

String baskets

make

Make lovely, multi-coloured gifts or decorations

You'll need:

- String
- Scissors
- A small plastic bowl
- Paint
- PVA glue
- Containers for paint
- Paintbrushes
- Disposable gloves
- Newspaper or card
- Paper towels



This colourful, creative activity can be quite messy!

Wearing disposable gloves saves time handwashing. These are cheap and readily available online. Choose the smallest sizes to fit children, (usually an XS) and PVC non-powdered gloves if children have a latex allergy. Before you start, cover your work area with newspaper, a plastic sheet, the side of a cardboard box or lining paper.

1. Cut some pieces of string 20–30cm in length. You'll need about 6–8 pieces to make a small basket.
2. Pour some PVA glue into a plastic container then stir in some paint with a brush to make a 50:50 mix. Make some more colours in separate containers. Plastic tubs such as ice-cream, butter-spread or takeaway containers are ideal for this and can be thrown away afterwards.
3. Drop the pieces of string into the paint mixture, pushing them with a brush so they are completely covered.
4. Lift the pieces of string (messy!) out of the containers one at a time and lay them over an upturned bowl. Keep adding more string until you have a basket shape. Don't worry if the colours mix together. Leave to dry overnight in a warm place.
5. When the basket has dried, lift the ends of the string around the edge then carefully remove it from the bowl. If there is any wet paint inside, leave it to dry.

Try using plastic kitchen tongs to lift the string out of the paint whilst keeping plenty paper towels ready. Even if you wear gloves, it can be messy!

tips

Experiment with different basket shapes and patterns by adding shorter pieces of string or winding longer string loops around the bowl.

For gift ideas, fill the baskets with chocolate, soaps or potpourri.