

Build a Colourful Chain - A Collaborative Art & STEM Project

Children will create a long paper chain or yarn chain together, adding one link or knot at a time. This simple yet meaningful activity promotes fine motor skills, pattern recognition, and teamwork – all while reinforcing the idea that big things happen piece by piece. This chain is a perfect metaphor for how growth, learning, and relationships happen gradually link by link, piece by piece.

What you need:

- Strips of coloured paper (pre-cut) OR yarn/string for knotting
- Glue sticks or tape (for paper chain)
- Safety scissors (optional, if children can cut strips safely)
- Optional: beads or buttons (for yarn chain embellishments)

What to do:

1. Pre-cut paper strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long OR prepare yarn/string pieces about 12 inches long.
2. Explain that together you will make a chain, adding one link (or knot) at a time, and watch it grow!
3. For paper: Show children how to loop one strip and tape or glue it closed, then add the next strip by looping it through the first and closing it, repeating “piece by piece.”
4. For yarn: Show how to tie knots, possibly adding beads between knots for extra fun.
5. Encourage children to create simple colour patterns (red, blue, red, blue) or alternate yarn colours.

Activity extension: Lay out the finished chain and measure how long it is using blocks, hands, or footsteps. This Introduces measurement and comparison in a playful way. Add on to the chain daily/weekly and re-measure to see how much their chain has “grown.”



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