

# Parents and Prams

## Hanging Mobile

Watch your children as they immerse themselves in this fun wrapping and threading activity to create their own hanging natural mobile.

After you've finished this activity, visit the *Canaipa Mudlines: Art and Environment* exhibition at Redland Art Gallery (RAG), Cleveland and spend time with your children talking about how artists use nature in their art.



### For this activity you will need:

- **A thick stick** (approx. 20cm length)
- **Yarn** (precut in 50cm to 1m length, shorter lengths are easier to wrap)
- **2 long pipe cleaners** (wire or twine works fine too)
- **Beads**
- **Recycled material from home, punched with holes** (cardboard shapes, egg carton cups, cardboard rolls)
- **Natural items, punched with holes or with stems to attach to the mobile** (paperbark, feathers, pinecones, dried leaves and flowers, gum nuts, seashells)
- **A pair of scissors**

**Redland Art Gallery**  
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Chez Beauvardia



**REDLAND ART**  
**GALLERY**

*Redland Art Gallery is an initiative of Redland City Council  
and is dedicated to the late Eddie Santagiuliana.*

## Wrapping the stick with yarn

1. Encourage your child to choose a length of coloured yarn and help tie a double knot to one end of the stick.
2. Show your child how to wrap the yarn around the stick either by laying the stick on a table and turning it around or by using one hand to hold the stick and the other hand to wrap.
3. When you come to the end of the yarn, help your child tie the yarn to another coloured length of yarn. Invite them to keep wrapping the yarn around adding more colours as desired until you reach the other end. Tie a double knot to finish.

**For fun effects, tie two colours of yarn together or go over the first wrapped yarn with another length of coloured yarn.**



## Making the hanging mobile

1. Wrap one end of a long pipe cleaner (wire or twine) around the centre of the stick.
2. Lay the beads, recycled and natural items out in front of your child and let them thread the pieces onto the pipe cleaner.
3. Once your child reaches the end of the pipe cleaner, help them attach one last nature treasure that will secure all the pieces together.
4. Tie the second pipe cleaner to both sides of your stick to create a hanger.

**Your mobile is now ready for hanging.**



**Whether your child is discovering new skills or practising them, this project is not only a great sensory experience as they feel different shapes and textures, but also really beneficial for the development of your child's fine motor skills as they wrap the yarn around their stick and thread the beads, shapes and natural treasures. Have fun!**