

Whimsical Recycled Wind Chimes

Age Range: 3-12

Skills/Subjects:

- Engineering
- Science
- Art Design
- Recycling

Materials:

- 20 oz. plastic bottle
- Acrylic paint (various colors)
- Paint brushes
- String, twine or fishing line
- Pony beads
- Colored drinking straws (cut up)
- Heavy ceramic or metal beads
- Large plastic buttons
- Small jingle bells
- Scissors/knife
- Hole punch
- Metal key ring (optional)



Directions

1. To start, have an adult cut off the tapered, top portion of the plastic bottle. This is also a good time to make a hole in the bottom center of the bottle. A small drill, heated skewer, ice pick, or a very small screwdriver can be used to accomplish this.
2. Paint each section/side of the bottle a different color and then let the paint dry.
3. Punch 4 to 8 evenly-spaced holes around the open end of the bottle.
4. Tie one of the large plastic buttons or the jingle bells on the end of each piece of string. Place your colored beads and pieces of straw on the strings, making sure to include one or two heavier ones on each for weight and sound.
5. Slip each one of the strings through a punched hole and knot them in place.
6. For the inner chime, thread a button onto a long length of your string and then double the string back through so you have your button on a loop. Fill the length of string (holding both sides together) will sections of straw and colored beads, leaving a few inches at the top. Knot your string about one or two inches from the top to create a “stopper” that will keep your beads on and help the chime from sliding too much once it is attached.
7. To attach the center chime, slide your string inside the bottle and though the hole at the bottom center until it reaches the stopper. Thread it through a pony bead and then knot your bead in place.
8. Tie a loop for hanging the wind chime. Alternatively, you can tie the string to a metal key ring to use for hanging it.

Alternative Materials

Instead of using a plastic bottle, the wind chime can be made using a plastic cup.

Questions to Think About

- Look at other wind chimes. How are they different from or the same as yours?