

Oatmeal Container Crafts

Turn them into drums, windsocks and more! The following four craft projects are easy, fast and fun using empty eighteen ounce oatmeal containers. Encourage your kids to be creative! A sturdy pair of scissors is needed to appropriately cut the canister for certain activities.

Note: Adults may have to cut canisters for young children ahead of time.

General Materials:

-  oatmeal container (18 oz.)
-  construction paper, used wrapping paper
-  glue
-  string or yarn
-  decorating materials (crayons, markers, stickers, glitter, ribbon, etc.)

Rattle Roller

Additional Materials:

-  dried beans, pasta or rice

Procedure:

1. Fill the round oatmeal container with a handful of dried beans, pasta or rice.
2. Tape or glue the lid shut.
3. Wrap and glue construction paper over the container and decorate.

Hands Free Drum

Procedure:



1. Punch a small hole on each end of the oatmeal canister.
2. Cut a piece of string or yarn and thread through the two holes. Allow enough string or yarn for the drum to hang down to the child's waist.
3. Tie the ends together.
4. Wrap and glue construction paper around the container and decorate with crayons, markers, glitter, stickers, etc.

Windsock

Additional Materials:

-  ribbon

Procedure:

1. Remove the lid from the oatmeal canister and save for another project.
2. Poke four holes in the bottom of the canister. Thread four pieces of long string and tie a knot at the end inside the canister. Tie the ends of the four pieces together outside of the canister.
3. Wrap and glue construction paper around the container and decorate with crayons, markers, glitter, stickers, etc.
4. Glue long ribbon streamers to the inside.



Critter Cabin

Additional Materials:

-  old pantyhose

Procedure:

1. Cut large rectangular windows on either side of the oatmeal canister.
2. "Furnish" the inside with leaves, grass, sticks, or whatever the bugs need as food and sprinkle in a few drops of water.
3. Cut the leg off of a pair of old pantyhose and slide it over the canister. The heel should be at the bottom.
4. Go on a hunt for Nature's Recyclers (see "In Search of Nature's Recyclers" in the **Wee Recyclers Activity Guide**) and place critters inside the cabin. Be sure and release the critters after an hour or so.