

Mini Makers Weaving Activity

How to weave:

1. Cut a piece of wool about 50-80cm long. Thread it through the plastic needle and then tie a knot at the end to stop the wool slipping out.
2. Starting with the first *warp* (top to bottom) thread, slide the needle underneath and then up over the next thread, and then back under the third thread, and so on. Use this under-over pattern until you get to the last *warp* thread.
 - a. **Tip for very small children.** *When you get to the end of your first row, you may want to tie a knot around the first warp thread to secure it. After they weave two rows the wool won't be in danger of slipping out any more.*
3. For your next row, go back the other way by doing the opposite over-under pattern as you did for the first row. (If you go under and over in the same way as the first row you will be undoing what you just did. This mistake does happen with little ones so make sure to check on them before they begin each row in the beginning).
4. Once you have a few rows, use your fingers to push up the *weft* (*side to side*) wool so that it's snug. Be careful not to pull too hard on the *weft* wools after each pass through because your weaving will start to pull together in the middle.
5. When you finish with your first colour wool, just cut off the wool that you are working with, leaving a 4cm tail. It might start to look messy with lots of tails hanging out, but don't worry, all of them will be tidied up at the end.
6. Start the next colours/fabrics in the same way you started the first, leaving a tail of about 4cm.

Taking your weaving off the loom:

1. When you finish, undo the diagonal string at the back and carefully cut across the *warp* threads. Be very careful because the *weft* threads could come off easily too.
2. When your entire weaving has been pulled off of the loom, tie all of the *warp* threads together at the ends using double knots. Tie 1 & 2 together, 3 & 4 together, and so on.
3. Now it's time to deal with the tails coming out of the sides. Take your tails and fold them onto the back of your weaving work using tape from your pack.
 - a. **Advanced version** *The reason to leave the tails on the longish side is so that you can thread them through the needle, and then gently weave them through the back of your work a few times before trimming them.*
4. Place your straw in the middle of your top *warp* threads and fold the threads over. Secure with tape.
5. Lastly take a 45-55cm piece of wool or string and tie to either end of the straw - tada! Ready to hang up and admire.