

Pipcleaner Monkeys

These little guys are really cute and quite simple to make. With this being the Chinese Year of the Monkey, what better excuse do you need?

Equipment

Pipcleaners (the chenille ones work best)

Googly eyes

Foam or felt pieces - for the face

Glue (ideally a hot-melt glue gun, otherwise PVA glue)

Method

1. You need four pipecleaners for each monkey. Take the first pipecleaner: this will make one leg, the body and head. Measure about 12cms and make a bend, this will be its leg. Leave about 8cms for the body and use the rest of the pipecleaner to make a loop for the head.
2. Take the second pipecleaner: this will be the other leg and tail. Measure 12cms, wrap this pipecleaner around the first one at the bend at the top of its leg.
3. Bend the two legs to make knees and feet. Make a curl in the end of the tail.
4. Take the third pipecleaner: this will be the monkey's arms. Find the centre of the pipecleaner and wrap it around the first pipecleaner just below the head.
5. Take the fourth pipecleaner and, starting at the 'hips', wrap it around and around the torso and head. You now have a fatter body and a surface to stick the face to.
6. On a piece of felt (or foam or card) draw two round ears and a face shape for the monkey. Draw on the mouth. Cut them out.
7. Glue the ears and face onto the head of the monkey. Then stick on two googly eyes.

NB: Wrapping the final pipecleaner around the body can be quite tricky for little ones, so they may need extra help at this point.

You could also make a trapeze for the monkeys to swing from, using string and some drinking straws.

Areas of learning and development:

PSED Personal, Social and Emotional Development
PD Physical Development
EAD Expressive Arts and Design

