

SUMMER FUN!
HAND SKILL ACTIVITIES

The hand skill activities are brilliant for setting up quick busy bags, for when your children are bored. You might need to prepare them ahead of time; to pop them out, when boredom sets in.

Braided Board:

<https://happyhooligans.ca/braiding-board-teach-kids-braid/>

Items needed:

- Cardboard
- Yarn
- Glue gun

How to make:

- Cut a piece of cardboard (about 10 cm by 20 cm) from recycling cardboard
- We want to use 6 pieces of yarn, to make two braids on the box. Three pieces of thick yarn (easier) and three pieces of thinner yarn (tricker)
- Cut three equal lengths of yard for each braid.
- Attached the yarn at the top of the cardboard with a hot glue gun. (You can also use crafts glue, but this takes longer to dry)



Find loads more yarn crafts on: <https://happyhooligans.ca/yarn-crafts-for-kids/>

Felt flower buttoning toy:

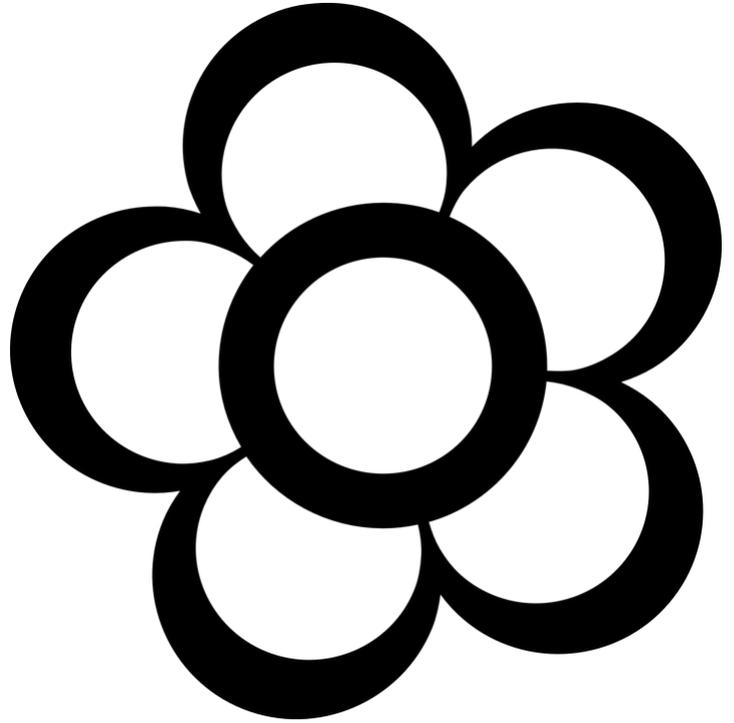
<https://happyhooligans.ca/felt-flower-buttoning-toy/>

Items needed:

- Felt (different colours)
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- 2 large Button
- Pipe cleaner

How to make:

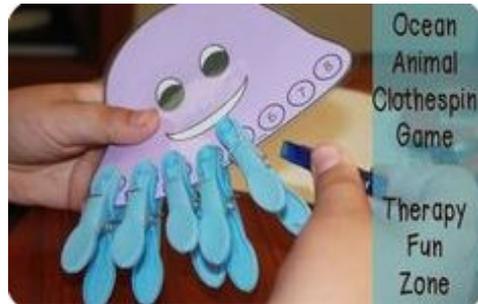
- Make your felt flowers: Cut out the felt into equip shaped flowers. It is easier to make a template from a card and then draw on the felt a flower shape. Cut out about 10 to 15 different coloured flowers. See template:
- Next fold each flower in half and make a small snip across the centre of the flower, making sure it's wide enough for your buttons to pass through.
- Make a stem: The stem will be the part of the button snake that your child slips the felt flowers on to. By adding a button to each end of the pipe cleaner, you prevent the felt flowers from falling off when your child is playing with it. It also makes for easy storage (no lost flowers), and your child will get extra practice when he has to work to take the flowers off the button snake.
- Poke the pipe cleaner up through a hole in the button, and back down through a second hole. Twist the loose end around the main part of the pipe cleaner a couple of times, and squeeze it tightly in place. Repeat at the other end of the pipe cleaner, and you're done!
- Your button snake is ready to use. Your child needs to push the button through the hole of the flower, to lace up all the buttons.



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Clothing Pegs:

Clothing pegs are brilliant to use to strengthen your child's fine motor skills. It is easy to assemble for busy bags. Here is a few activity ideas:



<https://www.therealisticmama.com/fine-motor-skills/>

<https://lalymom.com/fine-motor-skills-activities-clothespins>

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Taping toys:

Some children enjoy taking off tape, as a sensory satisfaction. Here is some ideas:

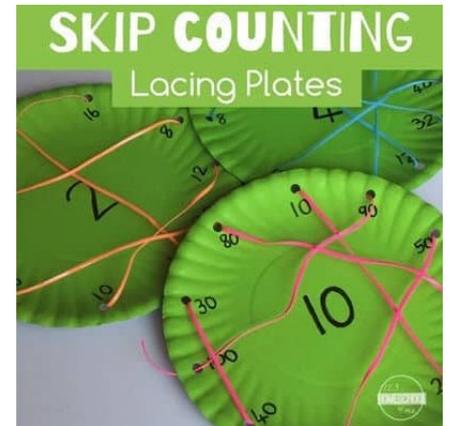


Lacing activities:

Lacing can be done in loads of different ways. It is a great activity to improve fine motor and two handed skills. For most of the activities you need a sturdy base (such as paper plate, cardboard, take away container ect.), which you hole punch around the edge. You can use yarn, sting or laces. Here is a few DIY ideas:



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Skip count plates: Punch holes on the outside around a paper plate, about 10 all around. Choose which time table you want to revise and write the numbers randomly around the plate, next to a hole. Secure the end of the lace with tape as an indicator as to where to start.

www.123homeschool4me.com/skip-counting-lacing-plates_54/



You can print lacing cards for free from: (Print, glue on cardboard and punch the holes)

<https://www.livinglifeandlearning.com/best-printable-lacing-cards.html>

Crazy straws:

<https://www.powerfulmothering.com/fine-motor-skills-with-crazy-straws/>

Items needed:

- Felt (same colours as straws)
- Scissor
- Crazy straws

How to make:

- Cut the felt into circles the size of a £2 coin or slightly bigger.
- Fold in half and cut a small hole in the middle, for the straw to fit through.
- Cut a few of each colour.
- The child needs to lace up the felt coins on the matching coloured straw.



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Velcro dots craft sticks:

<https://www.powerfulmothering.com/velcro-dot-craft-sticks/>

Items needed:

- Pack of large craft sticks
- Velcro dots

How to make:

- Attach velcro dots to every end of the jumbo popsicle stick making sure that you use the same kind of dot on the same side and the other for the other side.



- Hand them to the kids and watch them play. Download some building cards:

www.powerfulmothering.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Velcro-Dot-Create-Cards.pdf

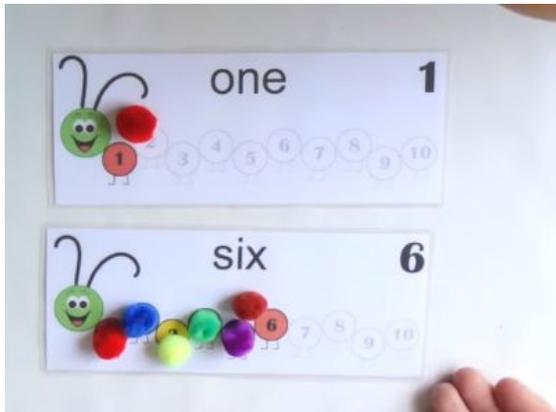


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Random Busy Bags:

<https://www.powerfulmothering.com/10-easy-busy-bags/>

Prepare the busy bags and then pop each in a ziplock bag for easy access. You'll find the templates in the above link, if you need a template to print e.g. the shapes peg activity.



Rubber bands:

Items needed:

- Lots of rubber bands
- Can of food

How to play:

- The child places the rubber bands one for one onto the can.

