

Abracadabra! Scarf Magic

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The thin nylon Juggling Scarf has unlimited possibilities of play value. This “loose material” is lightweight and easy for children of any age—infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-agers—to manipulate and use to promote gross motor and fine motor development. Scarf play helps with hand-eye coordination and encourages movement of eyes and hands to cross the midline...important pre-reading and writing skills.

You don't have to be a magician to conduct age appropriate activities that involve all children in scarf play. Just follow the child's lead and have fun! Here are some ideas.

Throw the scarf in the air with one hand and catch with the other.

Try clapping once or twice before catching it.

Toss the scarf in the air, spin around, and catch it.

Throw it up in the air and clap until it touches the ground. Did you count how many claps it took?

Toss the scarf and try to have it land on different body parts (hand, elbow, foot, back, and head).

Travel around the room with the scarf on a body part; try not to let it fall.

Toss and catch with a partner.

Hold the scarf together with a friend.

Put on some favorite music and dance with the scarf.

Play “Follow the Leader.” The child at the head of the line does a movement with the scarf and all children will copy that movement (i.e., waving scarf overhead, swinging arms back and forth, jumping with the scarf, galloping with the scarf, etc.) When the music stops the child that was at the front of the line goes to the back and the next child in line becomes the leader. The music starts again and the game continues until everyone has had a chance to be the leader.

The scarf lends itself to exploring colors and shapes. Ask children what shape their scarf is. Can they make the scarf into a smaller square? Can you make it into a triangle? Can it become a rectangle? Of course, discuss the geometric properties of each shape as they are made. Lay all the scarves on the floor in color groups to see a graph of colors. Talk about sorting, quantities, more/less. Use your imagination and be creative with the scarf...it can be a tail on a horse, a butterfly, etc. Run with it and pretend it's a kite. Look at the world through the tint of the fine mesh fabric. What do you see? What else can you do with your scarf?



MOTHER GOONIE BIRD

(Tune: "Father Abraham")

Chorus:

Mother Goonie Bird had seven chicks.
Seven chicks had Mother Goonie Bird.
They couldn't fly (extend arms to side and move up and down)
They couldn't swim (move arms as if swimming)
They could only go like this...

Hit chest with Right Fist and sing Chorus

Add: Left Fist

Add: Right Foot

Add: Left Foot

Add: Hips

Add: Head

Add: Turn yourself around

End: "Ker-plop" as you sit down on the floor