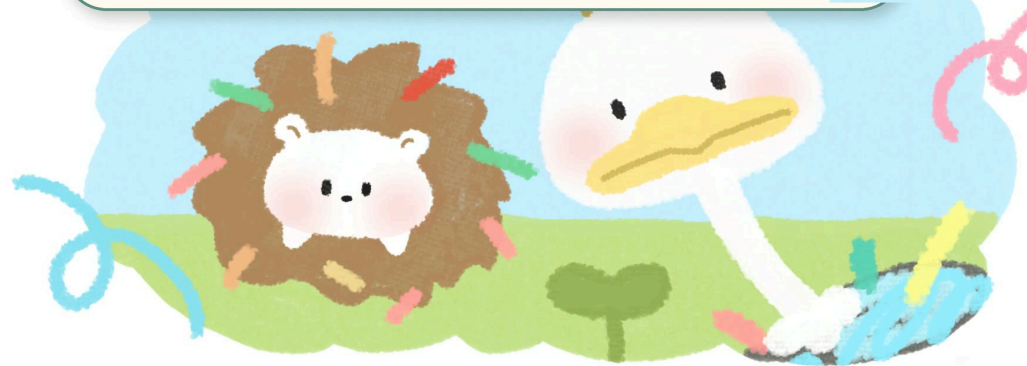




Pipe-Cleaner Dance Party

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Pipe-Cleaner Dance Party

Give the hedgehog a spiky coat and the ostrich colorful curled feathers so both animals are ready for the dance.

Helps Your Child Grow



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Completing the hedgehog's coat and then trying a new kind of feather for the ostrich gives your child practice staying with a multi-step craft.



Fine Motor

Placing pipe cleaners one at a time and winding one around a marker gives your child practice coordinating both hands and aiming small movements.



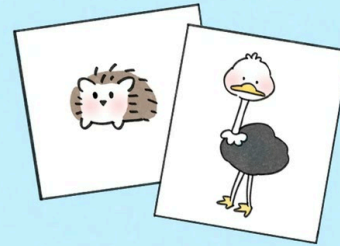
What You'll Need



Chenille Stems (cut into pieces)



Lightweight Modeling Clay



Paper



Scissors



Pen

Attach the clay animals to the paper

What You'll Need

1. Lightweight modeling clay
2. drawing paper
3. scissors
4. a marker
5. pipe cleaners
6. clay animal bodies attached to the paper in advance



Dress the Animals for the Dance

Show your child the two animal pictures and explain that the animals need outfits for a dance party. Ask which animal they want to dress first. Demonstrate pressing one pipe cleaner into the hedgehog's clay body, then invite your child to try. If it does not stay in place, show how to press it a little deeper.

Observations

- Presses a pipe cleaner into the hedgehog's clay body
- Begins dressing an animal after hearing what it needs

Tips

- Introduce the craft with an animated voice: "The hedgehog and ostrich are going to a dance party. Can you help them dress up?"
- Slow the demonstration and describe one movement: "Hold one end and press it gently into the hedgehog's body."
- Use specific praise: "You placed those spikes one by one." This makes your child's effort more visible than a general "Great job."
- If several attempts do not work, guide your child's hand through one successful placement, then invite them to try the next one.



Finish the Hedgehog's Coat

Continue adding pipe-cleaner spikes together. If your child stops partway through, show how little is left. Draw a small dot at each remaining spot so the unfinished part becomes visible. Let your encouragement grow as the dots disappear.

Observations

- Keeps adding spikes until the hedgehog's coat is finished
- Offers to help after hearing that the hedgehog needs an outfit

Tips

- If your child begins pressing quickly, remind them, "Slowly and carefully - watch your fingers."
- If the pipe cleaners lean sideways, show a three-finger grip using the thumb, index finger, and middle finger before pressing one into the clay.
- The spikes do not need to be straight. Focus on completing the hedgehog's outfit.
- Dots turn the unfinished part into a visual cue, helping your child notice each open spot and keep going one small task at a time.



Curl Feathers for the Ostrich

If your child wants to continue, try a different technique for the ostrich. Hold a marker in one hand and wind a pipe cleaner around it with the other to make a curled feather. Slide it off, press it into the clay body, and invite your child to make the next one.

Observations

- Holds a marker with one hand and winds a pipe cleaner around it with the other
- Points to a pipe cleaner on the ostrich and calls it a feather

Tips

- Show the winding motion slowly: "Wrap it around and around, like giving the marker a little coat."
- After one feather color, ask, "The ostrich wants a colorful skirt. Which color should we add next?"
- Holding the marker with one hand while winding with the other gives your child practice with skills related to #PMP-FiM.
- If winding is difficult, let your child hold the marker while you wrap the pipe cleaner so they can watch and feel the rhythm and tension.