

Pipe Cleaner Creations!

Crafts



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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Pipe cleaner crafts are creative, colorful, and tactile. They support fine motor skills, self-expression, and following step-by-step instructions. These crafts can be done individually or in groups and are a great way to build focus, pride, and social connection.

TIME

- **30–45 minutes**
- Flexible based on number of crafts and participant pace

MATERIALS

- Pipe cleaners in various colors
- Optional add-ons:
 - Googly eyes
 - Beads
 - Pom-poms
 - Foam shapes or buttons
 - Glue dots or white glue
- Safety scissors (for trimming if needed)
- Visual instructions or sample craft for reference

INSTRUCTIONS

- Many different options to choose from (flowers, rings, animals, glasses, spirals, or bend letters of your name)
- Below are sample Instructions for a pipe cleaner butterfly:



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1. **Choose 2 pipe cleaners** for wings and 1 for the body/antennae
2. **Make the wings**
 - a. Twist each pipe cleaner into a loop (like a figure 8) and twist the ends to secure
3. **Add the body**
 - a. Use the third pipe cleaner to twist around the center of both wings
 - b. Leave the top two ends sticking up to form antennae
4. **Decorate**
 - a. Add beads or pom-poms on the body
 - b. Stick on googly eyes if you want a face
5. **Display or take home**
 - a. Share creations with the group and celebrate everyone's work!

SUPPORTS NEEDED

- **Visual step-by-step guide** with photos or drawings
- **One-on-one support** for twisting, threading, or trimming

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- **Pre-started twists or loops** to reduce frustration
- **Verbal encouragement and simple instructions** ("Bend it like this!")
- **Tactile support:** thicker pipe cleaners for better grip if needed
- **Choice-making prompts:** "Would you like to make a butterfly or a flower?"
- **Breaks** if hands get tired—alternate with soft materials like pom-poms
- **Social support:** Pair participants or assign buddy roles (e.g., holder and twister)
- **Safety guidance:** Remind to keep pipe cleaners away from face and eyes

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

- Can be done with individuals or large groups