

Pipe Cleaner Flowers

Your children can bend and twist pipe cleaners to create flowers that will brighten any room!

Baby

Attach a small bell to a pipe cleaner and gently secure it to your baby's ankle. Each time she kicks, crawls, or moves her legs, she will hear the bell jingle. She'll love the gentle sound and the soft feel of the pipe cleaner against her skin. For your baby's flower, make a circle with a green pipe cleaner and glue it onto construction paper. Once the glue dries, you can dip her index finger into yellow paint and gently press it around the green circle to create petals.

Toddler

Most toddlers will enjoy the fuzzy feel and flexibility of pipe cleaners. Let your toddler play with her pipe cleaner and bend it into whatever design she chooses. Give her several to twist together, and help her glue them onto construction paper. She can use paint to create pretty flowers to embellish her pipe cleaner design.

Preschooler and School-Age Child

Show your preschooler and school-age child how to create a flower made from pipe cleaners. *Note:* Most preschoolers will be able to create the circles but may need assistance with other steps.

- **Leaves:** Bend a pipe cleaner into a circle and twist it closed. Then twist the circle in the center, creating a figure eight. Mold into leaf shapes.
- **Petals:** Bend a pipe cleaner into a circle and twist it closed. Then twist the circle in the center, creating a figure eight. Mold into petal shapes. Repeat with another pipe cleaner. Twist the four petals together to create a bloom shape.
- **Stem:** Attach the leaves in the middle of a pipe cleaner and twist the flower to the top.

Lay the design on wax paper and squeeze glue into the empty spaces of the petals and leaves. When it is dry, your children can fill in the petals and leaves with paint. Then help them cut away the excess wax paper, tie string to the pipe cleaner flowers, and hang them by a window.

What You'll Need	All Ages	Baby	Toddler	Preschooler	School-Age Child
Small bell		☞			
Pipe cleaners	☞				
Glue	☞				
Construction paper		☞	☞		
Paintbrushes			☞	☞	☞
Washable tempera paint	☞				
Wax paper				☞	☞
String				☞	☞

