

Weaving

Best for Ages

5+

Workspace

Anywhere

Is electricity required?

No

Description

Weaving is a fun way to make something new with strips of fabric or plastic. In this activity, we will use household materials to explore weaving in a creative way!

What to Do

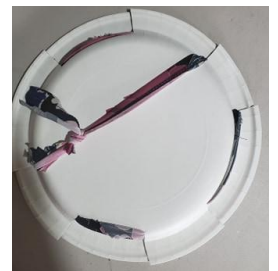
Materials

- Weaving material: ribbon, yarn, fabric strips from old t-shirts, strips of plastic bags
- Scissors
- Loom: paper plate or cardboard circle
- Ruler
- Writing utensil- pencil, pen, marker

Concepts Explored

- Fine Motor Skills
- Hand-Eye Coordination
- Pre-writing Skills

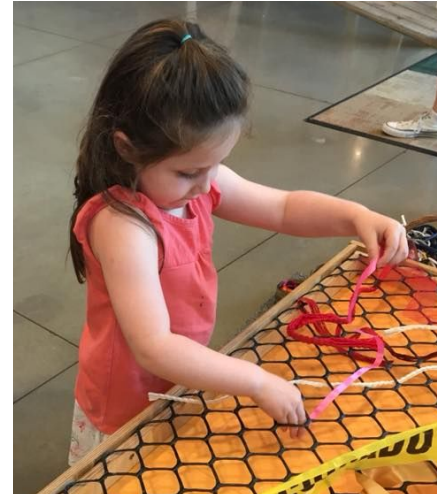
1. Using a pencil and ruler, draw lines through the center of a paper plate to create "pie wedges". Create at least 4 lines across the plate in order to make 8 wedges.
2. Snip the edges of the paper plate at each line mark, making sure to stop at the base of the plate.
3. Wrap the yarn around the plate in a star design by winding the yarn across the paper plate until the yarn is going across each line mark you created. Tie the ends together on the back of the plate. Your loom is ready for weaving!
4. Now begin weaving! Grab a new piece of yarn and tie it to the center of your loom.
5. Begin weaving by putting the yarn over one piece of the loom yarn. Then go under the next piece of loom yarn. Repeat this over-under pattern for the remaining pieces of the loom.
6. When you are done weaving, you can cut your weaving off the plate and tie the ends together. Or take apart the weave and practice again later with the same materials.



Weaving

Troubleshooting Tips

- When weaving on the paper plate loom, it is helpful to use a different color of fabric for your loom so it contrasts with the color of weaving fabric.
- You can use cooling racks, laundry baskets, or even a chain link fence as a weaving loom.
- If holding the end of the yarn is hard for your child, you can create a “needle” by wrapping the yarn around a popsicle stick, crayon, or pencil. You could also use a blunt tipped, plastic needle.



Which materials are easier to weave with?

What happens if you try a different type of pattern than over-under?

What other materials could you use to weave?

What is Happening?

- Weaving requires concentration and control. Weaving helps to develop **fine motor skills** which is the coordination of small muscles in your wrist and hands. When you weave, your brain coordinates your muscles with your vision, honing your **hand-eye coordination**.
- These small muscles are the same muscles we use for writing and drawing. This activity is great for developing **pre-writing skills** which are the basic skills that should be developed for the future ability to hold and move a pencil or crayon.

Taking it Forward

- **Connecting this activity to the real world:**
Weaving is one of the oldest forms of textile production. What items in your house are created with a weave?
- **If you like this activity, you'll also like...**
 - [Plushie Pillows](#)
 - [Salt Drawing](#)