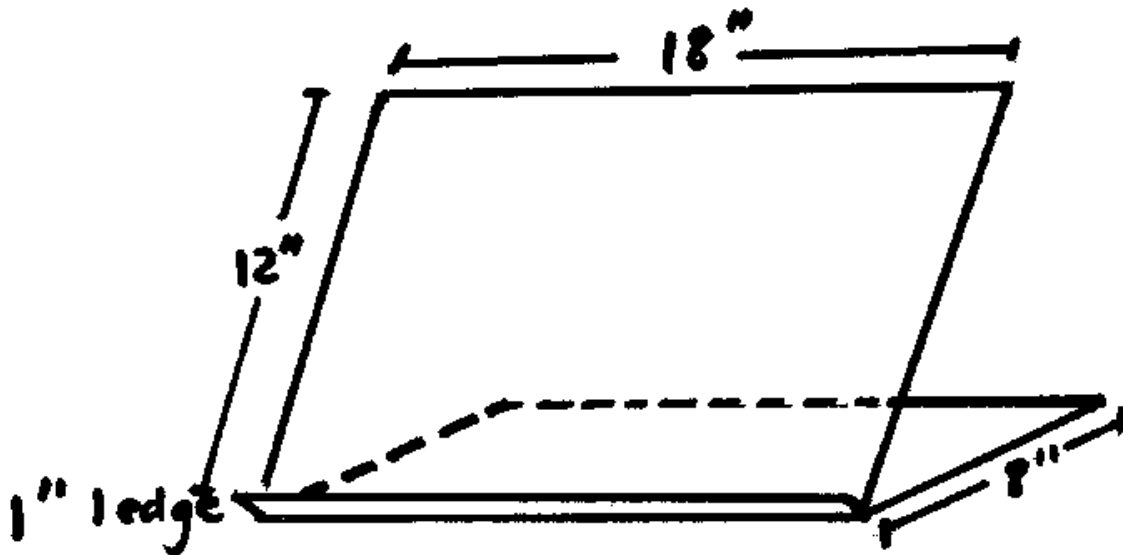


DESK TOP EASEL

A desktop easel can facilitate upright sitting posture and increase a student's motivation to attend to visual materials by bringing them closer to the student's face. An easel could be fashioned from cardboard initially to experiment with the size and the angle needed. A more durable custom model could be manufactured from wood or Plexiglas. Non-slip grips should be attached to the bottom surface, or the easel could be placed on non-slip carpet underlay or Dice matting. Consult with your OT or PT for possible suppliers in your area. Some suggested dimensions are as follows:



CONSIDERATIONS:

HEIGHT:

- It would be ideal if the easel were adjustable height, with height ranging from 2 to 12 inches in height. If it is not adjustable, then height should be measured according to your students height and arm reach.
- If you are uncertain, a height of about 8 - 10 inches is usually sufficient.

MATERIALS:

- A good strong firm material is ideal (generally not cardboard). Some type of plastic is ideal
- Ensure that the material is lightweight and easy to transport
- Be sure that the material is not 'see through' or opaque. Children with visual impairments find it difficult to see objects unless they are placed on a dark or contrasting background
- Be sure that the material used is smooth and has no rough edges

- Ideally materials should allow for some type of adhesion (e.g. if using Dycem matting to hold something in place)
- Make sure the material is not too thick, you may wish to 'clip' something onto the wedge board

The following are some examples of adapted easels.



• Communication devices or boards can be mounted on easels.



• Art projects can be mounted on adjustable easels.



• Some standing frames can be adjusted to act as an easel.



• This is an example of a make-do easel, made with a binder.



• This team has created an easel out of Styrofoam for this art activity.



• Wheelchair trays can also be angled or created with adjustable easels that lay flat or stand up at the desired angle.