

MAKE YOUR OWN TOYS



Rock Noughts & Crosses

What you'll need:

- Stones
- A piece of wood or tree round
- Paint

Read a history of Noughts & Crosses, also known as tic-tac-toe.

How to make your own Noughts & Crosses

1. Start by making your board. Don't have a tree round? No bother, use any flat hard surface such as a piece of timber or mdf, even heavyweight cardboard would do.
2. Wood looks lovely just as it is, but you might want to paint the entire surface a solid colour to make it more appealing.
3. Using black paint, mark out your playing board with two horizontal and two vertical lines.
4. Select your playing pieces. Painting stone can be a lovely activity. Select a range of colours, and paint several stones a solid colour.
5. Allow to dry then paint and 'x' on one half and an 'o' on the others. Allow to dry again.
6. A nice alternative is to paint half of the stones as bumblebees and the other half ladybirds.
7. Let the game begin!

Really Silly Putty



Silly Putty

This one is loads of fun, but WAY LESS MESS than slime! (You can even call it slime if you want and the kids won't notice the difference).

You'll need:

- 3 tbsp Cornflour
- 3 tbsp Dish soap
- mixing bowl
- spoon

Combine the cornflour and dish soap in a bowl and stir to combine. Like slime, the best way to really mix it is with your hands. If it's at all sticky, add a little more cornflour, a bit dry and crumbly? Add a little more soap. You'll know you have it just right when it's mold-able but doesn't stick to your hands. Coloured dish soap, like Fairy Liquid will give it a hint of colour. Bonus- it smells great! Store it in a sealable bag if you want to keep it for more than a day and add in a dot of dish soap to soften it if necessary when you next get it out.

Toodlelou's Foolproof Slime Recipe

Realising there might be a riot if we failed to include instructions for this all-time favourite.

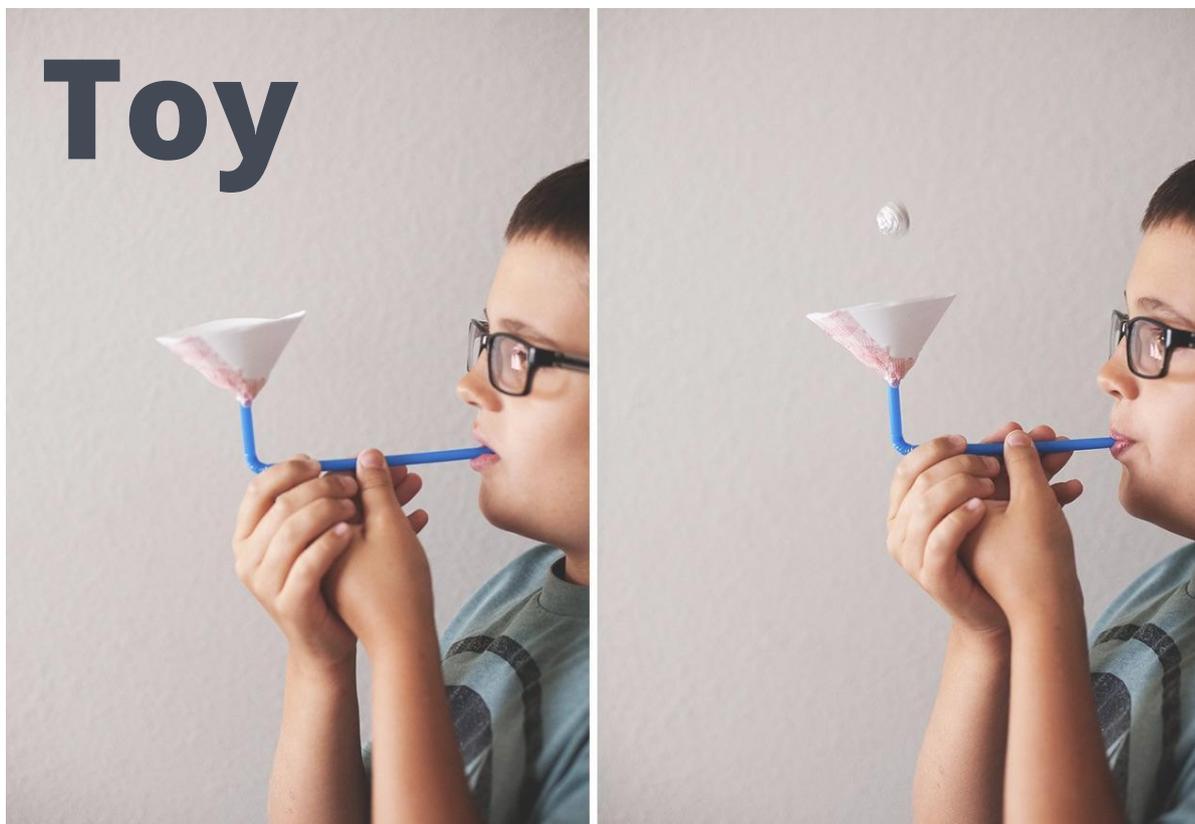
- 1 cup white liquid glue
- 2 tbsp poster paint to colour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 tsp Optrex eye solution

Add the above ingredients in order in a large bowl, stirring to mix as each ingredient is added. Stir it first with a popsicle stick. Once the optrex goes in, the slime effect is immediate. You can stir with the stick to start, but ultimately, you're going to have to get your hands in there!

Kneading the slime is the best way to mix the optrex fully through the slime. Hands will be covered at first and it feels very messy, but stick with it! Once the slime is the right consistency, it comes off little hands very easily. Note that if you add a little more Optrex, it becomes harder and less sticky and is therefore less mess, but still fun for kids.

ALWAYS add a little extra

Floating Ball Toy



What you'll need;

- bendy straw
- paper
- scissors
- pen or pencil
- tape
- pingpong ball, or a ball made out of foil

Instructions:

1. Trace a circle onto a piece of paper
2. Cut out the circle and make a cut, stopping halfway, in the centre of the circle.
3. Make a tee pee or funnel shape out of the paper by overlapping the ends slightly and securing with tape. Cut a small hole out of the bottom, or point, and insert the short end of the straw into the hole. Just the top of the straw should be coming through the hole.
4. Place tape around the outside of the “funnel” securing it to the straw.
5. If you feel like air might get through anywhere but the straw (or you test your ball and it’s not working quite right) you can put some extra tape around the edge to seal it off a bit better.
6. Time to play!
7. Make a ball by scrunching up some tinfoil and place it into the funnel. Now put the long end of the straw in your mouth and blow slowly and steadily. The ball should float as long as your air stream is consistent. See how high you can blow the ball into the air and how long you can keep it afloat!

