
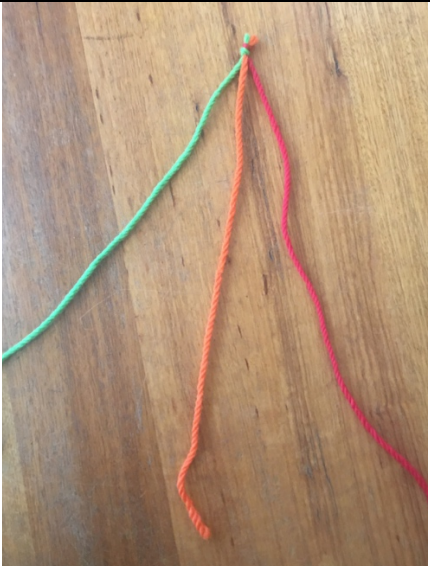
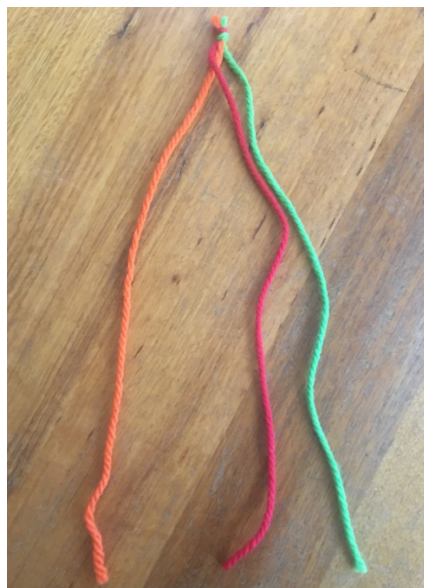


Plaiting

In Activity pack 3 you will find 3 short pieces of wool knotted together at the top. This is for creating a plait with your child. Plaiting is a complex task appropriate for the Prep age child. It will take time and practice for your child to be able to plait in a uniform and tight manner. To begin with you will need to find a way to secure the knotted section. A safety pin through the knot and attached to the carpet or other solid fabric surface can suffice or loop the end onto a hook e.g. a curtain tie back etc. Anything that will secure the wool so it can be held firmly by your child (you can hold it if this works for you). Your child then needs to begin plaiting.

<p>1. Make sure the colours are untwisted at the top. Start with red on your left, orange in the middle and green on the right</p>	
<p>2. Next separate the three colours, you could say something like Mr Red, Mrs Orange and Miss Green as you do this</p>	

3. Now Mr Red jumps over Mrs Orange while Miss Green stays out of the way



4. Next Miss Green jumps over Mr Red and Mrs Orange stays out of the way



5. Then Mrs Orange jumps over Miss Green.



6. Repeat steps 3-5 until your work is completed.
7. Once complete knot the end of the work to the beginning of the work to make a bracelet for your child to wear.

Useful Tips

To keep the work more uniform and tight have your child hold their hands up close to where the colours jump.

To prevent Mr Red, Mrs Orange and Miss Green from getting their legs in a tangle down below ensure your child every now and then untangles their legs.

If the work is loose teach your child to hold onto them all at the bottom of their work and gently pull each of their legs below the work, thus tightening the plait.

Extension activities

Your child can now make more bracelets, anklets, necklaces and lanyards in the same way.

Once they are competent at keeping the work firm and uniform and not getting their legs tangled, they can make ropes for play with around 20 strands of wool at once. Again, maintain the three colours at a time so they know who is jumping over who. This requires much more skill and you will want each strand to be at least 1.5 metres long so keeping the work firm and legs untangled is a critical skill before commencing longer and thicker plaits. These plaits can then be used to tie up cubby houses and many other uses in play.