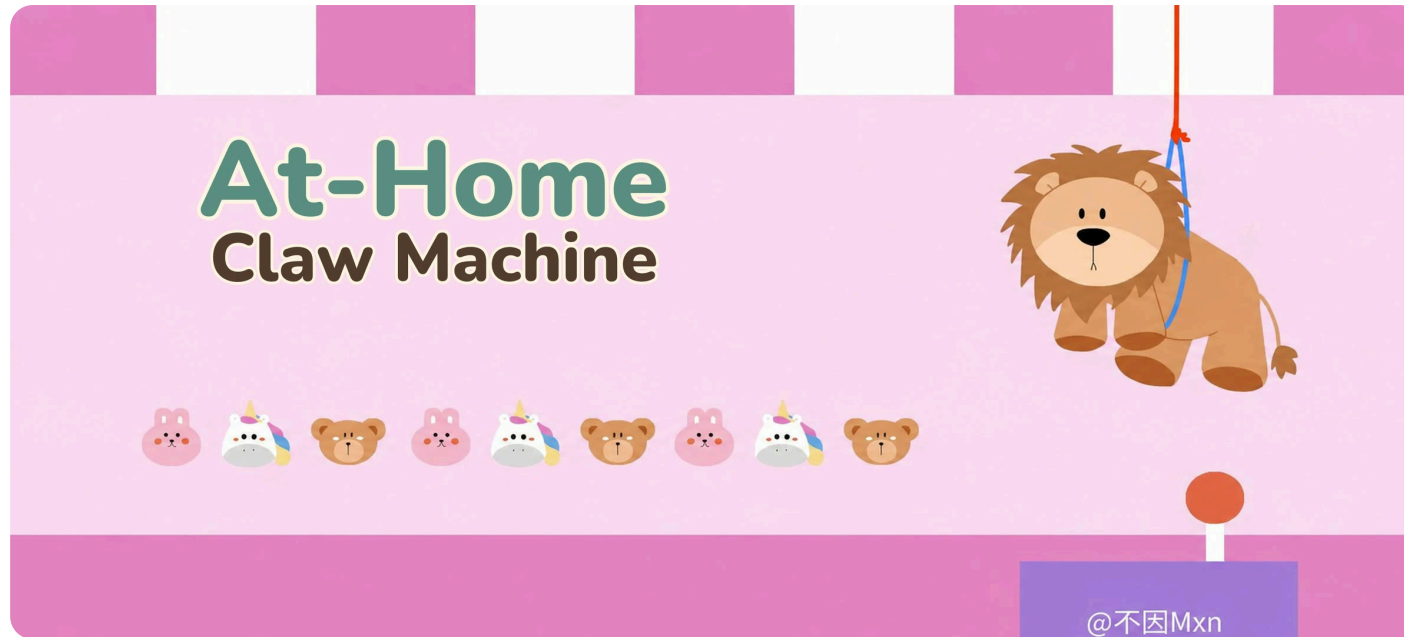




At-Home Claw Machine

Build a simple claw-machine game at home and work together through repeated attempts, adjustments, and satisfying successes.

Helps Your Child Grow



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Cooperating and trying again when the pretend claw misses gives your child practice persisting and adjusting the plan.



Fine Motor

Pulling the strings, opening and closing the elastic loop, and aiming at the toy gives your child practice with precise hand control while using a tool.



What You'll Need



5 Toys
Mark a start (rug) and finish (sofa)



10 Play Coins



1 Rubber Band + 4 Strings
Two colors; two strings per color

What You'll Need

1. Toy figures
2. 10 play coins
3. a homemade claw tool



Pull and Catch a Toy

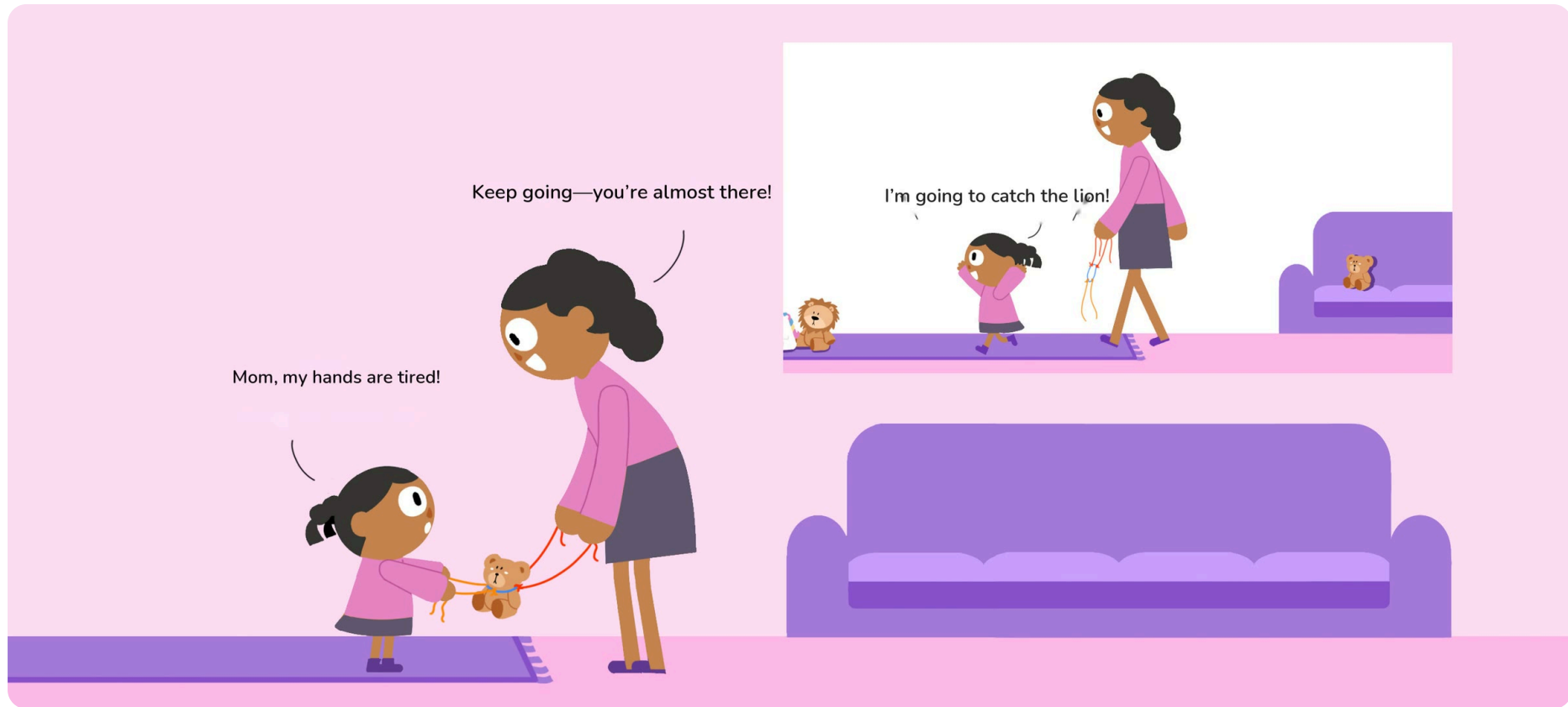
Bring the fun of a claw machine home. Place several toys in an open play area and invite your child to give a play coin to Dad, who is pretending to be the cashier. Then pull the strings together to open the elastic loop and work out how to catch a target toy.

Observations

- Adjusts how wide they pull the strings to catch the toy
- Pulls the rope apart with you after hearing the directions

Tips

- First practice pulling the strings sideways and vertically so your child can feel how the tension changes. If their pull is uneven, adjust your own position to make the shared pull easier.
- For the first attempt, place a toy close to your child and directly beneath the elastic loop. An early success can help them feel ready to keep trying.
- Use wide, flat fabric-covered bands. Avoid bands that are narrow, easy to break, or overly stretchy so they are less likely to snap back toward your child.



Keep Going to the Finish

Once your child catches the toy, help them carry it to the finish line at the sofa. If the task becomes difficult, watch how they are coping and offer just enough support. If they are still trying, encourage the effort.

Observations

- Keeps moving the toy toward the finish after you encourage them
- Shows happiness after catching the toy

Tips

- At first, divide the jobs simply: your child can guide the direction while you help keep the elastic loop from slipping off.
- When the toy reaches the finish, the earlier difficulty may suddenly feel manageable - and your child may be ready to try again.



Try a Better Catching Point

Some toys are harder to catch. Try the familiar approach together first. If several attempts do not work, ask your child to think of another place or angle to try, then follow their idea and test it together.

Observations

- Keeps trying even when they cannot catch the toy
- Tries different approaches to pick up the toy

Tips

- Your child may invent another way to lift the toy, such as looping the rope around it. Follow the idea and test it together instead of requiring the original action.
- For a hard-to-catch toy, aim for an irregular, raised, or slightly rough part - such as a toy's body or plush surface - where the elastic can catch or create more friction.
- If your child feels frustrated after a miss, keep your response light: 'It slipped away! Let's try a different way.'