

Family Art from Home

Woodland Mobile

by Eden Resnik

Bring the outdoors inside by creating a mobile from materials foraged from your yard, neighborhood or local park.



Supplies Needed

Small tree branch (between 1 and 2ft in length)
White paint and brush
Nail file
Several acorns, any size
Yarn
Hot glue or craft glue
Scissors

How to Do it

1. Look around oak trees, where you will find acorns on the ground. Sometimes you can find very large ones. Pick up ones that still have caps or collect the caps separately. If you cannot find any acorns, use sturdy dry leaves or wooden beads. The branches can be found on the ground too. Try finding one about a foot or a bit longer that isn't too thick.
2. When you have collected your materials, wipe them down with a damp cloth.



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3. Have an adult trim the branch to the perfect size for you with the scissors or by snapping off the extra pieces.
4. Use the nail file to sand down the ends of the branches as well as any pointy parts.
5. Paint your branch white and let dry.
6. Using your glue, attach the caps to the acorns and let them dry.
7. Take your dry acorns and glue the end of a length of yarn to the top. It can be helpful to lay the yarn down in a little spiral on the caps so it sticks well.
8. While your branch and acorns dry, make some tassels and pompoms using the steps below.
9. When your branch is dry, tie some yarn to the center and have someone hold it up so you can see how it balances.
10. Begin tying on your acorns, tassels, and pompoms. Knot together a few of the objects or tie them all on separately. The trick is to try to make the mobile balance, so if you put a heavy acorn on one side, you might want to match it on the other side or put several smaller acorns. It looks nice when they hang at different heights too.
11. Trim off any extra yarn after tying them all securely to your branch. Enjoy your foraged woodland mobile!



Making the Tassels

1. Hold two or three of your fingers out and wrap them in yarn until you've gone around about 15 times.
2. Slide the yarn off and tie it towards the top with a second piece of long yarn.
3. Cut the yarn loops open on the longer side and trim them so they are all the same length.



Making the Pompoms

1. Hold two of your fingers out and wrap them gently in yarn until you've gone around about 20 times.
2. Have someone else tie them tightly with a second piece of yarn between your two fingers.
3. Slide the yarn off and cut open both ends. Fluff the yarn pieces and trim them until the pompom is round.