

DIY GAMES & ACTIVITIES WITH HARDWARE STORE FINDS

1 || Nuts & Bolts

You can find these in just about any size and they are great for developing in-hand manipulation skills and hand strength.

2 || Rope

Super cheap and such a versatile prop for gross motor skill building. Place a length of rope on the floor and use it as a line to walk on – squiggly or straight. Tie it between two secure end points and have a child use her hands to pull herself along on a scooter, make it a jump rope, or play a good old fashioned game of tug of war!

3 || Paint Samples

The possibilities are endless! Use hole punches to strengthen little hands, using the white lines between the colors for cutting practice, or even for a matching game on scooters.

4 || 2X4 Piece of Wood

The easiest DIY balance beam you could ever dream of. Have kids color it with some Sharpie Markers for some extra pizzazz!

5 || Paint Stirrers

Set kids loose with some markers and let them decorate a pair to make some awesome clapping sticks that are great for bilateral coordination, auditory processing, midline crossing, body awareness and more!

6 || Rubber Bands

Rubber bands are super cheap and can make awesome DIY fidget toys! Try wrapping colored rubber bands around popsicle sticks to create patterns or use them with geoboards to make shapes and designs!

7 || Clothespins

Use them to pick up craft pompoms or other manipulatives and sort them by color. Or try writing letters on each clothespin and then clip them onto index cards to spell out words and names.

8 || Spray Bottles

These are a great little hand strengthening tool! Cover some toy cars with shaving cream and then use the spray bottles to create a car wash! Or try washing windows, tables, or using them for other chores for kids!

10 || Empty Paint Can

Turn a pair of these into walking stilts. Drill a hole in each side of each can, add some rope and challenge kids to use their motor planning skills to get from one place to another.

11 || Command Hooks

Use these to create a ninja style obstacle course with your rope! Suspend the rope and have kids go over and under it to challenge their motor planning and body awareness and to get some awesome work on all fours as they go.

12 || Painters Tape

This stuff is amazing for fine and gross motor play. Tear tiny bits and place them all over the floor or table top and have kids pick them up piece by piece to create their own tape collage. Or, create an obstacle course with lines to walk on, X's to jump on, dots to hop on, etc.