

What can you do with a silly old string?

Activities guide for *The Things A String Can Be*



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stretch your imagination

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The Things A String Can Be is a story of imagination. Sam takes a silly old string and turns it into extraordinary adventures. The story is designed to encourage children to stretch their own imagination. To help, here are a few activities that use string to let children create, explore and learn. These activities can be used after they have read, or been read, the book and looked at the pictures.

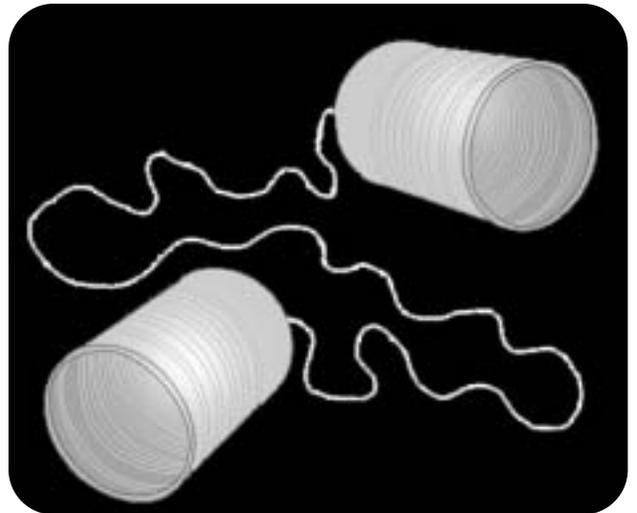
The following activities use string. As with any children's activity, adult supervision is strongly recommended.

Strrrring Strrrring

Materials needed: two plastic cups or tin cans, string, paper clips, object for poking holes in cups. Could experiment with cups or cans, or different weight string to see which works best.

1. Poke a small hole on the bottoms of the two plastic cups.
2. Tie a paper clip to one end of the string.
3. Thread the other end of the string through the hole in the bottom of one of the cups. Be sure to thread it from the inside of the cup. The paperclip will keep the string from going all the way through the hole.
4. Then thread the string through the hole in the second cup, but this time do it from the outside of the cup.
5. Tie the second paper clip to the other end of the string. The paper clip should be inside the cup, just like the first paper clip.
6. Then, pull the cups so that the string is tight and talk through the opening of your cup while a friend listens through the opening of his/her cup. Take turns talking and listening just like a regular telephone conversation.

Now it's time for you to experiment. What is the farthest distance you can get the telephone to work using string? Would the sound go farther if you used empty soup cans instead of plastic cups? What about using two different sized cups? Make a prediction. Then change one thing—that's the variable—and test it out.



Cereal String

Materials needed: cereal, string and transparent tape.

1. Cut a piece of string about 20-26 inches long for each child.
2. Put a piece of transparent tape on one end of the string. This will help in stringing the cereal.
3. Have the children feed the string through the bits of cereal. For a more decorative necklace, try different colors and shapes of cereal.
4. Once the necklace is complete, connect the ends with transparent tape, so it will pull apart quickly and easily if needed.
5. After making the necklace and wearing it, the fun part is eating the cereal off the string.



String Fishing

Materials needed: blue sheet or blue piece of cardboard (serves as the water), dowel sticks, string, clothes pins, basket full of little goodies (the children "fish" for the goodies).

1. Hang sheet or cardboard from ceiling.
2. Construct fishing pole by tying one end of the string to the dowel and tying the other end of the string around the clothes pin. You may want to glue them in place so they don't slide off.
3. Stand behind the sheet/cardboard with a basket full of little goodies/gifts to attach to the clothes pin.
4. Have the kids cast their fishing lines over the "water." They'll know when they've caught something when they feel a tug on their line.



String Easter Eggs

Materials needed: white glue (diluted with water), colorful yarns, balloons, tray, waxed paper.

1. Blow up a very large balloon.
2. Let the children dip long pieces of yarn into slightly diluted glue in the tray.
3. Show them how to wrap yarn all around the balloon in different directions. Keep adding more lengths of yarn until the balloon is almost covered. Encourage the children to crisscross pieces and colors.
4. Set the balloons aside on waxed paper so they can dry overnight.
5. When the yarn has hardened, pop the balloon and remove the rubber pieces. The result is a lacy hollow egg.
6. Look together for places where the yarn has created shapes.
7. Ask the children ahead of time to remember how many pieces of yarn they used, then compare all the answers.



Sorting String

Materials needed: selection of different size and color string.

1. Have children sort the collection by length, color or thickness.

Thanksgiving String of Leaves

This activity can be adjusted to fit any holiday (snowflakes for winter, eggs for Easter, pumpkins for Halloween). Materials needed: construction paper (colors should reflect the holiday), crayons or markers, scissors, glue, tape or staples, a long piece of yarn or string (color should match construction paper).

1. Have the children draw a leaf on a piece of construction paper.
2. Make sure they draw a thick stem on the top (the leaf will hang from the stem, which will be folded over).
3. Cut out the leaf.
4. Fold the leaf's stem in half.
5. Attach the leaf to a long string using tape, glue or staples.
6. Make more leaves and attach them to the string.
7. Hang the string of leaves across the room for a Thanksgiving decoration.



String Feet: a measuring activity

Materials needed: paper, pen, string.

1. Trace around the children's feet on paper.
2. Place a piece of string over the outlines.
3. Cut to the correct length.
4. Hold up all the pieces of string and compare lengths (learn 'longer than' and 'shorter than').



If you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know at info@bubblegumbooks.com. We also encourage you to share your children's inspired thoughts and ideas. You can send a copy of their creations to us at Bubblegum Books, P.O. Box 94106, Cleveland, OH 44101. (We cannot return them, so please send a copy if you wish to keep the original.) You may also reach us at 877-471-5718.

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