



## Funky Fishing Game

I've had the idea for a fishing game in a little bag for a while, but it was one of those I never really got round too. Then this afternoon, during nap-time, I sat down with the afternoon film and an hour later Fishing was complete! (Well almost I did the bag once she went to bed! – hence the darker pictures for which I apologise). It was so simple and a brilliant little project to do when your hands are itching to do something but your brains not fully awake. It was so easy to do I thought I'd share it ... here's how to make your own

## The Fish & Rod



### You will need:

Felt in a selection of colours (I just used some of my scrappy pieces!)

Some reasonably strong magnets (I wish mine had been a little stronger)

1 yard of strong cord – half for fishing rod and half for bag pull string.

Small length of garden cane

Embroidery thread of your choice

Electrical or wrapping tape (not pictured)

Needle

Poly-Stuffing

1. Cut a fish shape about 10cm long out of two layers of the same colour felt (I did my free-hand – but you can make a template using clip-art etc) and pin them together matching the sides exactly.



2. Double up your embroidery thread and double knot it at the end (I always double up when hand sewing for a toddler). Trap the knot in between the layers when you start for a neat finish.



3. Then blanket stitch around the edge of you fish starting at the tip of the tail and working around the head and back to the other end of the tail, leaving the end of the tail for stuffing.





4. Put a small amount of poly-stuffing in the fish and push right inside (the end of a pen works well to push the stuffing down)



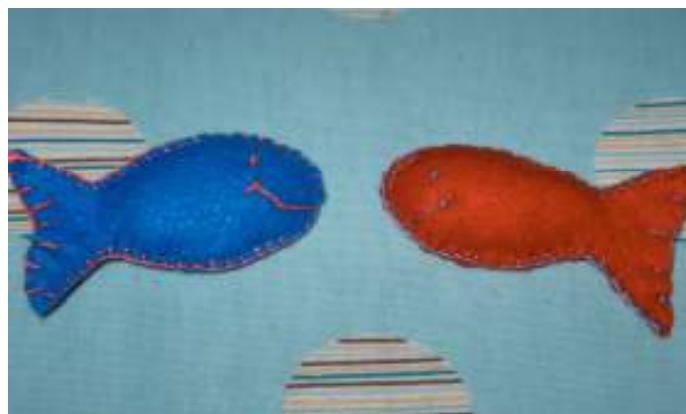
5. Most magnets have either a dimple or a dot on one side. Decide which side of the magnet you want to use a STICK TO IT with each fish you make!!! Then all your magnets will pick up on your fishing rod. Push your magnet into the nose of the fish with the correct side facing outwards (the poly-stuffing will hold in place).



6. Check that it works! If your magnet is struggling to hold the weight of the fish then remove the poly-stuffing and glue magnet in place. Your fish will be flat but a lot lighter.
7. Finish tail with some larger blanket stitch



8. Add details such as eyes and a smile (I find it easier to do this once the fish is stuffed rather than at the start as you get more idea of the character!)
9. Introduce it to some friends.



10. Now onto the fishing rod – Cut you garden cane down to size – mine’s 15cm -(try not to make it too long as that will make it harder for your little one to control) and sand or file the rough edge.



11. Tightly wrap colourful electrical or wrapping tape around the rod not leaving any gaps. This not only makes the rod look nice and colourful but also stops any splinters coming off the rod into your little ones hands



12. Attach half of the cord also using the electrical/ wrapping tape – I tried to make mine look a little more like a real fishing rod by attaching it along the rod as well as at the end.

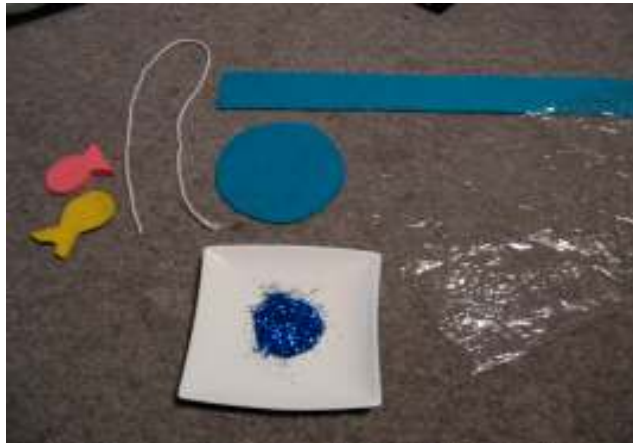


13. Attach the magnet on the end of the cord with the opposite pole facing outwards to that inside the fish (Simply check the stick together)



14. Start playing!!!

## The Bag



You will need:

Some clear PVC (I used one piece folded over about 40cm x15cm)

Coloured felt

Lots of colourful glitter – I chose blue and silver to match the sea theme

Strong clear Sticky tape

The rest of the cord from making the fishing rod.

1. Sandwich two pieces of PVC together and stick the two shorter sides together with the sticky tape – make sure you seal it fully as you don't want glitter all over the floor.



2. Cut a circle of felt to match the size of the bottom of your bag and blanket stitch it to the bottom of you bag.



3. Now it's the messy bit – in-between the two layers of PVC add your glitter and seal the top with





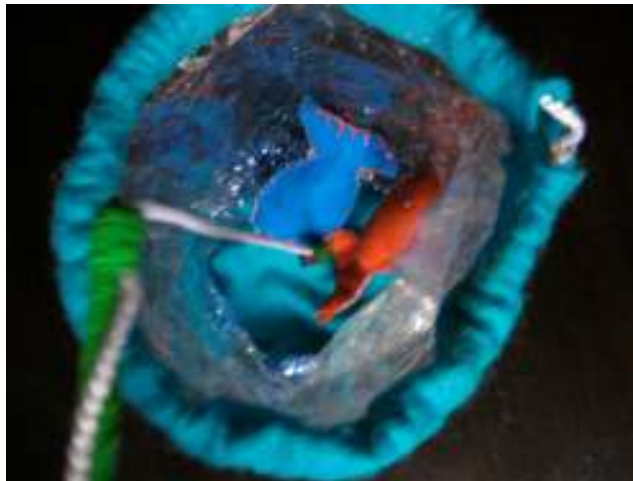
some more sticky tape.



4. Sew a 'tunnel' for the cord along the top edge of the bag with a running stitch



5. Thread the cord through and tie the ends.



6. Add fish and get fishing!!!!

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