



Homemade Toys and Props

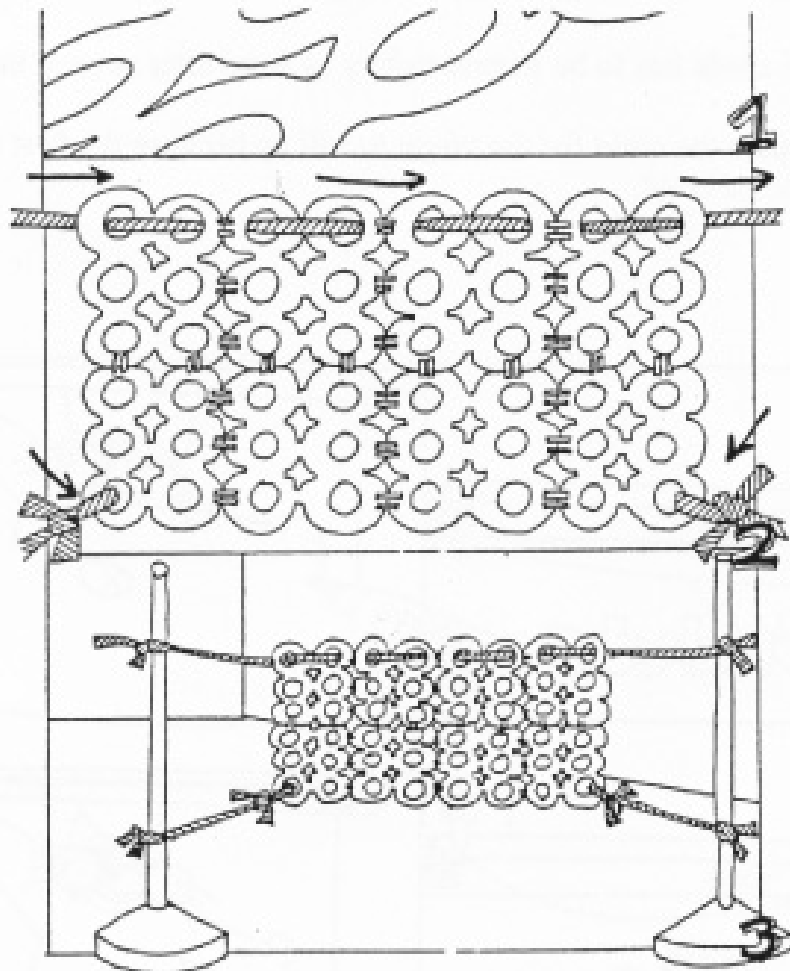


choosykids.com



HOW TO MAKE A SIX-PACK NET

1. Save your plastic six pack beverage holders
2. Place them end-to-end and tie together with yarn until the desire length is met. Most nets are two holders "high," however you can vary this to meet your needs.
3. Weave cord string through the top row of holes to add stability
4. Tie pieces of cord to the last hole on both end of the bottom row of holes.
5. Attach to chairs, wall, coat racks, etc and play catch with light weight beach balls or covered balloons (see page 3).
6. Use paper plate paddles (see page 21) or plastic paddles for hitting light weight balls or covered balloons over the net.



HOW TO MAKE A COVERED BALLOON

Because balloons are so lightweight, they stay in the air longer than any other type of ball. Therefore, lightweight balls and balloons are appropriate for learning catching and striking skills. **Recognizing the choking hazards of playing with balloons, we recommend that you only use balloons that are covered to contain the possibility of broken pieces.**

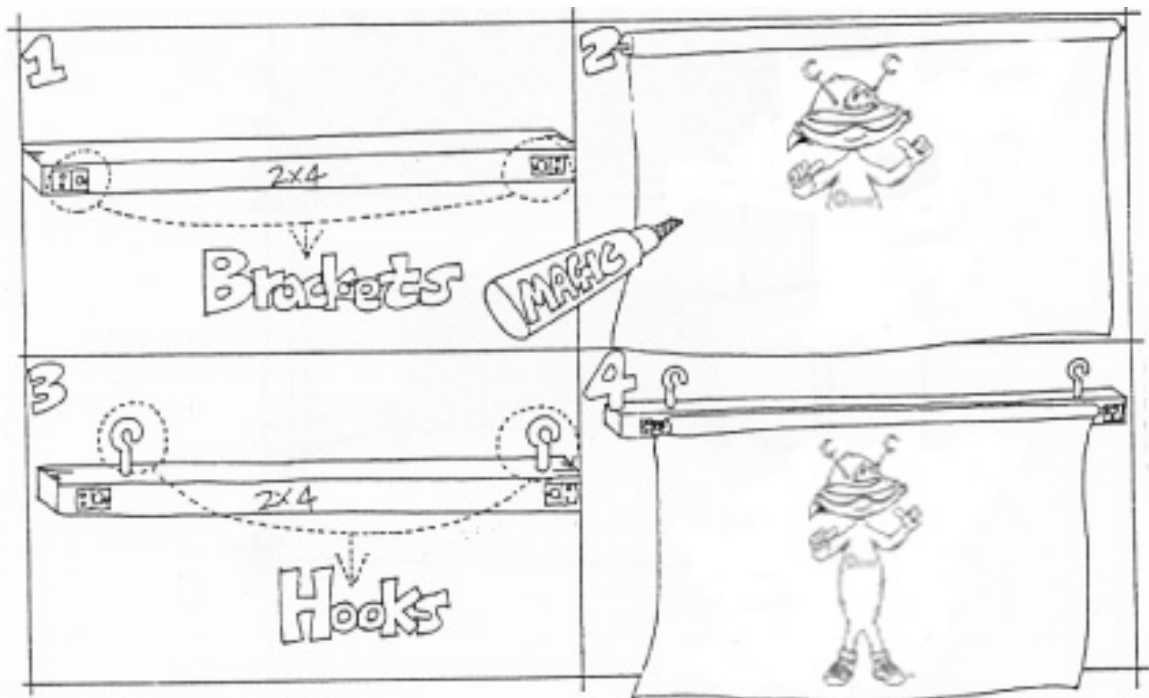
1. Use pantyhose or plastic grocery bags to cover each balloon.
2. Use yarn to tie the end of the plastic bag or the end of the pantyhose to contain the balloon.
3. Cut off any extra part of the plastic bag or pantyhose.



HOW TO MAKE A CHOOSY WINDOW SHADE TARGET

Use a standard size window shade with the appropriate mounting brackets

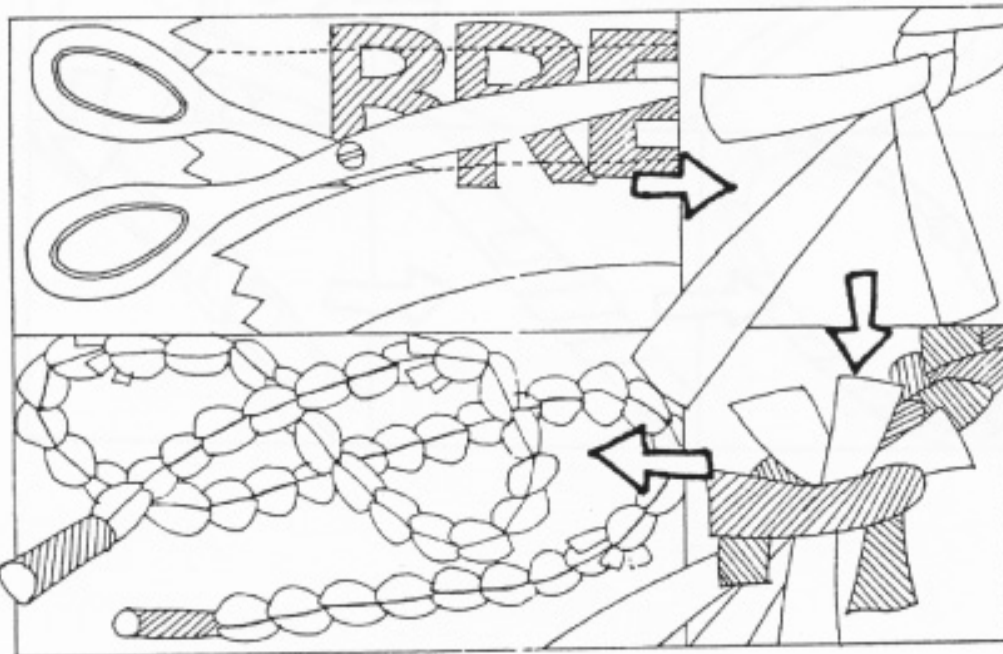
1. Cut a wooden 2x4 several inches longer than the shade
2. Attach the mountings for the shade to the 2x4
3. Attach eyehooks or C-hooks to the top of the 2x4 so that it can hang or be suspended indoors or outdoors.
4. Using decals or permanent marker make an image, shapes or numbers, or a character on the window shade.
5. Mount or suspend the finished target and pull it down almost the entire length
6. If the child throws or kicks with enough force, the target will “disappear” and roll up!
7. Reminder: the shade has to be wound tightly by hand after several throws or kicks
8. Reminder: Prep this activity with a discussion of what happens when a ball hits the shade because the first time the shade rolls up quickly, it may startle a child. As children learn that the shade disappears when hit hard enough, most will delight in making it happen.



HOW TO MAKE A PLASTIC JUMP ROPE

Preschool children do not jump rope with a single rope the way older children can. However, ropes can be used for other fun activities such as: balancing ropes on body parts, walking on top of ropes as pretend balance beams, drawing large letters, numbers, or shapes on the floor, or as obstacles to jump over on the floor, etc.

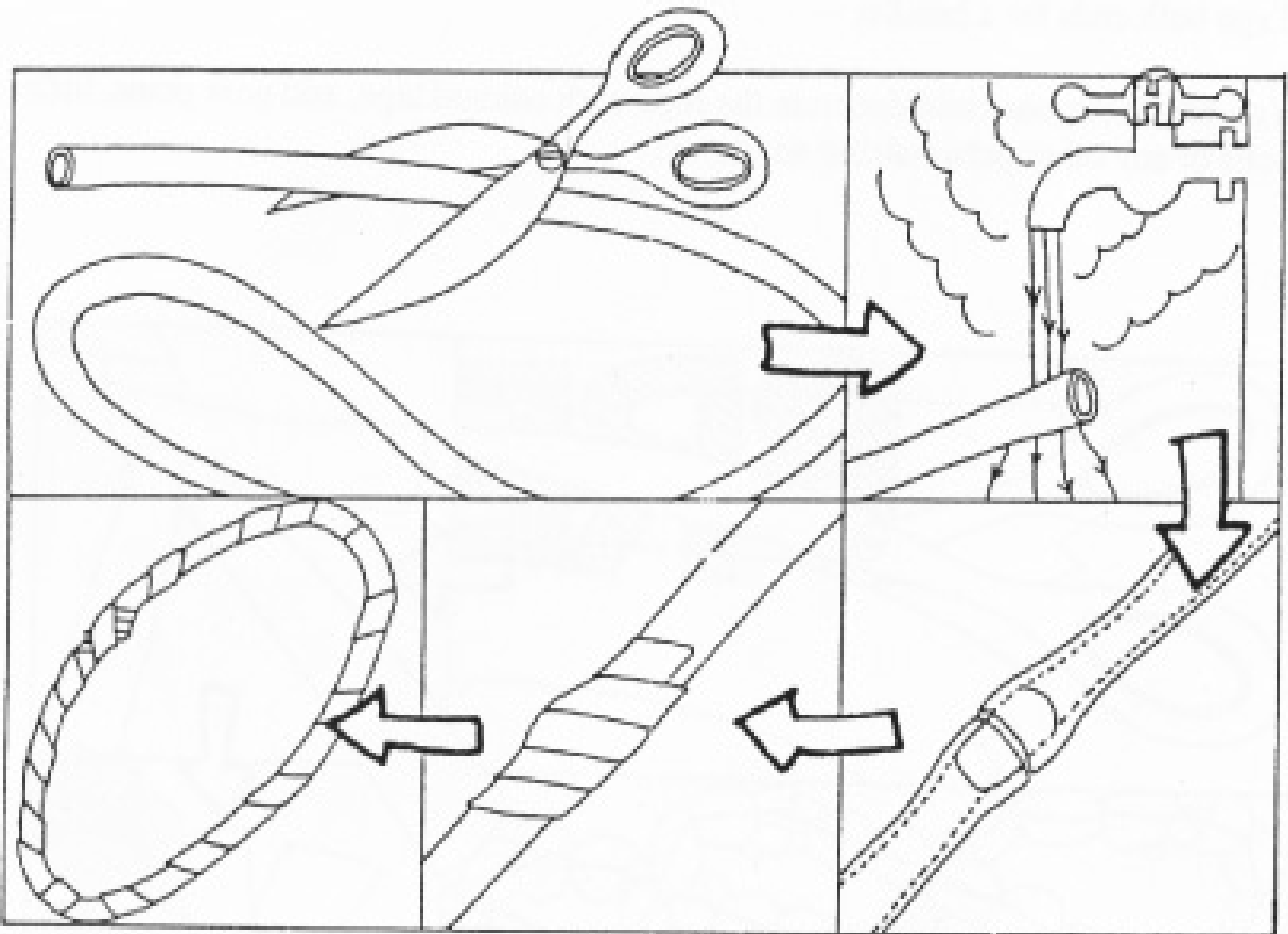
1. Save your bread bags!
2. Cut bread bags into three long strips. Large garbage bags work nicely too. Adjust the thickness of the plastic strips to the kind of rope you desire. Wider strips will produce a thick rope for floor activities while thinner strips produce a rope for jumping.
3. Braid three strips of plastic together
4. When you get to the end of one strip, place a new strip on top of it and continue braiding. **You do not need to tie knots!**
5. Continue braiding and adding new strips of plastic until the rope is the length you desire. Using scissors, snip off any strip ends along the length of the rope.
6. Tape both ends for a handle
7. You can have your child decorate the rope with colored tape, add pom poms, little bells or any other personalized additions.



HOW TO MAKE A HOOLA HOOP

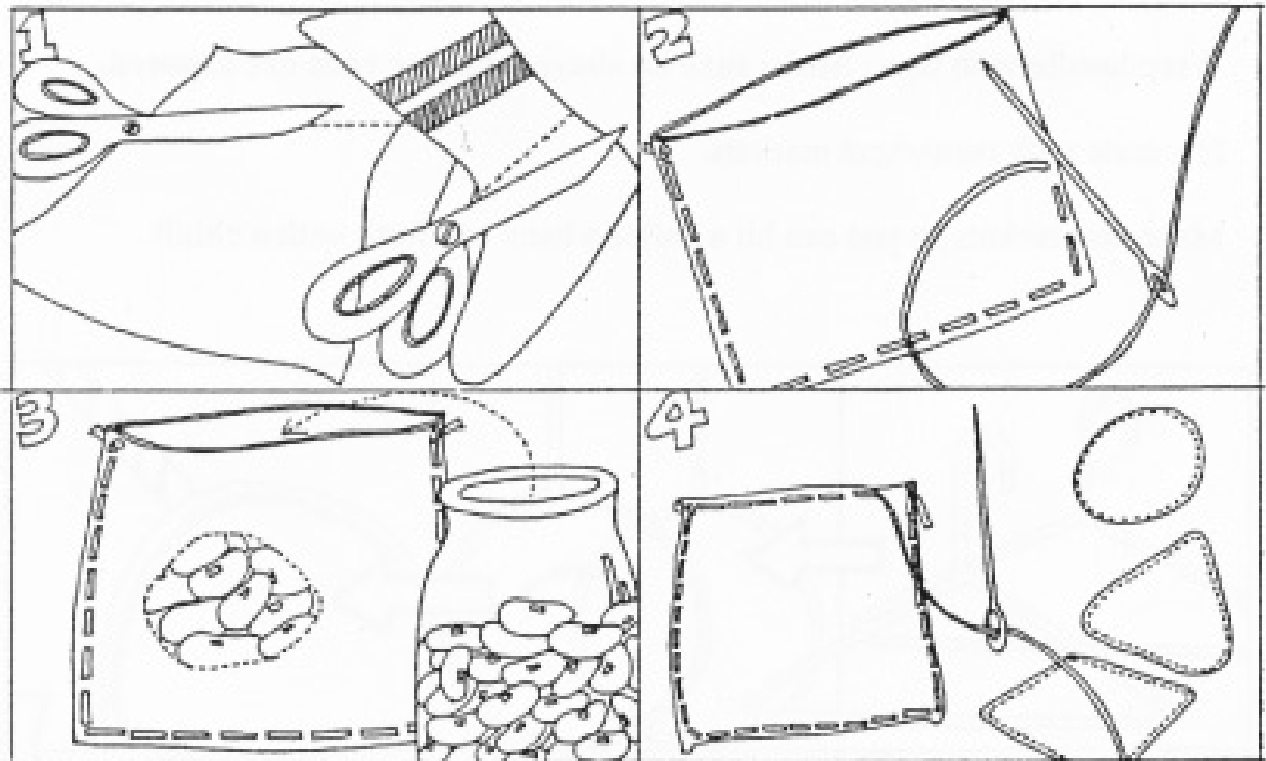
The great thing about making your own hoops is that you can create them to any size that you want to add real variety to movement challenges!

1. Use ½" or 2/3" flexible tubing (available in home improvement stores) cut to any desired length for small, medium, or large hoops.
2. Adults only: dip the end of the tubing in a pail of very hot water to cause them to expand
3. Insert a wooden or plastic plug (available in home improvement stores) in the tubing at both ends to complete the circle
4. Wrap a plastic tape around the "closure"
5. For a colorful, attractive hoop, wrap colored tape around the entire hoop



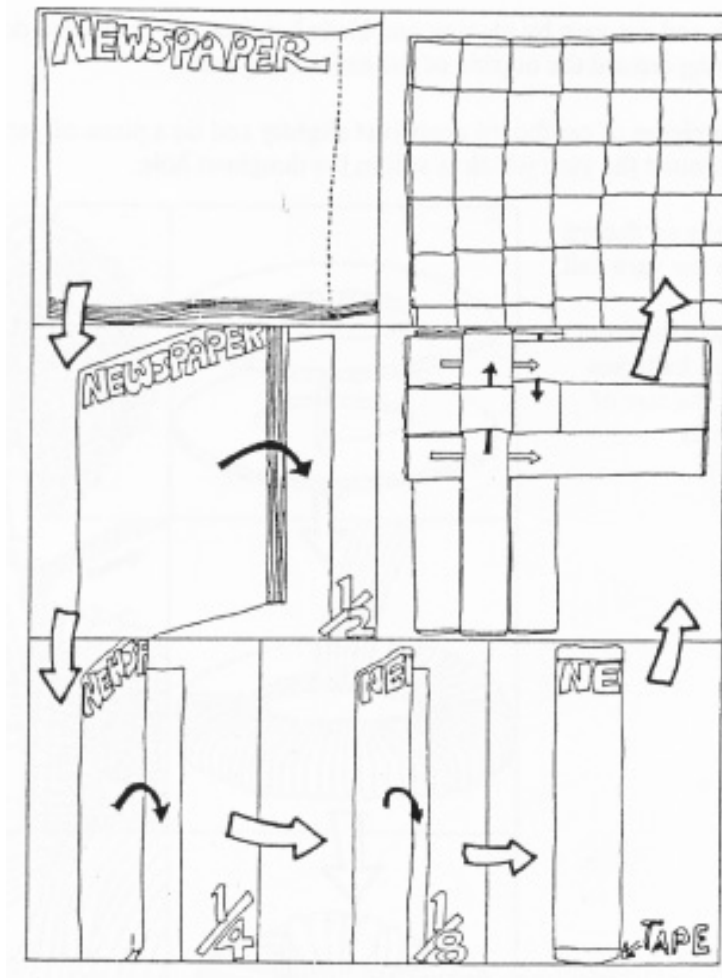
HOW TO MAKE A BEAN BAG

1. Use material scraps (portions of tube socks, denim, etc). You can also cut off 4 inches from the toe of an old sock.
2. Cut the bean bag to size and shape. Some should be small for tossing and others can be larger for balancing on body parts.
3. Sew three sides
4. Add popcorn, beans, peas, rice, or Styrofoam packing peanuts.
5. Don't overstuff.
6. Stitch the bean bag closed. Reinforce all seams



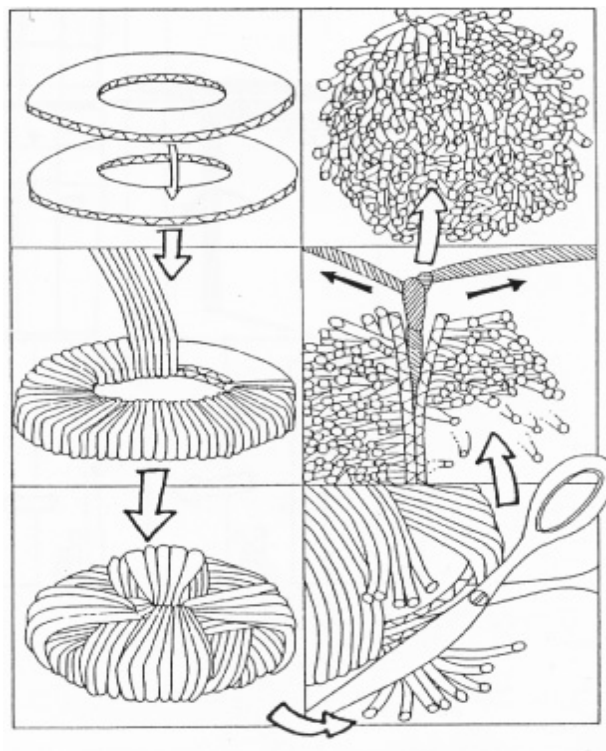
HOW TO MAKE A PAPER MAT

1. Place five open sheets of newspaper on top of each other.
2. Fold length-wise into halves, then fourths, then eighths.
3. Tape the open edges together
4. Make at least 12 strips
5. Weave the strips together taping the outside edges
6. These can be used for self space mats



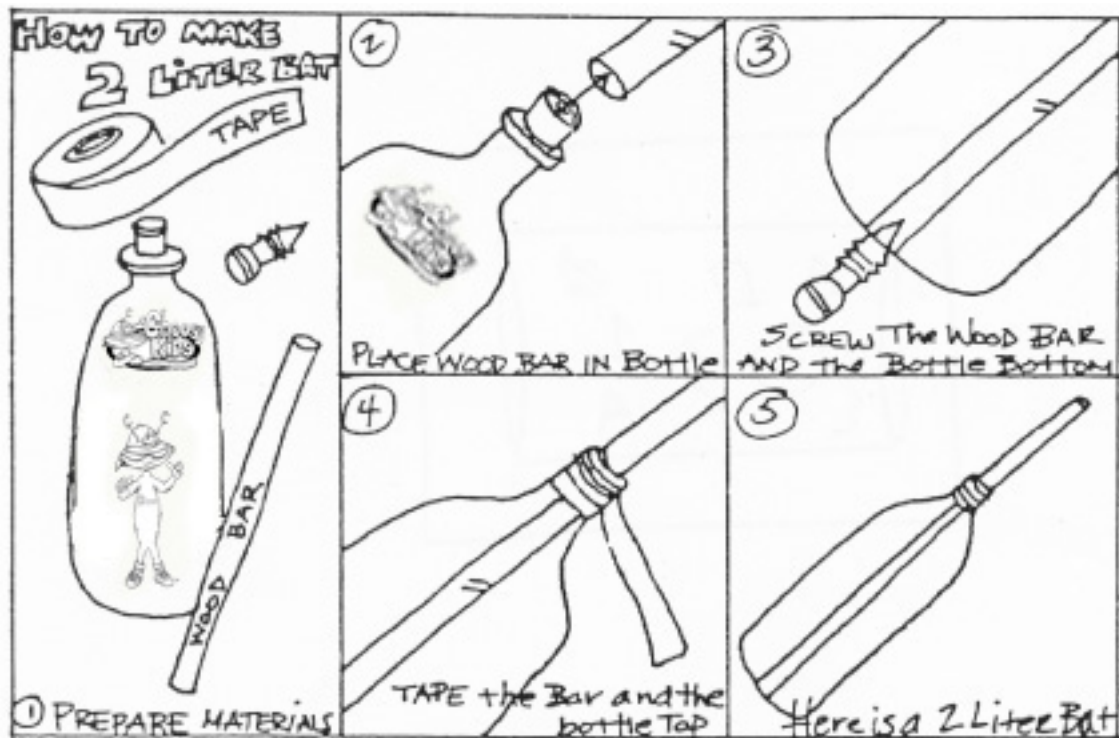
HOW TO MAKE A YARN BALL

1. Begin with two cardboard doughnuts, approximately 6 to 7 inches in diameter
2. The hole in the center should be about 2 inches across
3. Place one doughnut on top of the other and begin wrapping yarn around the cardboard pieces and through the hole.
4. Cut your yarn in lengths of 4 or 5 feet and wrap several strands of yarn at one time. You do not need to tie the ends of the yarn together.
5. Continue wrapping yarn until the doughnut hole is tightly filled
6. Use scissors by placing one blade between the two cardboard doughnuts and cut the yarn continuing around the outside of the entire doughnut.
7. Pull the two pieces of cardboard apart just slightly and tie a piece of yarn or shoestring around the cut yarn (*which is still the doughnut hole*).
8. Tear away the cardboard and fluff up the yarn ball.
9. You can make difference sizes of yarn balls just by varying the sizes of the doughnuts.



HOW TO MAKE A 2 LITER OR 3 LITER BAT

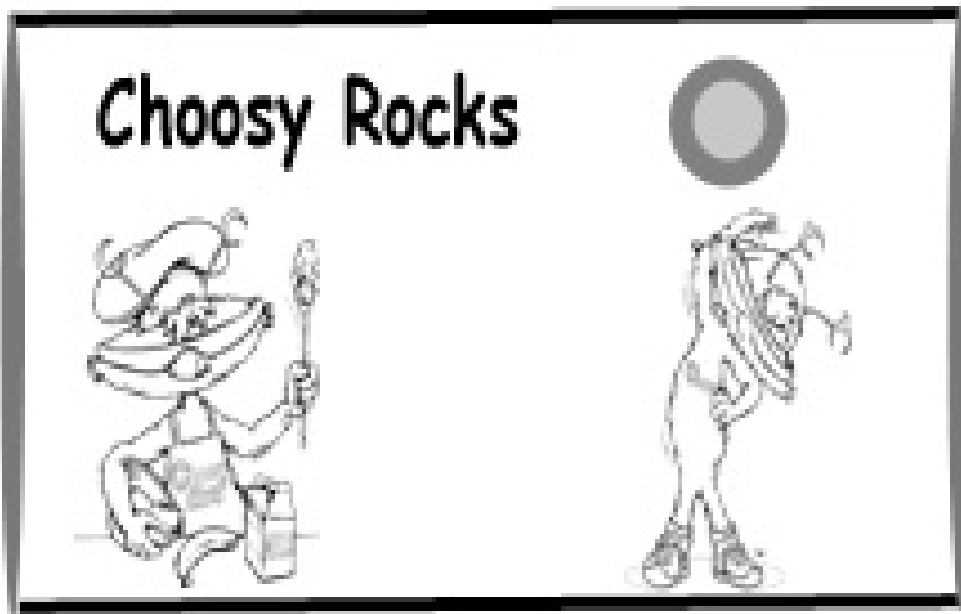
1. Begin with an empty 1, 2, or 3 liter bottle from your favorite beverage (or cut a foam pool noodle with a hollow middle to about the same length as the bottles)
2. Add some confetti or sparkles to the empty bottle
3. Your local home improvement store can cut a wooden dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe (5/8" in diameter or smaller) 18–20 inches long.
4. Insert the dowel rod or plastic pipe into the bottle to create the handle for the bat.
5. Tape the pour spout of the bottle to the dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe using colored duct tape or electrical tape to make a tight seal so that whatever is in the bottle stays there
6. Sand smooth the end of the handle, or cover it with a rubber furniture tip.
7. If you use a wooden dowel rod, secure the dowel to the bottom of the bottle with a small screw. A washer under the head of the screw helps to keep the plastic from cracking.
8. Decorate the bottle and the handle with the electrical tape, magic marker, Choosy stickers, or puff paint.



HOW TO MAKE A BLADDER BALL

This is a home made version of a large beach ball.

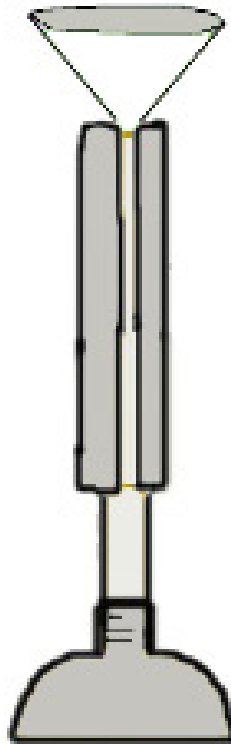
1. Ask a local school, hospital, or other institutional cafeteria to save milk or juice bladders for you.
2. Thoroughly rinse the inside of the bladder with water.
3. Decorate the bladder with puff paint, Choosy stickers, or magic markers.
4. Some nozzles might have to be heated and melted to seal the air inside the bladder
5. Do not over-inflate
6. Use the bladder as beach balls for catching, kicking, visual tracking, and childhood games



HOW TO MAKE A BATTING TEE

This is a great way for young children to practice hitting a stationary ball off of an adjustable tee before moving on to hitting a moving, tossed ball.

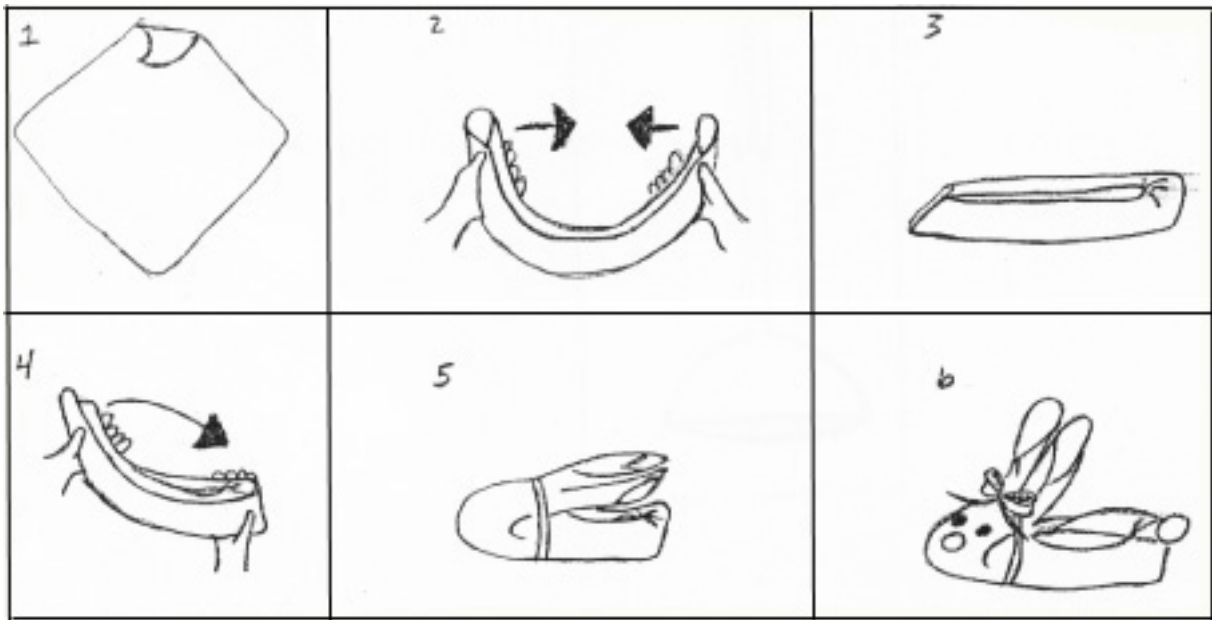
1. Use a small plunger as the base
2. Cut a 12 to 18 inch length of foam pipe insulation to slide onto the handle of the plunger. This makes the tee adjustable up and down.
3. Place a small plastic funnel in the top of the pipe insulation. This holds the ball in place. Use a larger funnel for larger balls or balloons



HOW TO MAKE A BOO BOO BUNNY

When your child needs ice on a boo boo, place an ice cube inside the bunny!

1. Begin with a thin wash cloth lying flat with one corner facing toward you.
2. Roll the corner toward the center of the wash cloth. Roll the opposite corner toward the center of the wash cloth until it meets the first roll
3. Take one end in each hand and fold the rolled wash cloth in half
4. Place a rubber band around the folded end about 1 inch from the end.
5. Separate the “ears” slightly and cover the rubber band with ribbon
6. Attach small pom poms for a nose and a tail



HOW TO MAKE A CLIMBING JUG

Use this activity to develop strength in hands and lower arms for climbing

Start with a clean, empty plastic bottle with a handle

Use a shoe string or cut a clothes line rope into a 24" – 30" length

Your local home improvement store can cut a wooden dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe ($\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1") 12" lengths.

Tie one end of the string to the jug handle and the other end to the middle of the dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe.

Fill the jug $\frac{1}{4}$ full with water, sand, or other materials.

Tighten the lid to the jug but do not hot glue permanently so that you can adjust the "weight" of the jug (or make several jugs of different weights and glue the lids on the jugs)

Decorate the jugs with stickers, puff paint, markers, etc.

The child holds the dowel rod with both hands, palms facing down, arms extended out in front and using alternating turning motions with each hand, which makes the jug "climb" up to the dowel rod. When the jug reaches the dowel rod, the child reverse the turning motion to slowly lower the jug to the end of the rope.

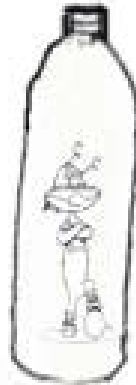


HOW TO MAKE JINGLE JUGS

1. Use empty 1, 2, 3 liter plastic bottles
2. Place items in the bottles that make sounds, provide a variety of colors, or other sensory stimulation
3. Examples: small bells, corn, rice, beads, confetti, colored tissue paper, pipe cleaners, small plastic figures, etc
4. Glue the lid on the bottle for safety.
5. Use as targets for kicking or throwing, or obstacles to avoid when marching to music, or to drive wheeled toys around, or for customized musical instruments



3 Liter



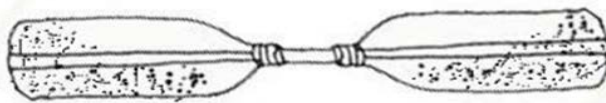
2 Liter



1 Liter

HOW TO MAKE SMALL AND LARGE BARBELL WEIGHTS

1. Begin with two 12 oz, 16 oz, 20oz, and/or two 1, 2, or 3 liter plastic bottles
2. Add some sand, aquarium gravel, or rice to each bottle to a level not more than half full. Lay the bottles on their sides
3. Cut a 5/8" wooden dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe to 18" and 36" lengths
4. Insert the dowel or plastic pipe into each bottle
5. Using a small screw, secure the dowel to the bottom of the bottle. A washer under the head of the screw helps to keep the plastic from cracking. Or skip this step and use tape to attach the dowel or plastic pipe
6. Tape the pour spout of the bottle to the dowel rod or plastic pvc pipe using colored duct tape or electrical tape to make a tight seal so that whatever is in the bottle stays there
7. Decorate the bottles and the handle with colored electrical tape, magic marker, Choosy stickers, or puff paint.
8. Use like barbells. Used one or both hands for small weights; two hands with large weights
9. Caution: Do not make weights too heavy for small children. These props should be designed to help children "pretend" or model healthy behaviors



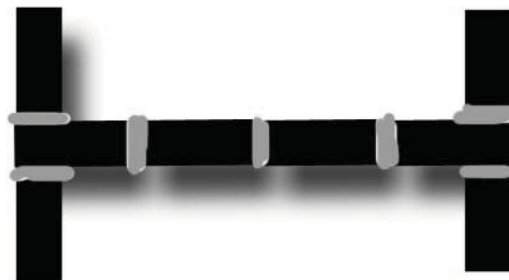
Small barbell weight



Large barbell weight

HALF-GALLON BEAM

1. This beam is easily made from recycled cardboard half-gallon juice or milk containers. Rinse out the containers and fold down the spout end to be as flat as possible. Cut the spout out if necessary to make a flat end.
2. Fill each container with shredded paper or pages of newspaper. The paper should be tightly stuffed so that the containers will bear the weight of children and not sink in when stepped on. Shredded paper can be donated from a variety of businesses, agencies, or organizations. Use duct tape to create a “finished” flat end for the spout end of each container.
3. Use duct tape to attach several containers together to make the length of the beam you want. To make the ends secure so that the beam will not wiggle or turn over, duct tape a container on each side of the end pieces of the beam so that the end looks like a T (see sketch).
4. Children can decorate the beam or it can be covered with spongy gripper shelf liner.

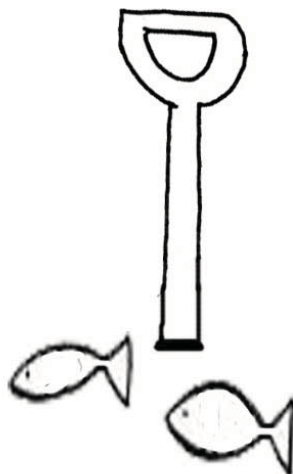


FISHING FOR BALANCE

Used for encouraging compensating balance movements of the arms while balancing with one foot in front of the other foot. The child can pretend to walk on a balance beam by walking on a line, or can walk across a foam or wooden low-level beam that is at least 4 inches wide. The child places the pole or line near fish and catches them by picking them up so that a helper can take the fish off the line. Since the point is to practice compensating movements, place the fish out to the side, not directly under the child. Also, encourage the child to keep one foot in front of the other, rather than turning sideways to face the fish.

Construction

1. The fishing “pole” can be made from a plastic wand, small whiffle ball bat, or a dowel rod (plastic is better for safety reasons).
2. Attach a magnet to one end of the fishing “line”.
3. Where possible, attach a handle on the other end of the pole. We have used plastic sand shovel handles.
4. Cut out fish shapes (about 3 or 4 inches long) from a variety of colors of felt.
5. Sew or glue two of the shapes together, leaving about a 1-inch opening on the seam.
6. Place several large paper slips inside the felt fish.
7. Finish sewing or gluing the opening shut.
8. Decorate the fish with eyes or smiles by using craft materials.

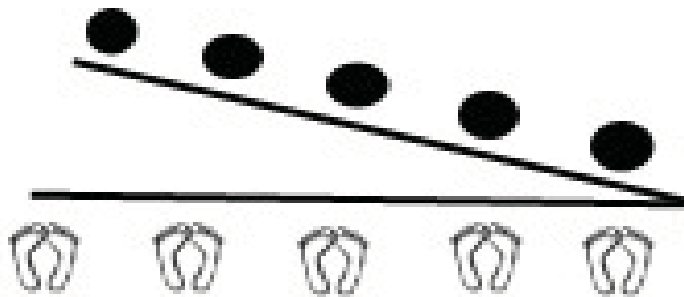


GRADUATED JUMP

This activity allows children to choose the distance that they will attempt to jump. The child could be encouraged to jump to all spots in a sequence, from easy to hard. The ropes or straps can be adjusted to make a smaller or wider angle, which varies the task difficulty, as well.

Construction

1. Make the lines with thin rope, nylon strap, or stretch bands. Attach the two ropes together at one end to make a "joint" or pivot point.
2. One rope remains stationary on the floor, but also moves to open or close the width angle.
3. We also use poly spots as targets to jump to, and footprints as starting spots. The poly spots are placed on the floor next to the angled rope and the footprints are placed just behind the starting line.

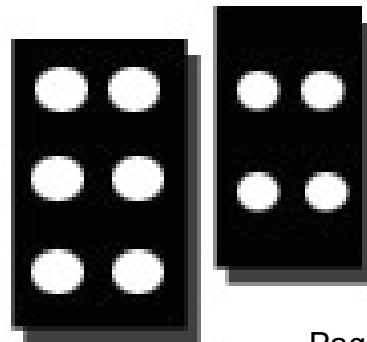


DOMINOES

Great for kicking targets. They can also be used for throwing. We have also used them for obstacles for spatial awareness activities.

Construction

1. Place two pieces of 1-foot x 2-foot Styrofoam back to back.
2. Cover with black contact paper.
3. Paint domino dots on the contact paper.
4. Make multiple pieces of the dominoes.



MONKEYTAILS

We use these mostly for parachute activities. Rather than making popcorn, we have monkeys “jumping” or even flying in from a tree if you have an overhead space where someone could toss the “tails” down from overhead. We have also called them jumping fish. As the children make waves with the parachute, the balls jump up in the air and their tails provide a visual effect that encourages continuation of the activity. These can also be used as a catching activity, as well.

Construction

1. Use golf- or tennis-size whiffle balls.
2. Cut ribbon in at least 2-foot lengths.
3. Attach ribbons together with a bread bag tie.
4. Then attach the bread bag tie to one or two holes in the whiffle ball.



PAPER PLATE PADDLE

Plate paddles make small hands bigger. Paddle plates can be used by themselves or with a handle.

Construction

1. Use one throwaway paper plate, the thicker the better.
2. Use scissors to cut two parallel openings at least 1 inch apart and 3–4 inches long.
3. Have openings be about 2 inches apart from each other. **(THIS CONTRADICTS INSTRUCTION 2)**
4. Put hand inside the plates' opening so hand is free from holding or squeezing
5. Hand should be in “high five” position when using the paper plate paddle.

Plate Paddle With a Handle

Tape a paint stirrer to the back of a thick paper plate to make a paddle. We use Chinet plates.



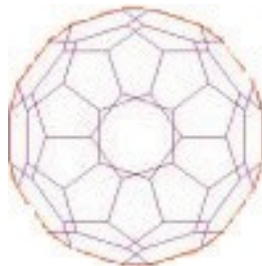
PVC JUMP ROPE

1. Use 1/4-inch x 3/8-inch flexible plumbing tube 9–10 feet in length.
2. For shorter individual “jump ropes,” cut the tube 5 feet in length.
3. Use colorful duct tape for the ends to make handles.



GEOMETRIC PANTYHOSE BALL

1. You will need several pantyhose legs (approximately 12 for a medium-size ball).
2. Cut the toes end and the panty off of the pantyhose so that you are left with just the leg.
3. Roll the leg of the hose to make a ring.
4. Tie each ring together with the leftover pantyhose to make a geodesic ball.
5. This makes a soft, easy-to-catch ball and can be made to any size.



LID STREAMER

1. You will need various sizes of plastic lids from margarine tubs or coffee cans, a utility blade, crepe paper, and duct tape.
2. Cut out the inside of a plastic lid to make a ring.
3. Attach streamers to the ring with duct tape
4. Have children express themselves and move to music waving their streamers!



SCARVES

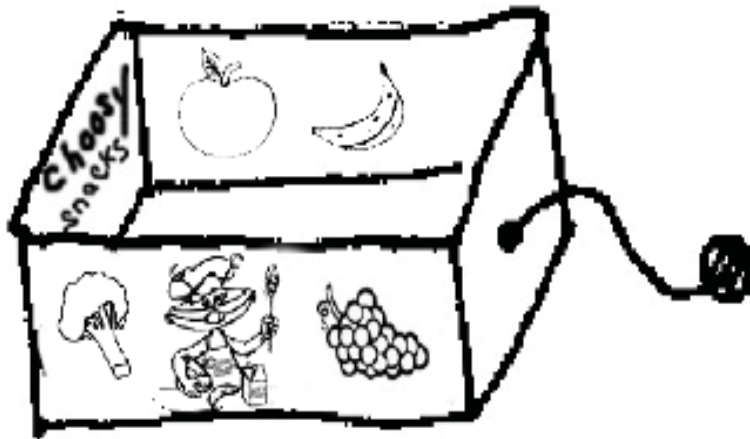


Use shop rags, bridal netting, tissues, etc., to practice catching at different levels, balancing on different body parts, engaging in partner practice of body parts, or moving scarves to music.

CHOOSY PLAY SNACKS & SHOPPING CART

Use empty yogurt containers, egg cartons, raisin boxes, cereal boxes, etc., and reseal the packages with glue. Do not reuse bags or cans that could be dangerous!

Decorate a cardboard box with pictures of Choosy and Choosy Snacks. Cover the pictures with clear contact paper. Poke a hole through one side of the box and thread the ribbon or cord through the hole. This is great for a pretend trip to the store, or just as a pull toy.



TEXTURES

Place each of the following items used in its own plastic container. Label each container: smooth, soft, rough, sticky, wet. Have the children touch and explore each item. Discuss with the children what it feels like.

Cooked spaghetti Pieces of fur Water Pieces of yarn Pieces of sandpaper

HOW TO MAKE A MILK JUG BALL CATCHER AND BALL

Milk jugs are great for children who have difficulty catching a small ball with tiny hands! The milk jug ball catchers work as well as the ones you purchase in the store!

Adult supervision required for making this prop. Caution: The milk jug container can be sharp when cut, so this task must be performed by an adult.

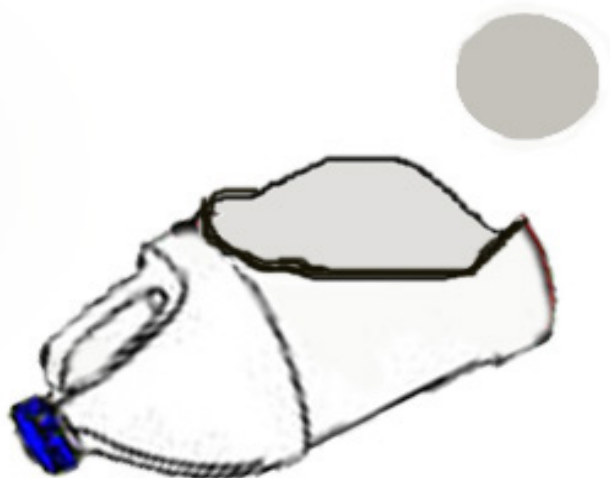
1. Cut the bottom off of the milk jug first. Wash the plastic milk container and let it dry completely.
2. Use sharp scissors to cut a U shape under the handle. Make sure you don't cut into the handle because it is what the child will hold on to for catching.
3. Use **several** layers of duct tape to tape all edges of the container to make it's safe for play
4. Use stickers, colored electrical tape, puff paint, or markers to decorate the container.

Tape Ball

Wad up a piece of newspaper. Wrap masking tape all around it and you'll have a safe and inexpensive ball

Stocking Ball

Make a stocking ball from pantyhose or tube socks.



GREAT IDEAS!

The following ideas are from many teachers sharing their best ideas and recipes!!

Textures:

Cooked spaghetti

Pieces of fur

Water

Pieces of yarn

Pieces of sandpaper

5 clear plastic containers

Place each of the items in it's own plastic container. Label each container: smooth, soft, rough, sticky, wet. Have the children touch and explore each item. Discuss each item, its characteristics, and what it feels like.

Musical Toys

Musical toys can be made at home and used for dancing, marching, and playing along with recorded music. Using household items, you can make the following instruments.

Rhythm sticks – rolled newspaper and masking tape or empty paper towel rolls stuffed with newspaper.

Triangle – Large washer hung from a string, use a straw to strike it.

Shaker – place macaroni or bells inside two aluminum pie pans and tape them together

Drums – empty oatmeal box, coffee can or a pot, and use wooden spoons to strike them.

Kazoo – fold a piece of waxed paper over the teeth of a comb

Cymbals – pot lids of various sizes

Sand Blocks – cover one side of two blocks with coarse sandpaper, and rub together.

RECIPES

BUBBLES

Magic Bubble Bags:

Freezer re-sealable bags

Duct tape

5 Tbsp. Cornstarch

½ cup water

Food coloring: 2 squirts each of blue and green or red and green

½ cup of vegetable oil

Place cornstarch, water and food coloring in a freezer bag and shake to mix

Add oil. Seal the bag and reinforce with duct tape. Press bag with finger and watch colors blend and separate

Iridescent Soap Bubbles:

1 cup water
2 tbsp liquid starch
1tbsp glycerin
½ tsp sugar
Mix all ingredients

Bubbles

1/3 cup of dishwashing liquid (Dawn works best)
1 ¼ cups water
1 tsp sugar
Mix ingredients together and allow for it to sit for 3 – 4 hours before using
Best to use at room temperature

Home Made Bubbles

1 tbsp liquid detergent
½ tsp sugar
4 oz water
Mix all ingredients together. Blow bubbles with wand, hand, string, straws, fly swatter, etc

DOUGH RECIPES:

Shampoo Dough

¾ cup flour
¼ white glue
¼ thick shampoo
Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Knead. Add more flour if needed.
Model or roll out and cut.
Dry and then paint, if desired.

Kool-Aid Play Dough (not edible)

2 ½ cups flour
½ cup salt
2 pkgs. Unsweetened Kool-Aid
2 cups boiling water
3 tbs oil
Mix dry ingredients. While stirring, add water and oil.
Let cool slightly. Mix with hands. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.

Cornmeal Dough

1 ½ cups flour
1 ½ cups cornmeal
1 cup salt
1 cup water
Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Add more water to form a smooth dough
Keeps up to six weeks in airtight container



Cooked Cornstarch Play Dough

½ cup salt
½ cup of hot water
¼ cup of cold water
½ cup of cornstarch

Mix salt and hot water and bring to a boil. In a separate bowl mix cold water and corn starch. Add to boiling mixture. Color with food coloring.

Cooked Play Dough

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
4 tsp cream of tarter
2 tbs oil

Mix first three ingredients. Then mix in oil. Add 2 cups water and some food coloring, if desired. Cook over medium temperature until it forms a ball. Take out of pan and knead a little to get it mixed well. Keep in a sealed plastic bag

Play Dough

1 cup flour
1/3 cup salt
1/3 cup to ½ cup water
few drops of vegetable oil or liquid soap
food coloring

Coffee Play Dough

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup used coffee grounds
¾ cup water

Oatmeal Play Dough

2 cups oatmeal
1 cup flour
½ cup water
arrange on
foil, bake at 200 for an hour

Salt Dough

1 cup water
½ tsp food coloring
3 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup salt

Edible Peanut Butter Play

2 spoonfuls peanut butter
2 spoonfuls of powdered sugar
2 spoonfuls of Kayro syrup
2 spoonfuls of dry milk

Cotton Ball Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup water
cotton balls
Dip cotton balls into mixture,



Oil Dough

3 cups flour
1 cup salt
1 cup water
3 tbsp oil
Mix together
glue
water to form dough

Saw Dust Dough

2 cups saw dust
1 cup flour
2 tsp white glue
2 tsp starch
Mix dry ingredients together. Add
and starch and enough

Potter's Clay

½ cup flour
½ cup cornstarch
1 cup salt dissolved in 3 ¾ cups boiling water. Blend flour and cornstarch with enough water to make paste. Boil water and salt. Add to cornstarch mix and cook until clear. Cool overnight then add 6 to 8 cups of flour and knead until you have the right consistency
Hint: Keep a container of flour handy for the children to keep their clay from sticking

Cinnamon Dough

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
5 tsp cinnamon
¾ to 1 cup of warm water
Mix flour, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Make a well in the center and pour in water. Mix with hands until dough forms a ball. Knead on lightly floured board until smooth and satiny. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 20 minutes. Use as any clay. Excellent for cookie cutter ornaments rolled ¾ thick. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour, until hard

Rubbery Play Dough

2 cups baking soda
1 ½ cups water
1 cup cornstarch
Mix with a fork until smooth. Boil over moderate heat until thick (about 1 minute)
Spoon onto a plate or waxed paper

Cloud Dough

6 cups flour
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup water
food coloring (optional)
Pour water into measuring cup. Add food coloring, if desired. Let the children pour flour and oil into large bowl. Slowly pour the water into the flour/oil mixture, letting the children stir as you pour. Continue stirring the ingredients until you get a soft dough. Add a little more water or flour, if necessary
NOTE: It is a little on the oily side. Have paper towels ready.

Bread Dough

Cut crust off the slices of bread and mix with diluted white glue
Form into shapes, animals, etc
When dry, paint and/or shellac

Soapy Dough

2 cups flour
½ cup salt
2 tsp dry tempera powder paint
1 tbs liquid soap
Mixing bowl

Mix flour, salt, tempura paint, and soap in a bowl for 1 minute. Slowly add water, a little at a time and stir until dough is workable. Knead well. Shape dough any way you choose

Jello–O Dough

1 cup flour
1 cup salt
1 cup water
1 tbs cream of tartar
1 package Jell-O

Mix ingredients in sauce pan. Cook over low heat until the mixture forms a ball. Remove from pan and cool 5 minutes. Knead

Chocolate Scented Play dough

1 ¼ cups flour
½ cup cocoa powder
½ cup salt
½ tbs cream of tartar
1 ½ tbs of cooking oil
1 cup boiling water

Mix the dry ingredients. Add the oil and boiling water. Stir quickly, mixing well. When cool, mix with your hands. Store in an airtight container.

Sensory Bottles

COLORED BUBBLES BOTTLE – from *More Things to Do with Toddlers & Twos* by Karen Miller (Chelsea MA: Telshare, 1990). Fill a plastic bottle one third full with water. Add tempera paint & about 1/3 cup of liquid detergent. Let the children shake the bottle to make colored bubbles. Glue the cap to the bottle.

DANCING YARN BOTTLE – from *More Things to Do with Toddlers & Twos* by Karen Miller (Chelsea MA: Telshare, 1990). Put numerous pieces of yarn cut in short pieces (about 3 to 6 inches) into a plastic bottle. Fill the bottle with water. Let the children shake the bottle to make the yarn dance.

WAVE BOTTLE – Fill half of the bottle with cooking oil, add water to fill the bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way. Add blue food coloring, and seal the lid with glue. As you turn the bottle on its side, the waves roll gently.

DESERT BOTTLE – Add small plastic or rubber desert animals such as lizards, snakes, etc. to an empty bottle. Fill $\frac{2}{3}$ of bottle with sand. As children turn or shake the bottle, they can see animals that live on the desert. This is a great activity for visual discrimination.

MAGNETIC BOTTLE #1 – Fill bottle with small items that can be picked up by a magnet, and objects that cannot be picked up by a magnet. Seal the bottle. Attach a magnet to the top of the bottle by tying one end of yarn around the magnet, and the other to the bottle. Children discover what items are attracted to the magnet, and which are not, by rubbing the magnet along the sides of the bottle.

MAGNETIC BOTTLE #2 – Find a place that sells bingo materials. Some packages come with a magnetic bingo wand, and colored magnetic discs. Add about 20 magnetic bingo chips to a bottle filled with water. Attach the magnetic bingo wand to the top of the bottle with yarn. Children will enjoy seeing how many discs they can pick up with the magnet, and enjoy watching them float in the bottle.

MAGNETIC BOTTLE #3 – Add magnetic numbers, or shapes, or letters to a bottle. Attach a magnetic wand to the bottle top, using yarn. Children name, write, or draw what they pick up with their magnets.

MAGNETIC BOTTLE #4 – Add magnetic objects to a small plastic bottle, and fill the bottle with sand. Attach a magnetic wand to the outside of the bottle using yarn. Children run the magnets along the side of the bottle, and are surprised to find what is hiding under the sand.

SEASONAL BOTTLES – Fill an empty bottle with objects found in the fall. Example: Fall leaves, acorns or nuts, small pumpkins or gourds, dried apples, turkey feathers, etc. Children enjoy looking and naming the objects found. Make new bottles for other seasons.

DENSITY BOTTLE – Fill an empty bottle with hair gel (lots of colors are available) Add a marble. Children discover the properties of density as they turn the bottle. Fill about $\frac{3}{4}$ ways full, so the marbles have room to move.

DENSITY BOTTLE #2 – Fill an empty bottle with shampoo. Add a marble.

SAND BOTTLE – Fill the bottom of a bottle with colored sand. Add water, to shake and see what happens when you shake the bottle.

RELAXATION BOTTLE – Add a small package of colored or holiday confetti to the bottom of the bottle. Fill the bottle with Kayro Syrup. It is a very relaxing experience to watch the glitter float and flutter as you gently turn the bottle

MAGNETIC SHAVINGS – Fill a small plastic bottle with magnetic shavings. Attach a magnet to top of the bottle with yarn. Observe the shavings movement through the bottle as you rub the magnetic wand over the side of the bottle.

POTPOURRI BOTTLE – Cut a small hole into the side of the bottle; attach netting with clear plastic tape, over the hole. Fill the bottle with potpourri in flavors such as orange, vanilla, pine, gingerbread, roses, etc. Children describe the scent, or what the scent reminds them of.

GLOW IN THE DARK BOTTLE – Add small glow in the dark items such as stars to a bottle. Do not add any water. Children can put the bottle under a box, and look through a hole to observe what happens when the bottle is placed in the dark. Or they can take the bottle to a darkened room, or under a table covered with a sheet.

CRAYON SHAVINGS BOTTLE – Fill the bottle half full with crayon shavings; fill the bottle with water. Shake and observe what happens.

FLOAT OR SINK BOTTLE – Place a variety of objects in a bottle, some that will float, and some that will not. Fill the bottle with water. As children shake the bottle, they can observe what items float, and what items sink. Add food coloring to add color.

RAIN BOTTLE – Fill a dry empty bottle with a box of toothpicks. Add rice (uncooked) to the bottle leaving an empty space of about 1 ½ inches at the top. Seal the lid. As you gently turn the bottle, the rice falls through the toothpicks, sounding like rain.

FISH TANK BOTTLE – Fill a large plastic soft drink bottle about one quarter full with water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring and just one drop of liquid detergent. Pour in a small amount of clean sand or aquarium gravel. Blow up two small balloons, release most of the air, then tie the ends closed. You can use orange balloon for gold fish, or any other color for exotic fish. Push the balloons into the bottle and screw the cap on tightly. When you have finished, you will have a fish tank with two bobbing “fish” inside. Let the children take turns holding the bottle sideways and rocking it back and forth to watch the fish “swim” in the blue water.

MAZE BOTTLE - Fill a bottle with water and put in some of the Easter grass. Add a few pony beads and make a maze! When you turn it upside down and back the beads will slowly move through the tangle of Easter grass.

YELLOW and BLUE BOTTLE - Yellow water and blue sparkles/glitter. (When shaken, the water seems to turn green. Yellow + blue=green.)

OIL and WATER BOTTLE - Blue water and baby oil. (The blue water when shaken, will seem to mix with the oil and change blue, when it settles, the color does NOT penetrate the oil.) Also, Add pony (craft) beads and they will float between the two liquids.

