

SEED BEAD NECKLACES



Spring has arrived!

Buds are bursting, flowers are blooming, and critters are nibbling on earth's springtime treats. But where does it all begin? Making Seed Bead Necklaces is a creative way for children to celebrate the start of spring while learning about the fascinating world of seeds. This fashionable science experience is fun for the whole family.

What is a “seed bead?”

A seed bead is a little ball of seeds you can easily launch or throw onto the earth that contains all the necessary ingredients for a plant to begin growing once water hits it.

At The Arboretum, we like to take fun a little further. So instead of just making “seed bombs,” we are going to make seed bombs you can wear as necklaces for as long as you like until you’re ready to gift them to the earth to begin their growing cycle!



MATERIALS

- Air dry clay
- Soil
- Seeds
- Bowl
- Toothpicks
- Hemp or jute twine
- Food coloring
- Paintbrush



STEPS

- 1) Place large baseball-size chunk of clay in your bowl with $\frac{3}{4}$ cups of soil and $\frac{3}{4}$ cups seeds.
- 2) Knead together all ingredients until they are thoroughly combined. If mixture is too crumbly, add more clay.
- 3) Begin taking small chunks of the mixture and rolling them into different bead shapes between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 inch thick.
- 4) Use a toothpick to poke a hole completely through the center of each bead to the other side.
- 5) Set your beads aside and allow them to dry out for 2-3 days.
- 6) Once dry, add a couple drops of food coloring to your paint brush and color your beads as you desire. The pigment will seep into the dry clay.
- 7) Once the pigment has dried, cut 2 feet of hemp or jute twine and knot one end while using the other end to string your beads onto it! When done, tie the twine at the appropriate length for child’s neck, ensuring they can remove it over their head.
- 8) Wear your necklace for as long as you like! When you are ready to gift it to the earth, find an outdoor space where you can bury it, or gather a pot of soil. Dig a hole about 3 inches deep, place your necklace in the hole, cover it, and, watch over the next few weeks to see what happens! Pay extra attention if it rains.

HAPPY SPRING!



**Arboretum
At Home Nature Adventures
sponsored in part by
EDISON INTERNATIONAL.**

**Special thanks to babbledabbledo.com for use of their photos!*