

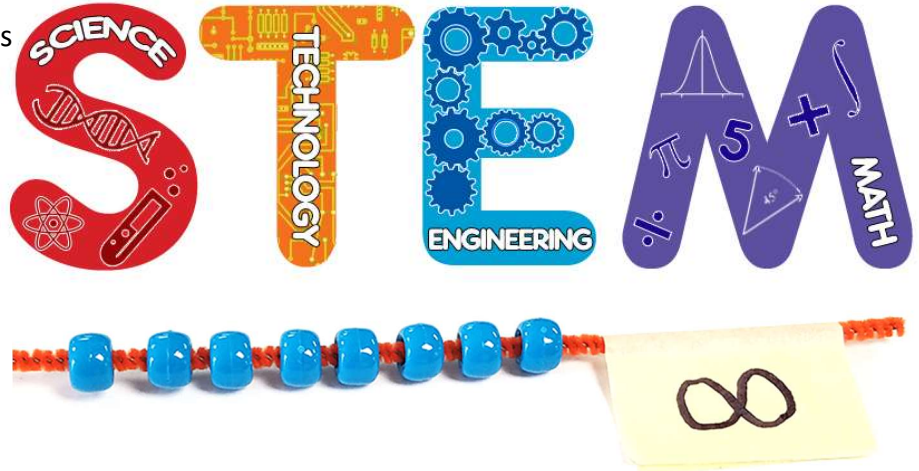
## The Beadery<sup>®</sup> Bead Stems

### Materials Needed:

- 9x6mm Barrel Pony Beads
- Chenille Stems
- Paper / Masking Tape

### Tools Needed:

- Scissors
- Glue Stick / Tape
- Pen / Marker



### Skills Learned:

- Sorting / Ordering
- Counting
- Fine Motor Skills / Eye-Hand Coordination
- Pattern Recognition

### Background:

Little kids love stringing beads and this project lets them learn while they are having fun. Beads are counted as they are strung onto the labeled chenille stems and then placed in order from smallest to largest. Pony beads are great for little hands since they are small but have a larger hole than other beads their size. This promotes eye hand coordination and development of fine motor skills without the frustration of threading a small hole.

### Prep Work:

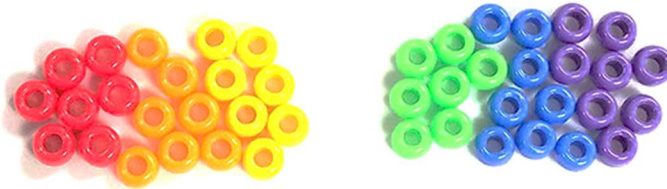
1. Cut a small piece of paper for each chenille stem. Fold one around each stem and attach with tape or glue stick. You can also use wide masking tape for these labels.
2. Write a number on each tab.



That's it. This one is pretty easy to prepare.

### **Sorting & Ordering Skills:**

- Have your child order the labeled chenille stems numerically from smallest to largest value or as they advance, from largest to smallest value or even and odd numbers.
- If you have enough colors of beads or chenille stems, you can have your child arrange them by colors:
  - Color Spectrum – Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue & Purple
  - Warm (Red, Orange & Yellow) or Cool (Green, Blue & Purple) Colors



- Primary (Red, Yellow & Blue) or Secondary (Orange, Green & Purple) Colors



### **Counting Skills:**

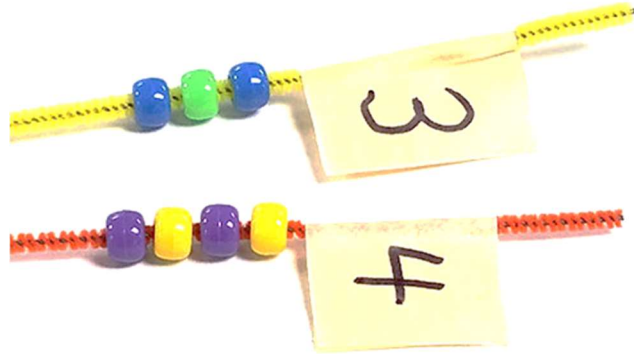
- Have your child count out a certain number of pony beads and match them to the numbers on the labeled chenille stems.
- As they slide the beads onto the chenille stem, they can count up to the number on the label. This also helps improve their ordering skills.
- Counting down as your child slides the beads back down off the chenille stem is also a great way to work on subtraction.

### **Fine Motor & Eye-Hand Coordination Skills:**

- Stringing pony beads is a great way to work on fine motor skills. The beads are small enough to require good eye-hand coordination and manual manipulation skills, but the larger hole make is easy enough to string without frustrating little fingers.

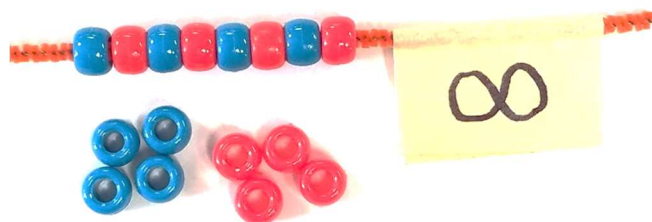
### Pattern Recognition Skills:

- Have your child create a color pattern when stringing the beads on the chenille stems.
- This is a visual way to introduce even and odd numbers. If two colors are alternated on the stem odd numbers will have the same color bead on both ends, while even numbers will have different color beads.



- This is also a fun and easy way to visually represent addition and subtraction. If your child alternates red and blue beads on the chenille stem labeled 8, they can then count each color and see that there are 4 red and 4 blue beads.

$$4 \text{ red} + 4 \text{ blue} = 8 \text{ beads total}$$



As you can see, this one simple and fun activity that kids love has many benefits. It is great for not only the physical development, but also helps with colors, patterns, organizational and math skills. And when your children have advanced beyond these bead stems, all the components can be reused in other STEM or craft projects.