**Floppy Flipper! Handmade Fun**

No glue, no scissors, no messy paint! Set out some simple art materials and let the children create an all-time favorite toy of unlimited play value--The Floppy Flipper!

This handmade piece of simple equipment costs pennies to make, is fun to play with and the benefits are priceless...promoting eye hand coordination, striking skills, crossing the midline, vestibular stimulation, spatial awareness, cooperation and creativity. This is the perfect gift to “give” to your child or the children in your care. More importantly, you can play with them...giving them the best gift of all...your time and participation!

**Materials Needed:**

2 White Paper Plates (thin and uncoated) per Floppy Flipper

Paint Sticks (1 per Floppy Flipper)

Clear Packaging Tape

Crayons, Markers, Paint Dot Markers

Washable Markers

Stapler and Staples

Balloon

**Let’s Get Started:**

1. Using a couple of pieces of clear packaging tape, tape the paint stick to the middle of one paper plate.
2. Give each child another paper plate and ask him or her to decorate it with the available art materials.
3. When the child is finished, staple the plate to the plate which you’ve taped to a paint stick.
4. Have the child write or stamp their name on the paint stick handle.
5. The Floppy Flipper is now ready to be played with!

**Floppy Flipper Wimbledon:**

Let the children explore and play with their Floppy Flippers and balloons. Ask them to find out...

* How *high* can they hit their balloon?
* How *far* can they hit the balloon?
* How *many times in a row* can they hit the balloon (How about five?!!)
* How *long* can they keep their balloon in the air?
* Can they hit their balloon, *spin around*, then hit it again?

As the children become more proficient, ask them to try to keep a balloon in the air by hitting it back and forth with a partner. Now they’re playing Floppy Flipper Wimbledon!

***REMEMBER: Balloons ALWAYS require adult supervision. Always use helium quality balloons or sturdy punch ball balloons. Do not use fragile party balloons. You can cover balloons using knee hi stockings, pantyhose or any fruit mesh sacks (citrus, watermelon, cantaloupe). Should the balloon pop, the covering prevents burst balloon shards from being inhaled by children***.