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Activity: **Straw or Pipe Cleaner Fine Motor Fun**

Description of activity:

We are going to make porcupines by placing straws in playdough or pipe cleaners in a colander. Feel free to choose based on the materials you have at home and what child's interest.

Materials:

Colander
Plastic Straws or Pipe Cleaners
Playdough
Beads (optional)
Scissors



Instructions:

Straws with Playdough:

Have your child roll playdough into a large ball and press into table.
Have your child cut plastic straws into small pieces (about 1 inch). You can cut for them.
Your child can then pick up the straws from the table and push into the playdough.
I like to tell the kids we are making a **porcupine!**

Grading: For some kids it is easier to pull out the straws after you make the porcupine. You can have your child make a choice for what color straw to place. You can also work on patterns (red straw, blue straw, red straw, blue straw).

Pipe cleaners with Colander:

This variation takes more precision and coordination.
Have your child take a kitchen colander and turn it upside down on the table.
They will pick up pipe cleaners from the table and press them into holes on the colander. Once it is all filled up it will look like a colorful porcupine! If your child is ready for a challenge, you can have them use pony beads to place on all of the pipe cleaners.
Grading: Some children might find it easier to pull the beads off the pipe cleaners.

Target areas:

Fine Motor: Helps build pincer grasp, hand strength, precision, in-hand manipulation, and bilateral integration.

