Make a Masterpiece

Dress Your Stuffed Pet

Treat your favorite stuffed animal to a new outfit! Use your imagination and a variety of creative materials to design and construct a special costume for your furry friend.

Suggested Materials:
• Fabric scraps
• Ribbon/yarn
• Buttons or beads
• Velcro, glue dots, liquid glue
• Plastic sewing needles (or real needles for older children or with adult supervision for younger children)
• Scissors
• Ruler or tape measure
• Your favorite stuffed animal(s)

What you do:
• Decide what type of costume or costume elements you want to make.
• Select appropriate sizes of fabric scraps.
• Lay your fabric out flat on a tabletop, measure, and use a marker or pencil to create outlines where you want to cut – creating a basic pattern or template.
• Cut out your desired shape(s).
• Experiment with layering multiple pieces of fabric.
• Sew, tie, or glue selected pieces to hold them together.
• Select additional items to add to your costume: ribbon, buttons, beads, etc.

Costume Making Hints:
• If you’re making a larger costume that will wrap around your entire furry friend, use a ruler to measure the stuffed animal to create a basic pattern or template. This will help you gage where to cut out the head, arms, legs, or tail hole(s).
• Keep it simple. Perhaps start with just one element such as a hat or cape. You can always add onto your stuffed pet’s outfit over time.
• With the help of an adult, practice sewing skills with a real needle and thread. Older children may be able to do this on their own.
• Think about what else could you use to make outfits. Perhaps an old t-shirt, tissue paper, or items from your recycling bin?

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