WEAVING WITH CHILDREN

BY BETTY HANCOCK SMITH

"I don't have anything to do." "What can I do NOW?" "I'm bored."

Summertime is the perfect time to ward off these comments by introducing any children in your sphere of influence to the fun of weaving. Prepare some looms ahead of time:

1) Punch a hole in the center of a paper plate and make a spoke-like warp.

2) Scraps of mat board from a picture frame shop can be had free. Put notches on two sides and warp with strong cord.

3) Bamboo stick looms are made by inserting and gluing bamboo skewers into strips of corrugated cardboard about 1"x5". The loom remains part of the art project. (See illustration.)

4) A rigid heddle loom can be made from popsicle sticks and used like a back strap loom. Holes must be bored in the sticks and these glued onto other sticks to form a frame. (See illustration.)

5) Try off-loom weaving between branches, around an embroidery hoop—let the children use their imagination to create a loom.

Good things to have on hand for all these projects are a plastic needle, a big crochet hook, and small stick shuttles made from wood or heavy cardboard. Collect bright beads, gold foil paper, and glitzy yarn to help inspire creativity.

Illustrations by Marian K. Allen.

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