

PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Let's Make Crinkle Dog Sock Toys 🐶!

A fun, creative way to give shelter dogs the gift of play.

APPROX. TIME

15 min / toy

PLANNING NEEDED

Easy

Collect materials in advance

GRADE LEVEL

All Grades

BEST FOR

Solo or small groups

Homeschool, families

ANIMALS HELPED — Dogs 🐶 at your local shelter or rescue (under staff supervision)

Purpose

Help create a fun enrichment toy for shelter dogs using clean socks and empty plastic water bottles. These easy-to-make toys provide engaging sounds and textures that many dogs enjoy.



Materials List

- ☐ **Clean adult socks**
- ☐ **Empty plastic water bottles**

Teacher Tip: Collect clean socks and empty plastic water bottles before beginning the project. Place a collection box in your classroom so students can easily donate materials.



Instructions

1. **Prepare the Bottle** – Wash and dry an empty plastic bottle. Remove the label, any glue, bottle cap, and plastic ring around the neck.
2. **Insert the Bottle** – Slide the bottle into the sock until it reaches the toe.
3. **Tie the Sock** – Stretch the fabric tightly and tie a secure knot at the open end of the sock. Do not use string, ribbon, rubber bands, or other fasteners.
4. **Finish the Toy** – If extra fabric remains, braid it, tie additional knots, or cut short fringe for added texture.

Teacher Tip: This project works well for partners or small groups. Students can divide the work by preparing bottles, selecting socks, and assembling the toys. Before donating, inspect each toy to be sure knots are secure and bottle caps and plastic rings have been removed.

Safety Note: Check with your local shelter or rescue before making toys to be sure they accept this type of enrichment item. These toys are intended for dogs that are not aggressive chewers.

 **Important: Never place dog treats, food, or other items inside the sock or bottle.**

Standards Connections

Framework	Connection
Common Core ELA	Reading — Students read and follow multi-step directions to complete the project. Speaking & Listening — Students work with partners, discuss toy safety, and explain how enrichment toys help shelter dogs. (<i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.3, RI.4.3, RI.5.3; SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1</i>)
Common Core Math	Limited direct Common Core Math connections. Students may compare bottle sizes, estimate sock length, and measure materials to create a properly sized toy.
SEL Competencies	Social Awareness — Students develop empathy by considering the needs of shelter dogs and how enrichment improves their well-being. Responsible Decision-Making — Students follow safety guidelines and create toys appropriate for shelter use. Relationship Skills — Students collaborate to assemble, inspect, and prepare toys for donation.
Service Learning	Community need identified (<i>enrichment toys for shelter dogs</i>); meaningful hands-on service that supports the well-being of shelter animals.

Project Photos

Example	Example
 	



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Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think enrichment toys are important for dogs living in a shelter?
2. How can something as simple as a homemade toy make a difference for a shelter dog?
3. If you were spending the day in a kennel, what kinds of things would help keep you active, comfortable, or less bored? How might enrichment toys help dogs feel the same way?

Extension Ideas

- **Research Canine Enrichment**

Learn about other types of enrichment that help keep shelter dogs mentally and physically active. Share one idea with the class.

- **Create a Donation Collection**

Organize a school or community drive to collect clean socks or other approved enrichment supplies for your local shelter.

- **Share Your Impact**

Take photos of your completed toys and write a short note explaining how they will help shelter dogs. Send them to your local shelter or rescue to share on social media or with volunteers.

- Document your project with photos and share on social media — tag **@pawsupprojects** and your local shelter.

Did you do this project?

We'd love for you — or an adult — to post your project on Paws Up Projects to inspire others.

pawsupprojects.org/post-your-project