

SCHOOL AGE

Week

37

Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

Wishbone Weaving

Materials: any rigid stick about 12 to 18 inches long that includes a wide wishbone shape ('v' or 'y'), several colors yarn (alternative: make 'yarn' from long strips of t-shirt material stretched out), scissors, plastic needle or blunt embroidery needle, optional: paint, internet access, website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIUU-ESiDAg> (image below is a screenshot from video).

Preparation: For younger children, use thick yarn. Make sure the stick is rigid enough to hold its shape during weaving. See video for reference.

Instructions:

The twig will be the loom: the device that holds the weaving.

1. Define warp and weft in weaving: **Warp** - the set of yarns (or other) that are stretched in place on the loom before the other yarn is introduced into the weaving. **Weft** - the other set of yarns (or other) that are woven into the wrap with an over/under pattern.
2. Tie the yarn onto the bottom of the v shape and wrap it back and forth tightly to the end. *Be sure to loop around each side twice to help it stay secure for the weaving process. Tie off the end.
3. Use about an arm's length of the colored yarn and tie it off on the same end of the warp yarn. Weave it under and over until it nears the end, then tie another length in another color to the end of it. Continue weaving until the space is filled. Tie off the end to secure the weaving.
4. Extend the activity by painting accent colors on the exposed parts of the stick.

What else can you create with your new technique?



Floating Key Ring Magic

Materials: key ring, rubber band, internet access, website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rtWyVe7pYU>

Preparation: Preview the video before and as needed to help you master the trick.

Instructions:

1. First, put the rubber band through the keyring.
2. Then grab one end of the rubber band with your right hand and the middle of the rubber band with the left hand.
3. Next, pull the rubber band tight so that it appears to others to be longer than it is.
4. Now, tilt the rubber band. Make sure to let the ring stay near your left hand. (Remember to hide the extra rubber band in your fist.)
5. Constantly and slowly release some of the extra rubber band in your left hand, and at the same time, keep the rubber band tight. The ring will move upward to your right hand.



Zippy Zappy Zoomer

Materials: cardstock or paper, hot glue gun (low heat - **adult assistance**), paper straws, pencil, ruler, scotch tape or decorative tape, scissors

Preparation: Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. Using a ruler, draw two lines using the following dimensions on your cardstock or paper: 1" x 7 1/2" and 1" x 5".
2. Next, using scissors to cut out the two strips from the cardstock.
3. Now, make each strip into a circle, barely overlapping and then tape. You will then have one large and one small circle.
4. Using scissors, cut the paper straws to be approximately 5 1/2" long.
5. **Adult assistance is needed for this step.** Using your hot glue gun, glue the straws to the outside edge of the large circle. Picture your circle as a clock. The straws should be placed at 12, 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions. Use the tape as your 12 o'clock position.
6. Then, glue the other end of the straws onto the outer edge of the small circle at the same positions of the clock. **Be sure to align the taped starting point of this circle with the larger circle below to make sure your Zippy Zappy Zoomer isn't twisted!**
7. If you would like to decorate and add your own personality to your Zippy Zappy Zoomer, now is the time.
8. Time to launch! Hold one of the straws near the back end and aim the Zippy Zappy Zoomer up. Fly it like you would fly a paper airplane. Try different ways of holding and throwing it. Which worked best?



Bouncing Super Balls

Materials: Borax[®] powder (can be found in the laundry detergent aisle), bowl, cornstarch, craft sticks (for stirring), cups, food coloring, glue (white), measuring spoons, paper towels, water

Preparation: **Adult assistance/supervision is needed for this activity.** Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. First, measure out the following and place in one cup: 4 tablespoons of warm water, 3 tablespoons cornstarch, and ½ teaspoon of Borax.
2. Then, in a bowl put in 1 tablespoon of white glue.
3. Next, place several drops of food coloring into the white glue and stir well with your craft stick.
4. Using a different craft stick, give your mixture of water, cornstarch, and Borax a good stir to combine all the ingredients.
5. Once you have the ingredients mixed up, pour them into the colored glue bowl.
6. Make sure to immediately stir all the ingredients in the bowl to avoid them clumping together. Keep stirring until you have one BIG SLIMY GLOB!
7. Let the FUN BEGIN! Take the glob out of the liquid and begin rolling it between the palms of your hands to form a ball. It will be sticky at first, so keep the paper towels close to you so you can wipe off your hands occasionally or as needed. With all of this hard work, you will begin to see a rubbery ball form.
8. Once you are satisfied with the form of the ball, allow time for the ball to rest and the stickiness to disappear.
9. You can now bounce away!

*The ball will flatten out after sitting for awhile so try and store it inside a container (even better if you happen to have an old plastic egg from Easter). You may need to reshape the ball, but storing it in a plastic container gives you more time to bounce your ball.



Jumping Can Cup to Cup

Materials: coffee cups or cups (same size and shape), soda can (empty)

Preparation: Preview the video before and as needed to help you master the trick.

Instructions:

1. First, place your empty soda can into a cup.
2. Place the other cup about 5 cm (almost 2 inches) beside the soda can cup.
3. Next, begin to blow air between the soda can and the cup. The air will cause the soda can to move up and to jump hopefully into the other cup.
4. You may need to adjust the distance between the cups so the can may jump from one cup to other one.
5. Try something different such as a ping-pong ball. Were you able to make it jump?

Why did this happen? When you blow towards the bottom of the cup, a high-pressure air between the bottom of the soda can and the inside of the cup is created. So, as the air pressure in the cup increases, the pressure above the soda can remains the same, creating a pressure difference that pushes the empty soda can up. That is the jump you see. The harder you blow, the larger the pressure difference is that is being created, and the further and higher the soda can will jump.



Mini Bow and Arrow Set

Materials: cotton swabs, craft sticks, dental floss, knife (**adult supervision or assistance is needed**), markers, paper, scissors, water

Preparation: Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. First, make notches on both ends of the craft sticks with a knife - **adult supervision or assistance is needed** (this will be where you hook in your dental floss).
2. Next, soak the craft stick in water for at least an hour. This will help you in bending the craft stick.
3. While your craft sticks are soaking, using scissors snip off one end of the cotton swabs. These will be your arrows.
4. Using paper and markers, draw a fun target to aim at when you complete your mini bow and arrow set.
5. Now, wrap a long strand of floss around one end of the craft stick a few times and **triple** knot it.
6. Then, **gently** bend the stick and wrap the floss around the other side a few times and **triple** knot it. Cut off any leftover floss that is hanging off.
7. Now, you are ready to try out your bow and arrow. Hang up your target and begin to gently pull back your bow, placing your arrow on the bow (swab pointing outward resting against the craft stick and the cut off end against the dental floss).
8. Release and adjust as necessary to hit your target.



Square Cube Bubbles

Materials: bubble solution (homemade or store bought), container (tall), scissors, straws-straight, pipe cleaners

Preparation: Gather materials.

Instructions:

1. First, cut each straw in half, then cut in half again. You will get 4 straw sections from each straw.
2. Then, thread a pipe cleaner through one straw and bend the end of the pipe cleaner to secure it at the end.
3. Now, thread three more straws onto the pipe cleaner.
4. Next, bend the long end of the pipe cleaner back to meet the starting point and twist the two ends of the pipe cleaner around each other. You now have a square shape.
5. Add three more straw sections onto the end of the long pipe cleaner.
6. Now, thread the pipe cleaner through one of the adjacent straw sections.
7. Add two more straw sections.
8. Next, bend the shape to form two sides of a cube and thread the end of the pipe cleaner through one of the straw sections on the edge of the cube.
9. Repeat Step Eight to form another side to the cube.
10. Now add one final straw section to complete the cube. Thread the pipe cleaner through an adjacent straw section to secure the final shape. If desired, add a straight section of straw onto the end of the pipe cleaner to form a handle. Add additional pipe cleaners as necessary and twist the ends together to secure.
11. You are done! Now it is time to make a square bubble!
12. To make your square bubble have a tall container full of bubble solution. You can use homemade solution or store bought. Carefully dip your wand into the solution.
13. Now, lift the wand out of the solution SLOWLY. You should see a bubble cube with multiple faces! If you do not, dip the wand into the solution again until you get an inverted bubble cube.

