

Physical development – How weaving activities support the development of fine and gross motor skills



Weaving activities provide children with lots of opportunities to develop and practise both their gross and fine motor skills.

Weaving can be a thoroughly rewarding activity for all children. However, to get to the stage where children are ready to weave, they need to have acquired a range of skills, involving both their fine and gross motor. Children need to have developed a sense of direction and space which needs to be acquired firstly by using their whole bodies. They also require good hand and eye co-ordination and dexterity together with the ability to make choices, focus and concentrate.

	Skill progression	Experiences to support development at this stage
Beginning...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picking out large width materials from a range of others Wrapping a rope/cord around a solid structure using two hands Using whole body to go under, over, through and around objects and obstacles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a wide selection of ribbons, cords etc. for children to sort Wrap rope, cord, large ribbon around chair legs/upturned tables to create a web/basket for the children to then crawl through, under and around
Then Moving On...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weave wide lengths of materials through large spaces Select smaller width of materials from a range of materials Cut materials using snippy scissors Tie a simple knot using wide materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide rope or very wide ribbon for children to -tie simple knots around railings, attach trikes and bikes, attach logs to bikes Weave thick cord/ribbon through railings, gates, staircase spindles Sort a selection of materials into different colours, textures/materials/lengths Provide opportunities for children to cut a range of materials varying in length, thickness, material using snippy scissors
To More Complex Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weave onto loom with broad spaces using wide width materials Weave onto a loom with narrow spaces using narrow width materials Weave using natural / delicate materials Tie simple knots using narrow width materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using a loom with large spaces weave using broad width materials and short lengths Using a loom with narrow spaces weave using narrow width materials and longer lengths Start to weave using natural materials such as dried grass onto flowers onto more complex shapes. Make dream catchers Provide large selections of fine width materials -cottons, threads etc. to tie knots, make chains, ladders for spiders and ants to crawl up

Useful Equipment

- Ropes of varying lengths and thicknesses, strips of materials of varying length and thicknesses, cord, string, tinsel and wool of varying length and thicknesses
- Hoops of varying diameters, old bike wheels
- Natural materials- straw, grass, leaves etc
- Looms- bought and home-made
- Cardboard of varying size, thickness, width, and length
- Equipment to make obstacle courses

Useful websites/links

- growingearlyminds.org.au/activities/why-weaving-is-an-ideal-activity-for-fine-motor-skill-development
- laughingkidslearn.com/weaving-on-wire-activity-for-fine-motor-development

Books with weaving/yarn theme

Extra Yarn – by Mac Barnett (Author), Jon Klassen (Illustrator)

A young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community in this stunning picture book. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of colour, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic.

Cat Knit Hardcover – by Jacob Grant (Author)

Cat and Yarn are the best of friends. They have so much fun playing together, the two are inseparable. Until the day Girl takes Yarn away. When Yarn returns, he is completely changed, no longer Cat's bright and jolly friend. Cat is mad! Soon, Cat begins to miss his best friend, and he just might realise that a little change isn't so bad after all.