



Button Snake

Episode 10

Introduction

Learning how to button clothes and learning to write have more in common than you might guess: both depend on your child developing good hand-eye coordination. Developing this skill needs patience and practice, but it can also be fun!

Try making this button snake, an easy DIY toy that will help your child practice their clothes-buttoning skills while developing their hand-eye coordination.



Supplies

- Ribbon (1/2" to 1" wide is best)
- Felt fabric
- Glue (tacky glue, super glue, or a hot glue gun)
- 1 large button
- Scissors
- Googly eyes (optional)

Instructions

1. Cut out felt shapes: Cut out pieces of felt fabric (at least 8 pieces). If you like, use our attached template and cut the felt into different shapes to let our child practice shape recognition as well as buttoning. You can use your palm as a rough size reference.
2. Cut a slit in each felt piece: Make sure the slit is slightly longer than the width of your button.
3. Cut a piece of ribbon at least fifteen inches (15") long.

Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at [Plano Library Learns](#)

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Button Snake

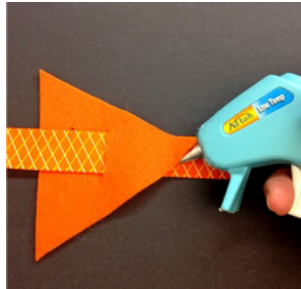
Episode 10

Instructions, continued

4. Glue on the button & the button snake's head: Thread your ribbon through one of the felt pieces you've cut and glue it onto one end of the ribbon. This piece will stay in place and keep the other felt pieces on the ribbon. (Optional: Leave a little ribbon on one side of this piece before gluing. Then, cut a forked "tongue" for your snake! you can also add googly eyes to this felt piece if you like.) Finally, sew or glue the center of your button onto the other end of the ribbon.



Cut a slit in felt pieces



Glue one piece to ribbon



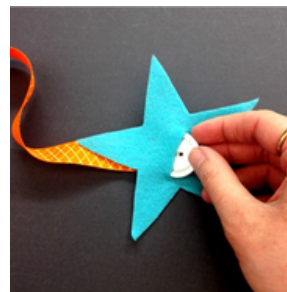
Cut forked tongue out of ribbon; glue eyes



Glue button

How to Use Your Button Snake

To get started, have your child slip the button through the slit in the middle of your felt pieces. They can repeat this until all the felt shapes have been threaded onto the button snake. Leave this toy out on a tray or shallow box in your home to encourage your child to play on their own. You can also put the button snake in a bag to take with you to entertain your child while waiting for doctor's appointments and other fidgety moments. Here's to some productive wait times!



Slip button through slit in felt piece



Slide felt piece on ribbon

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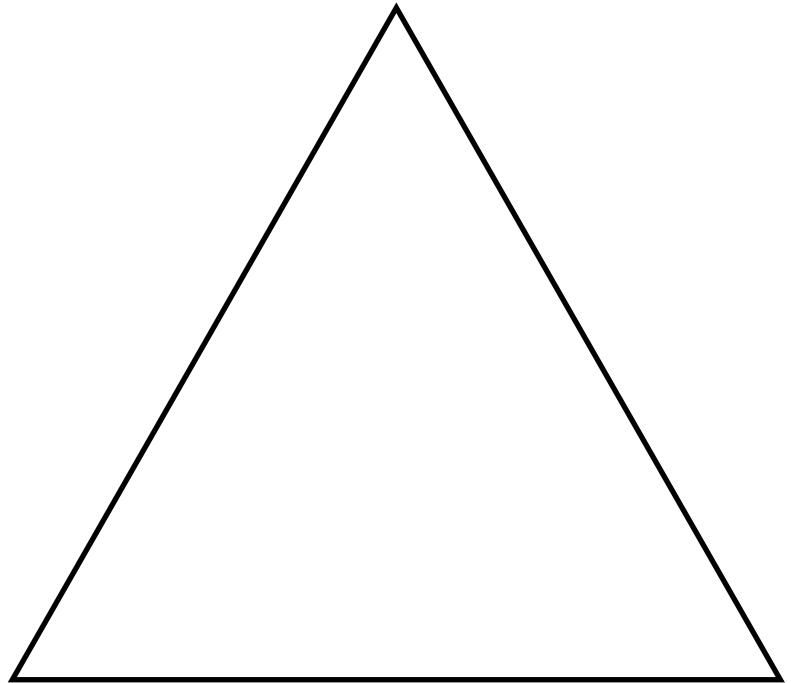
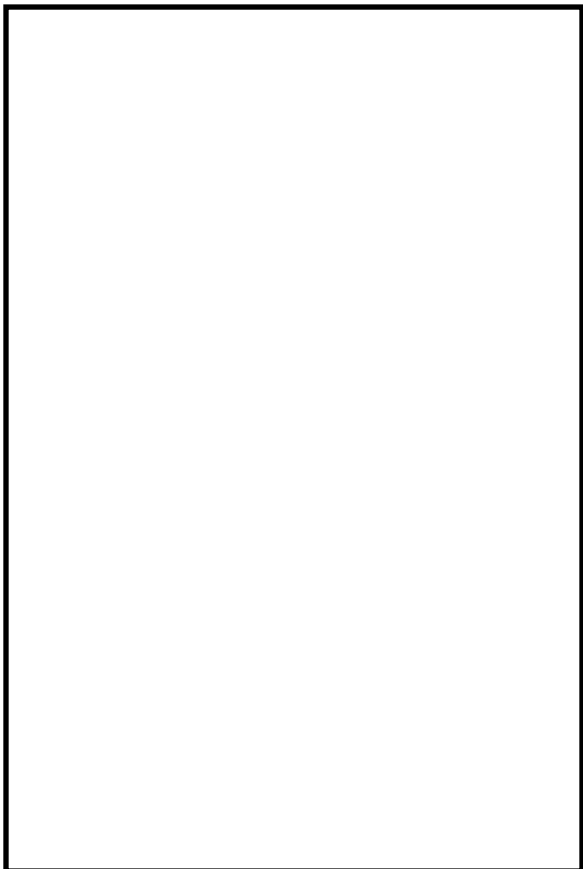
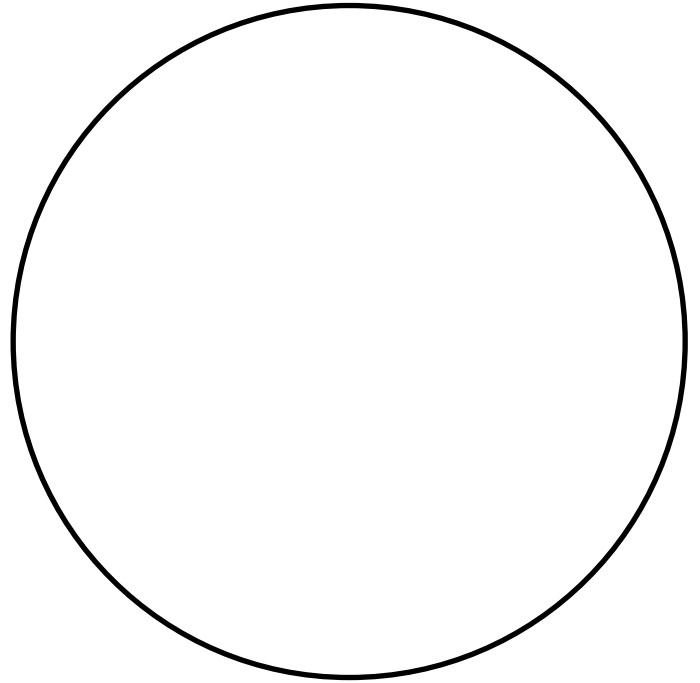
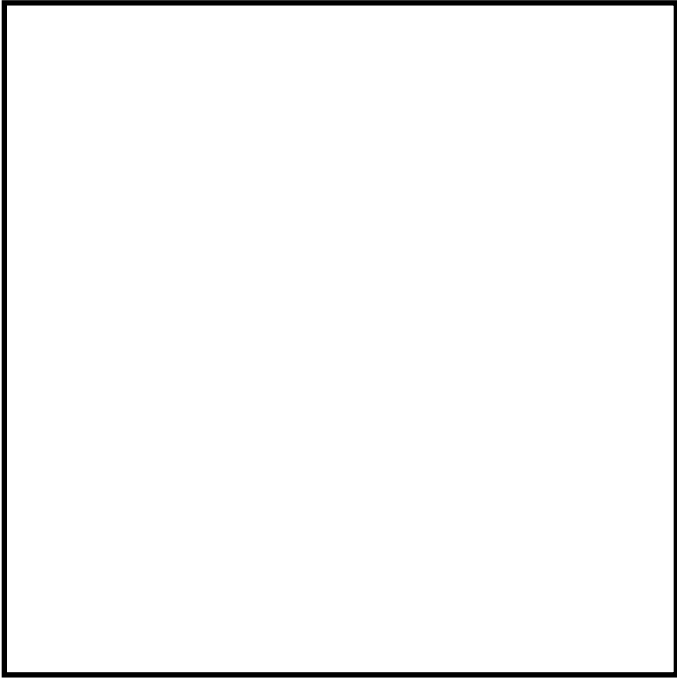
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