

# Twirling Ribbons

The children got so much entertainment value out of making and playing with these. A little fiddly to make (younger children will need some help) but well worth it.

## Materials

Thin green plant canes (approx 46cm long)  
End cones (5mm)  
Snap swivels approx size 2/0  
Jewellery-making hooks (or split rings)  
Strong but fairly fine cord/thread, such as upholstery thread or jewellery making cord  
Hot melt glue gun  
Organza ribbon, 3 to 4cm wide. 2m per twirling ribbon  
Hole punch  
Eyelet punch with eyelets  
(Some of these supplies are quite specialist. See overleaf for details.)

## Method

1. Cut a short length of cord, about 5cms long, fold it in half and thread the loop through the end cone so that it protrudes about 0.5cm from the narrow end.
2. Fill the wide end of the cone with hot melt glue, and then place it firmly on the end of a garden cane, holding in place until set. Trim off any excess cord from the bottom of the cone.
3. Clip one end of a jewellery maker's hook to the loop of thread, and the other end to the ring at the end of the snap swivel. (If you can't get hold of the right kind of hook, you could use a split ring instead)
4. Take a 2m length of the organza ribbon, fold over about 1.5cm at one end and glue into place, creating a hem, to prevent fraying.
5. Use a hole punch to punch a hole in the centre of the hem. Don't worry if it's a bit ragged.
6. Fix an eyelet around the hole using an eyelet punch. (If you don't have one you could place tape over the hole and punch through this, to prevent fraying.)
7. Clip the 'snap' end of the snap swivel through the eyelet, to attach the ribbon to the stick and start twirling!



See our Facebook page for more photos of this activity!

## Areas of learning and development:

EAD (Expressive Arts and Design)  
PD (Physical Development)  
UW (Understanding the World)  
PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)



**Notes:**

If you find that the green garden canes are not robust enough, you could use dowel instead. Drill a hole into a length of dowel, thread on a split ring, and attach the snap swivel to the split ring.

**Supplies:**

Heavy hooks can be obtained from jewellery-making suppliers, try Hobbycraft. They look like this:

<http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/beads-unlimited-findings-heavy-hook-nickel-plate/560843-1001>



If you can't get hold of the right kind of hook, you could use a split ring instead. These are readily available from jewellery suppliers, key-ring suppliers and Ebay:

<http://onestop-key-rings.co.uk/13mm-split-rings-pack-of-10-p-5.html>

Snap swivels can be obtained from fishing suppliers, or try Ebay. This is the sort of thing you need:

<http://www.basstastic.co.uk/mustad-swivel--safety-snap-547-p.asp>



End cones can be obtained from jewellery-making suppliers, or try Ebay. You want ones with a diameter of about 5mm at the wide end. They look like this:

<http://www.beadworks.co.uk/Catalogue/Findings-Base-Metal-Plated/End-Caps-and-Cones/Base-Metal-Plated-Plain-Necklace-End-Cones>

