



Knitting & Wool Felting

Steiner's Indications:

Making things, using materials from nature, makes one aware of all that the world has to give. For this reason it is important that the child be given natural fibers to work with. He should develop respect and appreciation for the earth out of which grows the cotton that magically becomes a pot-holder, wonder for the trees that give him his knitting needles, and great love for the sheep whose warm fleece becomes the wool he knits into his soft scarf. These are the seeds for understanding all that man and nature can do together and how human beings depend on one another. In this way, a true social impulse is born.

Rudolf Steiner said, "Thinking is cosmic knitting": the continuous thread of thinking weaves itself into whole thoughts. How can we enhance the co-operation between the hands and the head? We must call upon the feelings. Colour awakens interest, enthusiasm and joy in the child. He should be given the beautiful colours he so eagerly responds to in nature. He must develop a sensitivity toward colours, really observe them, and be aware of how they affect one another. A bright yellow thread cries out to be made into a golden chain. The child responds and the activity of the limbs works with the feelings and stimulates the processes of the head. It should become a harmonious, rhythmical activity. The child must begin to be conscious. He counts his stitches; he must know when one is missing. There is a right way to hold the needles, a right time to put the thread over the needle. Such things slowly bring the child out of his unconscious world.

Supplies:

Knitting

6.5mm knitting needles

wool yarn

Working with Wool

wool roving

deep bowl

towel

warm water mixed with dish soap

chop sticks to help felt edges (if needed, supervise if young child)

time

Tips:

Working with wool takes a bit of patience, but it is beautiful and feels great!

Never cut your wool roving. Instead tease out a piece and gently pull until it breaks off.

To felt takes elbow grease and time. Just keep going until it gets firm.

Wrap small sections of wool instead of large chunks, smaller makes it adhere together.
better.

Use cookie cutters with a bottom to help your young child get started. Place wool inside and start rubbing with chop sticks or finger.

Knitting is a process. The first scarf won't be perfect, but it is a learning time.

The main objective is to help your child keep the same amount of stitches on each row and keep them consistent size/tension. Once they can do that, the rest comes easy!

Knitting Verse:

“In the front door, out through the back
Wrap around the flagpole, and off jumps Jack!”

Wet Felt Wool Projects

Dryer balls

Easter eggs (tape the plastic eggs, cover with wool and felt)

Flowers (use pipe cleaner as stem)

Ornaments for the tree