

Let's Explore...

The World of Crafts

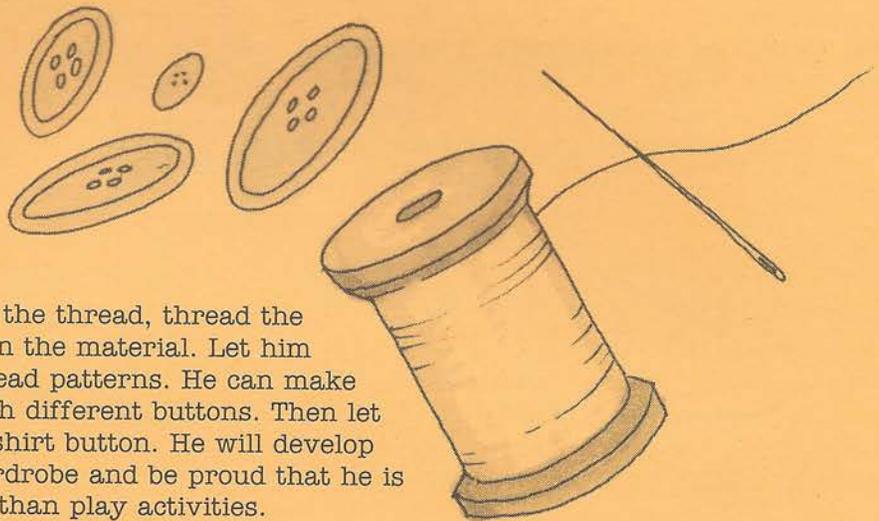
Sewing Buttons

Materials

thread
needle
button (large to start)
scissors
material

Directions

Show your child how to hold the thread, thread the needle, and sew the button on the material. Let him experiment with various thread patterns. He can make a picture on the material with different buttons. Then let him sew on his own coat or shirt button. He will develop responsibility toward his wardrobe and be proud that he is doing a "useful task" rather than play activities.



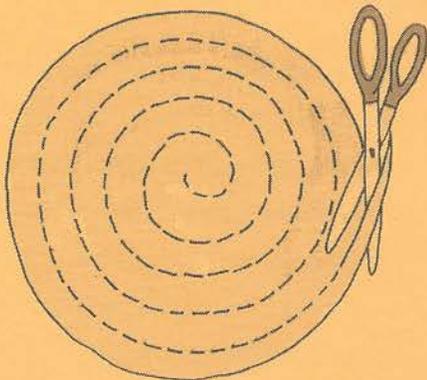
Bits and Pieces Cards

Materials

glue
plain paper (folded to fit standard-sized envelope)
marker
fabric remnants
pen
scissors

Directions

Fold paper to size. Draw basic design on paper. Add poem or greeting inside if desired. Then glue shredded fabric to design or picture to fill in and color (flowers, grass, trees, cloths, houses, etc.).



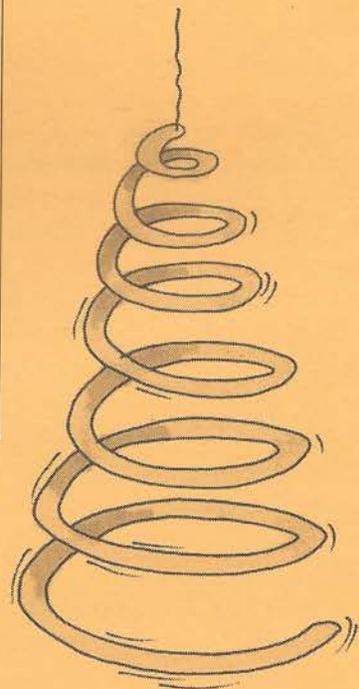
Curly Ques

Materials

paper
scissors
plate or cup for pattern

Directions

Draw circles on paper by tracing around a cup or plate. Cut it out. Then, starting at the edge of each circle, cut around and around. Punch a hole in the center, tie a piece of thread through the hole, and hang your curly ques.



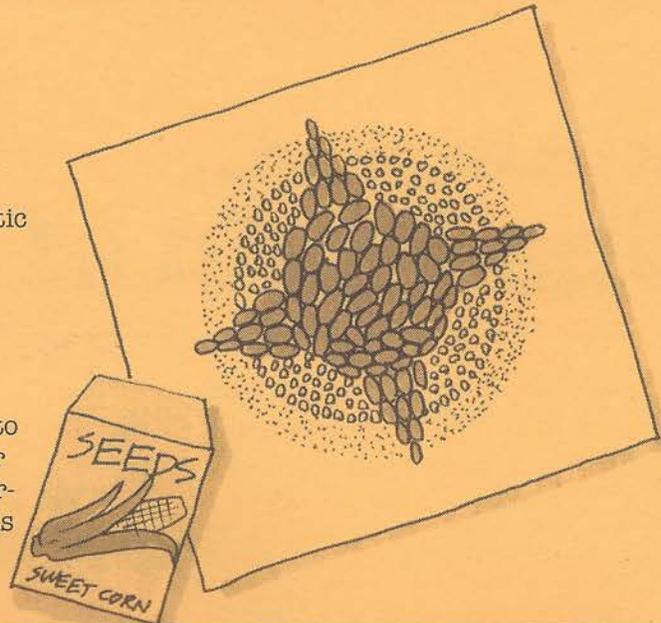
Seed Mosaics

Materials

different kinds of seed, separated into plastic dishes
white glue
cardboard
pencil

Directions

Draw design on the cardboard. Apply glue to areas of the design. Sprinkle small seeds or place larger seeds one at a time on glued areas. Repeat with other seeds until surface is covered.



Loom and Spool Weaving

Purchase or make a potholder or spool loom for your family. They can be bought inexpensively at toy stores and will bring a lot of pleasure to your child. He will enjoy choosing a pattern of colors and will be able to make quick presents for his family.

Sweet Smellers (Pomander Balls)

A pomander ball is an easily made Sweet Smeller that gives off its perfume for a long time. Make it for yourself or as a gift to place in drawers, hang in closets, or put on bedposts. (Remember, December will soon be here and these take a few weeks to prepare.)

Materials

Fruit: apples, oranges, lemons, or limes
orris root
whole cloves
cheesecloth or nylon netting
powdered cinnamon
string or ribbon

Directions

Select a piece of fruit which is ripe, firm, and unbruised. Press cloves into the fruit until the fruit is completely covered. (Apples will be easier for the younger family members.) Roll studded fruit in cinnamon mixed with orris root.

Cut cheesecloth or nylon netting large enough to wrap the fruit completely. Enclose the fruit in the cheesecloth and tie string or ribbon around the ends. Hang it where it won't be disturbed for a few weeks. As the fruit dries, it shrinks and becomes lighter. The sweet smell will develop and grow stronger.

Other Craft Projects to Do Together: