



# Pipe Cleaner Caterpillars

## Episode 56

### Introduction

This fun activity will help your child gain strength in their hands that will be essential when learning to write!

As your child threads on the cereal or beads, they are using and developing muscles in their hands that are essential for fine motor tasks such as fastening buttons or holding a pencil. Watch your child's hands as they work. You may notice the curved shape their hands make in order to achieve their goal. This promotes arch development and the strengthening of intrinsic hand muscles, preparing your child with the skills necessary for functional pencil grasp and eventually learning to write.



### Supplies

- Pipe cleaners
- Cereal "o's" or pony beads
- Googly eyes
- Glue - liquid or hot glue

### Instructions

1. Fold the ends: If the pipe cleaner ends are sharp, you can tuck them slightly over to keep them from poking tiny fingers.
2. Glue on eyes: Make a loop on one end, and glue on your googly eyes! Prepare the day before if using white liquid glue, or use hot glue.
3. Thread on cereal or beads: Have your child thread on the beads or cereal o's to make the body of the caterpillar. Fold over the end of the pipe cleaner to secure the last cereal "o".

### How to Use Your Pipe Cleaner Caterpillars

To use, have your child thread on the cereal "o" until the caterpillar body is complete. Make it a game by counting how many will fit, or make patterns with colorful beads!

### 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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