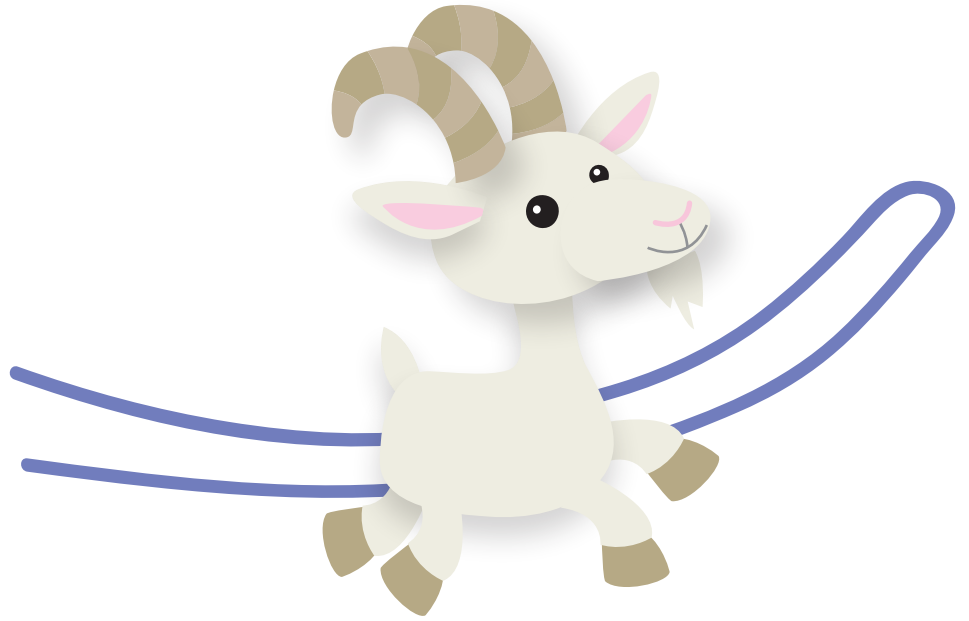


Climbing Critters

Looking for a fun indoor activity? In this friction experiment, you and your child can work together to make a creature that can climb.

Collect

- 3 feet of yarn
- 1 plastic drinking straw
- 1 penny
- 2 beads
- Cereal box
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons



Create your critter

1. Cut the front off of an empty cereal box. Decide what type of critter you will make. Will it be a butterfly, a dog, a turtle, or a fish? It could be anything!
2. Draw and decorate the critter on the blank side of the cereal box and use scissors to cut him out.
3. When finished, flip him over and tape a penny toward the bottom of your critter. This weight will help him climb.

Tip: Try drawing your creature as if you were looking at him from above. Later, this will make him look like he's actually climbing!

Assemble your critter's climbing gear

4. Cut two 1" pieces from the drinking straw. On the underside of your critter, line these pieces up near the center. They should be parallel to one another and about 1" apart. Tape the straws into place.
5. Thread the yarn through the bottom of one straw, over to the top of the other straw, and back down through. This should create a loop at the top of the straws with one end of the yarn dangling down from each straw.

Tip: Tie a bead onto each end of the yarn so that it will not slip back out of the straws. Make sure that the beads are larger than the straw opening.

Go climbing!

6. Slip the loop of yarn over a door knob.
7. Hold one end of yarn in each hand and experiment with making your critter climb!

Critter Experiment

How fast can you make him climb? Does he climb faster when you pull both sides of the string at once or if you alternate back and forth with your hands? The friction of the yarn against the straws helps your critter climb. What happens when you let go of the yarn? When there is less friction, your critter will fall back down.

