

PROJECT DECISION CHECKLIST

- Is the project affordable (or can the client purchase the necessary materials)?
- Is the client safe to handle sharp tools or wire?
- Will the project actually be worn/used?
- How much fine motor dexterity is required?
- Can my client make realistic project choices?
- What are the options for skill-building?

before stringing to ensure you will achieve the desired look. Beading is a craft that can be done inexpensively or can involve quite an investment. Therapists should take these factors into account and stock the basic supplies that could be useful across a range of their typical client population. Primary disadvantages of this craft are that it may not interest males and the less expensive materials may not appeal to adults.

PROJECTS

Project—Beaded Sun Catcher

Activity Selection and Planning

This project calls for fair fine motor skills, but because of its free form style (Figure 8-7), visual and cognitive demands are minimal. Make sure that wire diameter and bead hole size are compatible. Other items could also be made from these or similar materials, such as beaded jewelry or key rings. Projects can be structured for simplicity, or they can be highly complex, requiring precise manipulation, good visual acuity, and patience.

Preparation

Supplies:

- 3 to 4 feet of aluminum (or other) 30- to 34-gauge craft wire
- Beads of desired color and style, glass or plastic, 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter; make sure that the wire will fit through the bead holes

Tools:

- Measuring tool (optional)
- Needle nose pliers
- Sturdy scissors or tin snips
- Round metal ring or small metal or wooden dowel



Figure 8-7. Beaded sun catcher.

Time required:

30 minutes

Approximate cost:

\$1 to \$2, depending on beads selected

Process

1. Cut wire into lengths of about 18 inches.
2. Using fingers or needle nose pliers, wrap one end of the wire two or three times around the metal ring or dowel, leaving a tail of an inch or so. (This small wire is fairly easy to manage with fingers; heavier wire will require pliers but can be used with larger beads if desired.)
3. Using finger or needle nose pliers, twist the tail and the long end of the wire around one another to “fasten.”