

ARTS & CRAFTS

Spring Chicken

Some *Wondertime* editors have a springtime tradition of visiting The Inn at East Hill Farm (where the motto is “Kids are Kings”), in Troy, NH. Last Easter, the kids came back squawking about an easy craft they learned there. (Because of the small parts involved, this project is best for kids 3 and older.) This docile-looking chick makes an impressive cluck—no batteries (or ventriloquist skills) required.

—MICHELLE DOZOIS

1. Cut a small (about ¼-inch) slit in the center of the cup's bottom.
2. Fold the square of red felt in half and tie one end of the string around the middle of the felt.
3. Poke the loose end of the string through the slit in the cup, and pull the string all the way down until the felt meets the cup.
4. Tie the loose end of the string around the middle of the piece of sponge.
5. Feather your chick: Cut the tissue paper into roughly 2- by 1-inch rectangles. Using the glue stick, have your child cover the outside of the cup (including the top) with the strips of tissue paper. (If you're using a yellow cup, you can skip the tissue paper, or just glue on some wings—the chick looks just as cute.)
6. Face time: Glue the googly eyes (even though they're adhesive backed, a bit of glue helps them stay put) and the orange felt beak onto the cup to make the chicken's face, and let set for about 5 minutes.
7. Lightly wet the sponge with water. Using your thumb and forefinger, fold the sponge around the string (where it meets the opening of the cup) and pinch together tightly.
8. With quick, jerky motions, yank the sponge down the string, an inch or two at a time, to make the chick cluck.

MATERIALS

- 1 (8- to 12-ounce) disposable cup (clear plastic, yellow paper, or yellow plastic)
- 1-inch square of red felt
- 2½-foot length of string
- 1½- by 1-inch piece of household sponge
- Yellow tissue paper (enough to cover disposable cup; optional if using a yellow cup)
- Glue stick
- Stick-on googly eyes
- Orange felt triangle (for the beak), about the size of the eyes
- Scissors, ruler, water