

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) Parent and Provider Resource: Activities for Distance Learning

Exploring Nature

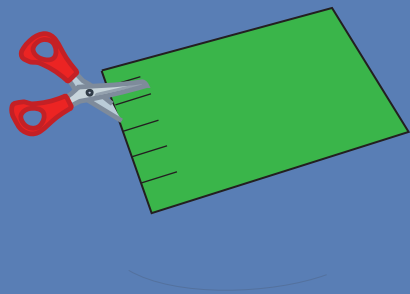
The following activity will support your child's learning while they are at home. Talk to your child and ask questions as you play. As your child listens to you, your child builds language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to your child's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at www.chs-ca.org and click on the News and Events tab for more learning resources.

PRESCHOOL - Activity: Nature Looms

What you need:

- Scissors
- Twine or string
- Tape
- Cardboard box
- Ruler
- Pencil

Activity adapted from
<https://www.rocketcitymom.com/crafting-with-kids-nature-weaving>

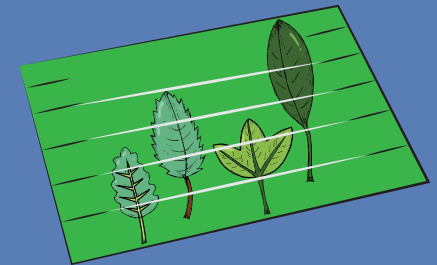


What to do:

- Create looms for weaving by flattening a cardboard box and using a ruler and pencil to draw 4x6 inch rectangles on the cardboard. You can also make them bigger if you like
- If you have child-safe scissors, invite children to help you cut out the rectangles
- Next, draw short 1/2 inch lines about 1/2 an inch apart on the short (4 inch) sides of the rectangles
- Ask children to cut on the lines to make slits
- Slide the string through one of the slits and tape down the end of the string
- Pull the string down to the other end of the loom, slide it through the slit, and pull it across the back to the other end, sliding it into the next slit. Continue wrapping the string around the cardboard until you get to the last slit
- Cut the string and tape the end of the string down. The tape for the string should be on the same side (back) of the cardboard. The other side is the weaving side. The string should be tight enough that it stays in place, but not so tight that it makes the cardboard bend. Visit the Rocket City Mom website to see pictures
- Take the looms with you outside in the back yard, on your next nature walk, or to the next trip to the park
- Encourage children to find twigs, leaves, flowers, or long grass that they can weave into their loom; sliding a leaf under and over each string across the loom
- Children can compare the nature items they found, describe them, use the loom as inspiration for drawing, or display it

What the activity does:

- Practices eye-hand coordination and small motor development through weaving and using scissors
- Introduces new language such as loom, weaving, thread, rectangle, and the names of natural items
- Explores similarities and differences between natural materials
- Encourages creative expression through art



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