connecting parts of the criticter together.
5. Any use of hot glue should be done under the teacher’s supervision with low temperature glue and glue gun that is safe for the student to use.
6. The Critter must be entirely created **by the student** without help from the teacher or other adults. The Critter created should be obviously prepared by a student of kindergarten age as indicated by the fine motor skills necessary to complete the project.
7. The teacher may use hot glue in attaching the Critter for display as listed below. This and attaching the name of the Critter is the only assistance allowed in the construction of the Critter.
8. The **Criticter MUST fit into a shoe box** measuring no larger than 8” x 12” and will be placed and secured in the shoe box by or with the assistance of the teacher or other adult designated by the teacher. Discourage students from attaching items on the outside of the box or those that extend beyond the box making it difficult to close the box.
9. The lid **should be placed on top of the box for transport and storage.** It is preferred that the shoe box have a removable lid; however attached lids are accepted. Do **NOT** use plastic coffee cans or other types of containers. **Use a shoe box!**
10. Tape, hot glue, etc. is appropriate to be used for securing the Critter in the box by the teacher. When choosing how to secure the criticter in the box, keep in mind that the box may be moved several times in judging and displaying.
11. The box **may** be covered with paint or paper by the student if desired, but again should be indicative of the fine motor skills of a Kindergarten student. In most instances, covering the shoe box does not increase the judges’ opinions of the quality of the entry.

12. Limited accessory items for the critter made from the previously mentioned materials may be added to the inside of the box. These should also be appropriate to the skill level of the age.
13. The student should assign a name to the Critter which will be printed or typed on a label or paper and attached **inside** the box by the teacher **in a location that can be easily viewed**. Creativity of the name is considered in judging the entry. The name of the Critter will also be on the label attached to the shoe box top. The student or the teacher may print or type the Critter name after the student has decided on the name.
- 14. The lid of the shoebox should be placed on top, or closed if attached, for transport to the Academic Rodeo and storage during the event.**
15. The identifying label used for Kinder Critter Contest and for Art Contest should be placed on the **outside/top of the shoe box lid** in the top upright position and should include student's name, grade, name of critter, signature of teacher, name of school and school district. This allows for quick check-in when the entry is submitted. This label will not be visible for judging or display.
16. Signature of teacher affirms that the entry was created by the student at school without adult assistance.
17. **Six total entries from the school or group** may be selected for submission to the Academic Rodeo Kinder Critter Contest.
18. Kinder Critter entries selected by the school or group to be represented in the contest must be submitted by the date designated on the contest timeline. Judging of entries will occur at a later time. **Students are not required to be present for the judging.**
19. Kinder Critters will be judged based on creativity and uniqueness of the Critter as well as creativity and appropriateness of the name.
20. The committee of judges will evaluate the entries and award first, second and third place winners and up to three honorable mention entries.

## **Awards**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places awarded plus up to 3 Honorable Mention awards

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place students also receive a cash award.

Specialty awards may be given to entries. These may include:

Best Use of Accessories

Most Colorful

Most Suitable Title

Most Unique Concept

Most Unique Resources