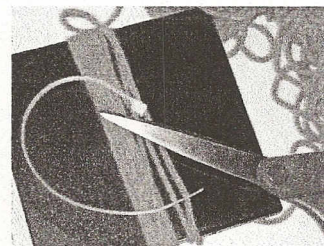


## Yarn Balls

### Making a Yarn Ball

A quick and easy prop for fun!

Yarn balls are soft and fluffy props that can be used for a variety of activities.



1. Toss and catch individually or with a partner. (Catch with both hands, the dominant hand, the non-dominant hand, or from one hand to the other. Toss high, higher, low, farther away, faster, backward overhead, etc.)
2. Toss the yarn balls all at once, and then play a quick clean-up game.
3. Sort the yarn balls by color.
4. Line the yarn balls up and count them or separate them by color and practice simple math skills.
5. Sit in a circle and toss the yarn balls into a target such as a basket, a big pot, or the center of a hula hoop.
6. Pass the yarn balls around in a game of Hot Potato.
7. Toss a yarn ball, let it land on the ground, then hop or jump over it.
8. Want to keep the kids out of the cold? Have an indoor snowball fight!

#### Supplies:

Ball of yarn  
Zip Cable Tie (from any hardware store)  
Scissors  
CD Jewel case or card board 5" x 5"

1. Choose one color of yarn or multiple colors for a more exciting combination.
2. Holding a CD jewel case or a piece of cardboard approx. 5" x 5" square, wrap the yarn around the jewel case approx. 200 times or more, going in a north and south direction.
3. Slide the yarn off of the jewel case, or bend the cardboard in half and slip the yarn off.
4. Wrap the zip tie around the middle of the yarn, insert the end of the zip tie through the eye and pull it very tight. The zip tie should lock.
5. Cut off the excess plastic of the zip tie as close to the eye as possible.
6. Using the scissors, cut through the loops at each end. Trim the long pieces of yarn, as needed. Caution: Children should be supervised while using scissors.
7. Fluff your yarn ball out!

This idea comes from Head Start, "I am Moving. I am Learning." trainer and early childhood consultant, Patty Kimbrell. Visit Patty at [www.pkimbrell.com](http://www.pkimbrell.com).

#### Song suggestions:

"Toss & Catch" from "Smart Moves 2" CD  
"Hot Potato" from "Smart Fruit & Veggie Songs" CD  
"It's Time to Clean" from "Smart Songs 2" CD