

Winter Activities

On a cold winter day talk about winter weather.
Then read a story that takes place in winter to the children.

Here is a list of some good books to read:

The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats

The Mitten, by Jan Brett

The Snowman, by Raymond Briggs

Katy and the Big Snow, by Virginia Lee Burton

Owl Moon, by Jane Yolen



Torn Paper Winter Pictures

What you need:

- Dark blue or black construction paper
- White paper of various kinds. This can include tissue paper, computer paper, construction paper, paper doilies, etc.
- Washable craft glue

What to do:

- Have the children rip and tear the white paper into pieces of various shapes and sizes. They can also wrinkle the paper to add some dimension to their pictures.
- The children can arrange and then glue the white pieces to the dark sheets of paper to make a winter scene.

Fascinating Fasteners!

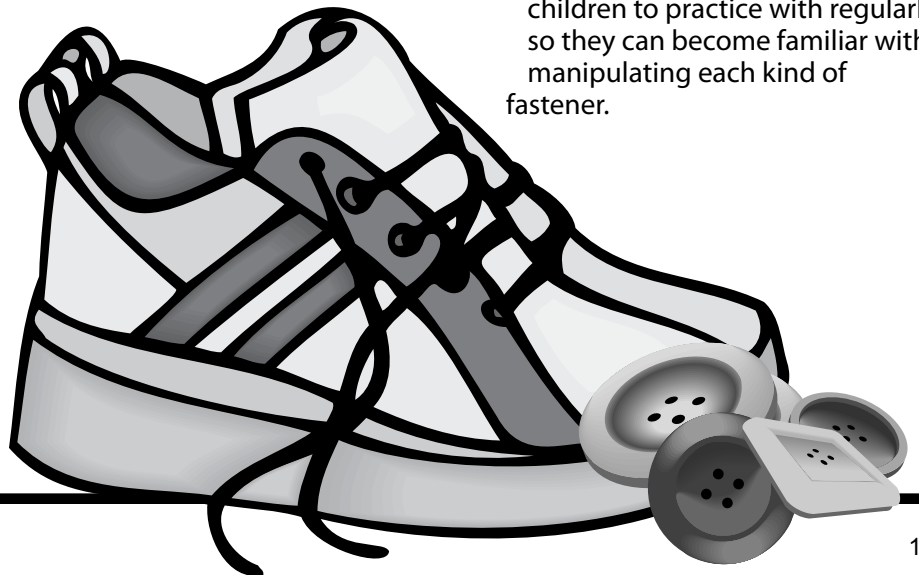
There are many different things that are used to fasten clothing and shoes. Teaching the children about these will help with self-help skills.

What you need:

- Things with buttons and button holes, zippers, buckles, shoelaces, snaps, hooks and eyes, Velcro, etc.

What to do:

- Show the children different kinds of clothing, shoes, and boots that have different kinds of fasteners.
- Demonstrate how they work.
- Give each child a chance to practice with each kind of fastener.
- Have them available for the children to practice with regularly so they can become familiar with manipulating each kind of fastener.



Fun with Balls

Balls of various sizes are fun for children of all ages. Teach the children the action poem and motions below. Repeat several times. Then give them a ball and have them recite the poem while they bounce, throw, and roll the ball. When bouncing a ball, children learn how to control it. Catching is a spatial skill. It's great for eye/hand coordination. Rolling a ball teaches control, cooperation, and taking turns. Children learn so much while having fun playing with balls!

Three Balls – action poem

Here is a big, round, bouncy ball.

I bounce it, one, two, three.

Here is a ball for throwing.

I can catch it, watch and see!

Here is a ball for rolling.

Roll it back to me.

Bouncing, throwing, rolling balls;

Let's count them – one, two, three.

(Form circle with arms)

(Bouncing motion)

(Form circle with thumb and pointer finger)

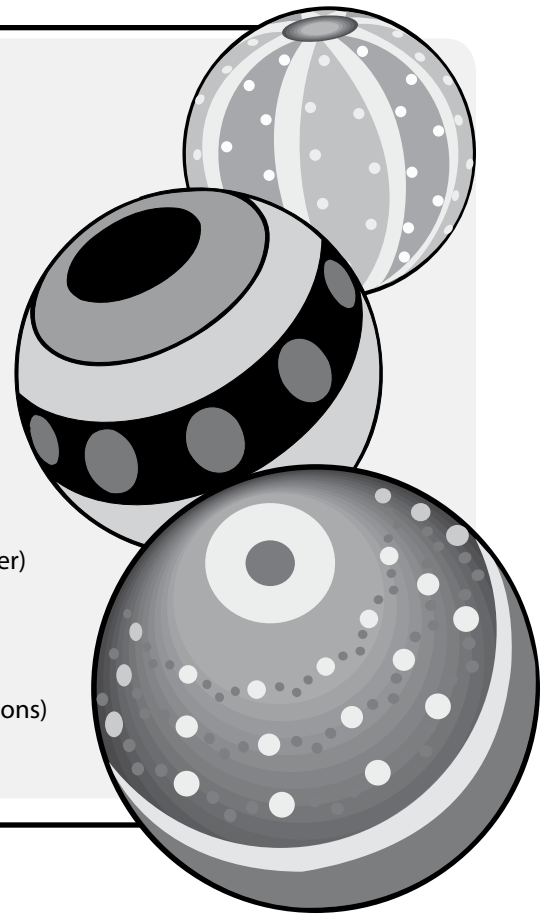
(Catching motion)

(Form circle with arms)

(Rolling motion)

(Do bouncing, throwing, and rolling motions)

(Count on fingers)



Heart Matching Game

What you need:

- Red and pink construction paper
- Safety scissors
- Markers

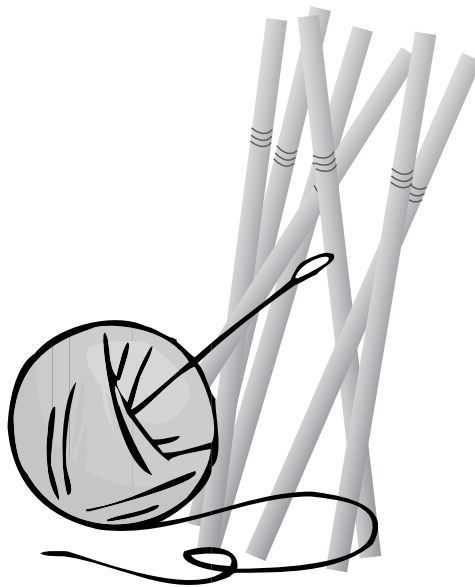
What to do:

- Cut out ten four-inch construction paper squares, five of each color.
- Fold each square and cut a heart shape out of each.
- Cut each heart shape in half down the center line.
- Write the symbol for each of the numbers one to ten on half a heart of one color.
- Write the word for each number on a half heart of the other color.
- Make a set for each child.
- Have the children match the number's word with its symbol and say what it is.

Straw Chains

What you need:

- Plastic drinking straws
- Colored tissue paper, wrapping paper, or any colorful paper
- Large darning needle and yarn or heavy thread



What to do:

- Cut the drinking straws into pieces of one-, two-, and three- inch lengths.
- Have the children cut out various paper shapes. These can be abstract shapes or things such as butterflies, birds, fish, etc. When using tissue paper use two layers for each shape to give it some body.
- Help each child push the needle and yarn or thread through a shape, then through a section of straw. Alternate shapes and straw pieces until your chain is the right length. Tie a knot at each end.
- Hang the colorful chains around the room – on doors, windows, etc.