

Busy Bins for \$5 or less

Pipe Cleaner Challenge

MATERIALS

- Pipe Cleaners or Chenille Stems
- Plastic golf balls
- Colander (or any container with holes)
- Paper or Plastic Straws
- Safety Scissors*
- Beads of assorted shapes, sizes, and colors (hole needs to fit a pipe cleaner or straw)
- Printable challenge cards available at:
www.STEAMengineOKC.org/freebies#busybins

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather the materials.
- Encourage the child to explore the properties of each of the materials. Encourage open-ended play.
- If more structure is needed, complete the challenges on the printable challenge cards.

Note: Some challenges may require adult supervision or participation.

*Optional. Adult supervision recommended while cutting straws or pipe cleaners



CHALLENGE #1:

Design a sculpture using the materials.

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CHALLENGE #2:

Create a flower garden.

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CHALLENGE #3:

Create a piece of jewelry using pipe cleaners, beads, and straws.

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CHALLENGE #4:

Find something around the house that acts like a straw, bead, or colander.

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CHALLENGE #5:

[ADULT: Create a color-based pattern of beads on a straw or pipe cleaner.]

Match the pattern.

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CHALLENGE #6:

[ADULT: Create a shape-based pattern of beads on a straw or pipe cleaner.]

Match the pattern.

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CHALLENGE #7:

[ADULT: Create a shape-based pattern of beads on a straw or pipe cleaner.]

Close your eyes and match the pattern.

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CHALLENGE #8:

Build a square. A triangle.
A hexagon. An octagon.
A dodecagon.

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CHALLENGE #9:

Build a cube.
A pyramid.

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CHALLENGE #10:

Make your name using straws, pipe cleaners, and beads.

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CHALLENGE #11:

Create an insect.
Tell a story about it.

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CHALLENGE #12:

Design a miniature-sized piece of playground equipment.

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