

## Early Wrapping & Weaving

Children are encouraged to weave, wrap, and tie on their own loom. Children can choose yarn, ribbon, string, fabric, and various other materials with which to work. Weaving is a particular art form that is often called, fiber arts. Fiber arts are works that are created through the use of fibers. They include basketry, fiber, knitting, needlework, papermaking, and quilting.

### ***In The Wonder Cabinet:***

Since art for young children is more about the process than the finished product, it is perfectly acceptable for them to wrap fabric around the outside of the frame or spend time simply tying knots with the string. Weaving helps children practice fine motor skills that are helpful for a variety of tasks, such as tying one's shoes. It also develops an eye for patterns and details that occur not only in art, but in math and science as well.

While your child is experimenting, take some time to help her develop new vocabulary. This activity is a perfect opportunity to use words that describe texture; words that show the difference among ribbon, yarn, string, and fabric; and directional vocabulary such as, over, under, and through.

### **At Home:**

The following idea was found in the excellent book, *First Art: Art Experiences for Toddlers and Twos*, by MaryAnn Kohl.

You can use the plastic rings that hold a six-pack of soda together and two wooden blocks to create a "loom" for your child. Tape the blocks to a table, and then tape the plastic six-pack ring between the two blocks. Cut weaving material into strips and let your child do the rest!



### **Suggested materials:**

- Old blankets
- Crepe paper
- Fabric
- Felt
- Newspaper
- Wide ribbons
- Yarn
- Paper bags