Make a Beaded Bracelet Together

Choose favorite beads, thread them onto a pipe cleaner in an alternating color pattern, and make a bracelet for your child or a family member.

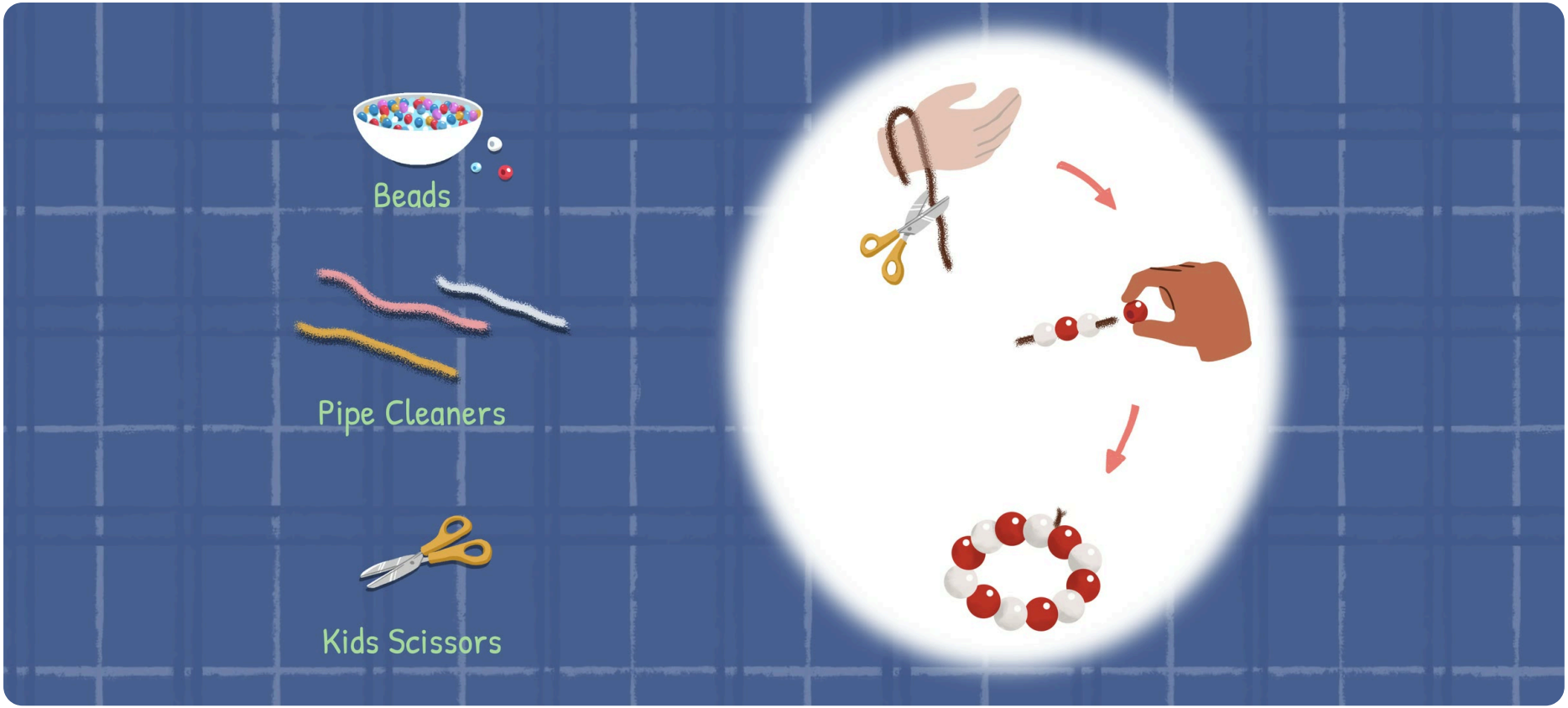
Helps Your Child Grow

Fine Motor

Aligning each bead opening with a pipe cleaner and threading it through gives your child repeated practice coordinating the eyes and hands.

Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Remembering an alternating color rule while choosing each next bead gives your child practice holding and carrying out a multistep pattern.



What You'll Need

1. Beads
2. pipe cleaners
3. child-safe scissors
4. a bracelet prepared in advance by wrapping a pipe cleaner once around your child's wrist and trimming the extra length

Choose Two Colors

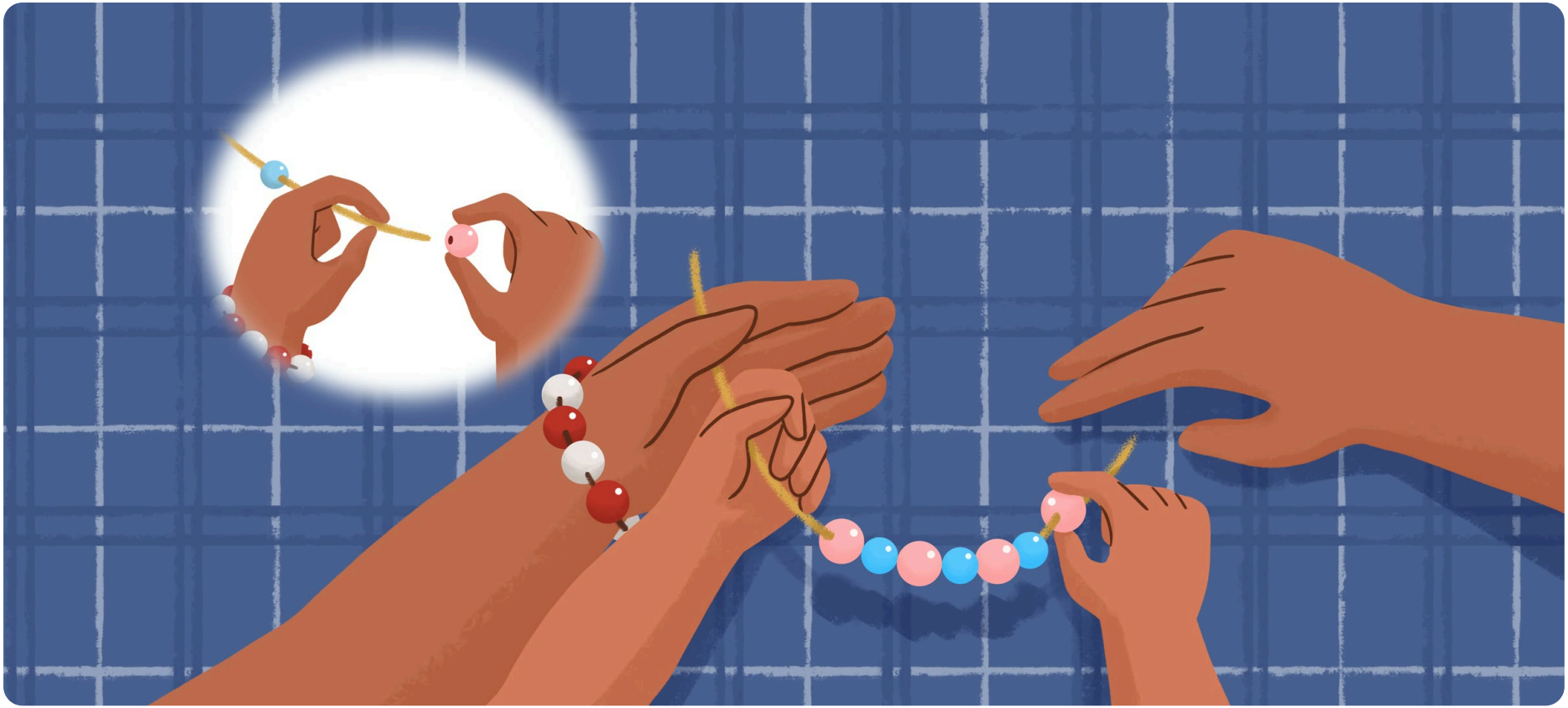
Show your child a bracelet made with two alternating bead colors. Look closely at how the colors repeat, then invite your child to choose two colors and make a bracelet of their own.

Observations

- ◯ Looks with interest at the bracelet on your wrist
- ◯ Pinches a bead between the thumb and index finger

Tips

- Name the color sequence as you show the bracelet. This turns a visible arrangement into a clear rule your child can follow while threading.
- Invite your child while they are curious. Acting on that interest can make it easier to settle into the hands-on work.



Thread the Beads

Demonstrate how to thread one bead onto a pipe cleaner and explain that the two colors will alternate. As your child works, wait before prompting. If needed, ask which color came last and which should come next.

Observations

- ○ Threads beads onto a pipe cleaner
- ○ Remembers to choose the other color for the next bead

Tips

- Do not name the next color in advance. If your child forgets or chooses the same color twice, remind them of the alternating rule and let them decide what comes next.
- Remembering to alternate colors reflects #ATL-CSR: sustaining attention while holding and carrying out connected steps.
- If threading remains difficult, guide both hands once: hold the pipe cleaner in one hand, pinch a bead with the other, align the opening, and slide it on.
- When the beads are in place, wrap the pipe cleaner gently around your child's wrist and admire the result: "You made this beautiful bracelet."

Make One for Dad Too

If your child wants to keep going, make another bracelet for a family member. Let that person choose two colors, then invite your child to select matching beads and thread them onto a chenille stem. The shared gift gives your child another enjoyable round of fine-motor practice.

Observations

- ○ Selects the matching bead after hearing a color word such as “blue”
- ○ Makes another bracelet for Dad with enthusiasm

Tips

- “Dad’s wrist is empty. Shall we make him a bracelet?” Use the gift idea to extend your child’s interest naturally.
- Making a bracelet for Dad is one way your child can use a new ability to respond to someone they care about. Your thanks and recognition support #SE-SIB.