



Pipe-Cleaner Ninjas

These little action figures are super cheap and quite quick to make. The children can have fun afterwards playing with them too.

Equipment

Pipe-cleaners
 Straws
 Pony beads
 Wooden beads
 Scissors
 Felt tips/paint

Method

1. Take three pipe-cleaners. Twist them together slightly higher than half-way.
2. Take one of the ends from the bottom and bend it up to the top, wrap it around the middle on the way to make the shape more secure. You should now have two legs at the bottom and four 'arms' at the top.
3. Take four pony beads and slide them up both legs together. These become the torso.
4. Cut up a straw into 2/2.5cm lengths. You need eight for each ninja.
5. Thread one piece of straw onto a leg, then a pony bead, then another piece of straw. Repeat for the other leg and the arms.
6. To make the feet and hands, make a loop out of the pipe cleaner sticking out of the end of the straw. Wrap or twist the end around to secure the loop. The bigger the feet the better if you want your ninja to stand up!
7. Take a wooden bead, draw a rectangle on the front - this will become the ninja's face. Colour in, or paint, the rest of the bead. Finally draw some eyes inside the rectangle.
8. Slide the bead over the remaining two pipe cleaners. Either tie a knot with them on top of the head and cut the ends off, or bend the pipe cleaners over to keep the bead in place leaving the ends long to look like hair.

Extension activity: We had great fun posing the figures and taking photos. The children could create a story and take photos on a tablet of each scene, then show them to each other.

Areas of learning and development:

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