

Spider Webs



Did you know that sewing and threading activities are one of the best ways to help students develop fine motor skills? Sewing requires the use of a dominant hand (with "pinchers" to hold and thread the yarn) and a helper hand (to hold the item you are sewing), all while developing hand-eye coordination. Activities using both hands, like sewing, require students to pick a preferred hand, encouraging those who do not yet have a dominant hand to pick one.

Materials Needed: coloured paper plates, plastic spiders, white yarn (2-3m/student), masking tape, single hole punch, glue gun

1. Hole punch around the outside of some coloured paper plates (I use blue ones that I buy at Dollar Giant 20/\$1.25).
2. Tie a piece of white yarn (1.5-2m) to the one of the holes (you can add more yarn if/when needed but too much will just get tangled).
3. Wrap a piece of tape around the end of the yarn so that it is easy to thread through the holes. (I send all needed supplies home with parent volunteers so they can do all the prep work at home for me).
4. Students sew a web by going up one hole, across the plate and down a different one. We talk about patterns that we could do while sewing (up, down, up, down, or down and around, down and around, down and around, or up and around, up and around, up and around). For this one, I show them go up and then down and up and then down again. It looks more like a spider web if they go up and down each hole more than once from different directions.
5. For some students, I add more string when theirs gets too short so that they can make their web bigger and more intricate.
6. When they are done sewing, I tie the yarn or have students tape the end to the back of the paper plate with masking tape.
7. We then use a glue gun to attach a little spider (another dollar store purchase 25/\$1.25) to their web.