

Crafts Ideas

Supplies:

Construction or Newsprint Paper
Painters Tape
Pipe Cleaners
Scissors
Pony Beads or other beads
Straws
Yarn
Crayons, markers, dot art, colored pencils, etc.

Activity: Yarn Wrapped Hearts

Supplies:

Pipe Cleaners
Yarn Scissors

Steps:

1. Twist a pipe cleaner into the shape of a heart and tie a piece of yarn to each heart.
2. Wrap the yarn around the heart shape.
3. Tie off the yarn and then either snip the remaining yarn or use it to hang as a decoration.

Tips:

1. The shape options for the yarn-wrapped craft are endless! Try different holiday and seasonal shapes. Pair this with the book Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett. To purchase: <https://www.amazon.com/Extra-Yarn-Mac-Barnett/dp/0061953385>. Or to listen to on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JkanA4vIq0k>
2. Allow your child to wrap yarn however they desire. There is no correct way to do this, however they may need to get extra guidance on how to get the yarn to stay wrapped around the heart.
3. Try using different materials such as string or sticks. Or try a more open ended exploration of yarn and pipe cleaners for younger children.

Activity: Bead Snakes or Worms

Supplies:

Pipe Cleaners

Pony Beads

Steps:

1. Fold and twist one of the ends of a pipe cleaner to form the head of the snake or worm.
2. Thread beads onto the pipe cleaner until almost full.
3. Fold the other end of the pipe cleaner to keep the beads on.

Tips:

1. Have older children work on creating a pattern with their beads.
2. After you make the snakes or worms, have fun playing with them.
3. For very young children fold over the very end of the pipe cleaner so they do not poke themselves.

Activity: Fork Weaving

Supplies:

Yarn

Fork

Steps:

1. Grab a fork and some yarn.
2. Tie the end of the yarn onto one of the fork tines.
3. Weave the thread in and out among the tines of the fork.

Tips:

1. This can be fun to do at a restaurant while you are waiting.
2. This will be harder for younger children but they can weave on a laundry basket, stir railings, or cooling racks.
3. See what kinds of patterns you child can make. They will be working on math skills without even realizing it.

Activity: Straw Necklaces

Supplies:

Yarn

Straws

Scissors

Activity: Straw Necklaces continued

Steps:

1. Set out whole straws and a pair of scissors.
2. Snip straws into about one inch sections. Depending on the age of your child, you may need to do the cutting, or possibly make marks on the straws 1" apart.
3. Thread pieces of straw into a shoelace or yarn to make a necklace. Tie the first piece of straw to one end to prevent the straw pieces from falling off.

Tips:

1. Longer pieces of straws are harder to thread all the way through.
2. Shorter pieces of straws are harder for little fingers to hold.
3. Tape one end of the yarn onto a surface to hold it in place and to keep the straws from falling off.
4. If the end of the yarn starts to separate, wrap a piece of tape around the end to make it more like a shoe lace end.

Activity: Marble Maze

Supplies:

Paper

Painter's Tape

Scissors

Pipe cleaners

Straw

Steps:

1. Cut strips of paper and pieces of pipe cleaners.
2. Tape the paper and the pipe cleaners onto the paper to create tunnels and barriers.
3. With a straw, blow a wad of paper around the pipe cleaners and through the tunnels to follow the maze.

Tips:

1. For an added challenge, number the tunnels and try to go through them in order.
2. For younger children, have them move the paper with their hands instead of the straw.
3. Have the children design their own maze and then switch it up. Let their creativity shine!

Activity: Paper Building Blocks

Supplies:

Paper

Painter's tape

Scissors

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Steps:

1. Cut paper into 1.5 to 2 " strips and decorate as desired.
2. Roll paper strips into a tube and tape to secure.
3. Start stacking.

Tips:

1. You can decorate the strips of paper with specific colors, or write letters or numbers or your family member's names. Have your child sequence or stack the letters in their name, the numbers in order, the ABCs in order.
2. The children can work on their scissor skills by cutting the strips of paper themselves.
3. This is a great activity to work in color recognition (or other learning aspect) just by talking. "Look you put the green one on top."

Activity: Shape Garland

Supplies:

Paper

Painter's Tape

Scissors

Yarn

Crayons, markers, dot art, etc.

Regular tape

Steps:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half. For younger children trace a shape for them to cut. For older children, let them design the shape. Cut out the shape. Repeat several times.
2. Decorate the shapes.
3. Tape the shapes onto a long piece of yarn. Repeat to make several lengths.
4. Hang in a window or on a wall.

Tips:

1. Stack the shapes one above the other to hang the garlands in a window from top to bottom. Otherwise tape them so they're side by side to string across a window or wall.
2. Use 3-4 different colors of paper and have older children pattern the shapes on the garland.

Activity: Party Flakes

Supplies:

Paper

Scissors

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Steps:

1. Cut multiple sizes of circles out of paper. Decorate them or leave plain.
2. Fold each circle in half 3 times. Draw a line across the point of the folded circle and 3-4 lines from that line out to the edge.
3. Cut on the lines that go from the edge to the point. Open it up.

Tips:

1. You can use tape and yarn to hang in a window.
2. The thinner the paper, the better, so it flops around and isn't so stiff.
3. You may need to help with their folding and drawing lines, but after seeing it done a few times, see if your child wants to try it themselves.