

Strips of paper of varying lengths of paper make beautifully simple ornaments; make an ornament by gathering and stapling the ends. For example, we experimented using 4, 4½, 5, and 5½ inches, and so on, increasing lengths by 1/2 inch for each layer. For younger kids, make the shortest (middle piece) at least 5 or 6 inches; the shorter the pieces, the harder they are to gather for the last stapling.

A difference of 1/2 inch in length gives a small space between layers, and one inch gives a wide space between layers. All you do is start with the shortest piece in the middle (just one piece) and then sandwich it with pairs of increasingly longer pieces. Hold the stack of pieces in your hand and jog them to one end. Staple in place on the jogged end. Then carefully gather and line up the pieces at the other end and staple them there.

A note about paper: What I like about using construction paper is that it is colored on both sides. What I don't like is that it fades over time. What I like about using scrapbook paper is that it comes in fabulous colors and patterns and won't fade. The only catch is that it is usually printed on only one side. You can see in the picture above that the backside of the paper used there is white. If you can get your hands on two-sided scrapbook paper, that's the way to go.