

### Calder wire sculpture idea



You will need:

- Pipe cleaners (or other craft wire)
- A base (such as a rock or a block of foam insulation or foam packing. Other ideas: a can of gravel or sand, a cup of playdough, or a colander turned upside down.)
- Decorations (any items you have on hand: buttons, paper scraps, stickers, beads, bottle caps, pasta etc.)
- Glue or tape for sticking things together (or other ideas like ribbons, string, or stickers)

There are so many options and no right or wrong way to do these creative sculptures. Sometimes the special things you and your children find together will inspire the sculpture to take on a new life and design.

#### **Basic Steps:**

1. The children push the pipe cleaners into the base or wrap them around the base. If using Styrofoam, push the wires in deep so they will be strong and will hold up well.
2. Bend the wires into designs and shapes, or leave them straight. It's inspiring to cut the wires into different lengths with scissors. Pipe cleaners cut pretty easily. Note: One of the brain challenges of this sculpture is bending and arranging the wires so the sculpture will not fall over.
3. Add decorations! Buttons will thread right onto the wires, and it's easy to sandwich the wire between two gluey scraps or two stickers. Pony beads thread well onto the wires as will pasta tubes. Have fun choosing from whatever is on hand. You can always add cotton balls or even lumps of playdough! No rules!
4. Wiggle or blow on or shake or otherwise enjoy the movement of the wires and decorations.

This project is absolutely wide open for creativity and possibilities.