



# Sticks & Stones Education

*Presents*

## The Value of Threading

Threading is a fantastic way of promoting children's learning and development.

Using different sized beads or materials promotes children's fine motor skills and their ability to grasp objects. Through the process of threading, children are also manipulating the objects in their hands and between their thumb and finger. Children are strengthening the small muscles in their hands through play.

Threading the objects onto the string involves bilateral coordination, where the child's hands work together—one to hold the thread and one to hold the object. The hands and the eyes also have to work together to achieve the outcome of threading!

When deciding what to thread, children are developing their planning skills. Are they going to make a necklace? A bracelet? Are they simply going to thread for the sake of threading? The purpose will impact upon the plan that the child creates within their mind. How many beads will they need? What colours? Will there be a pattern? All these factors will influence children's choices and their threading.

Mathematics also plays a role in threading. How long will it be? How much string will I need? Do I use a big bead or a small bead? How many objects or beads are there? How many will I need? Is there a pattern? Does it repeat? How can I repeat it? When you talk to children and draw their attention to their threading, you are able to promote their understanding of mathematics.

As children work in small groups they are developing their social skills. They are learning to share space as well as materials with each other. There may not be enough to go around, so negotiation and compromise may need to occur.

Threading might seem frivolous, but it is in fact an amazing learning experience that supports children in many other areas of life: drawing, writing, mathematics and patterning, hand-eye coordination, memory, dressing and undressing as they manipulate those fiddly zippers, buttons and laces.

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