

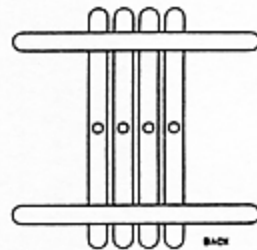
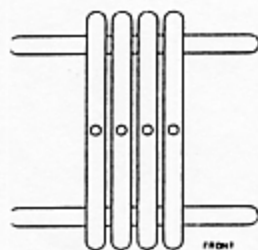
WEAVING WITH CHILDREN

BY BETTY HANCOCK SMITH

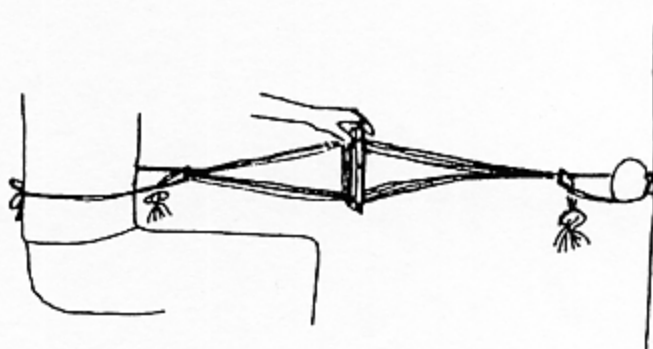
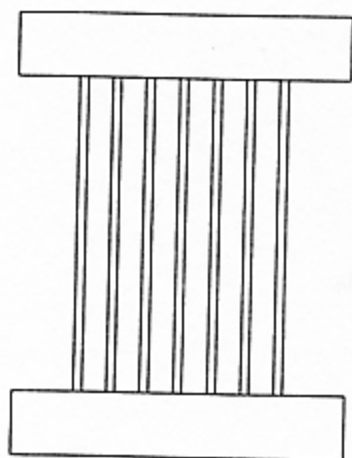
"I don't have anything to do." "What can I do NOW?" "I'm bored."

Summertime is the perfect time to ward off these comments by introducing any children in your sphere of influence to the fun of weaving. Prepare some looms ahead of time:

- (1) Punch a hole in the center of a paper plate and make a spoke-like warp.
- (2) Scraps of mat board from a picture frame shop can be had free. Put notches on two sides and warp with strong cord.
- (3) Bamboo stick looms are made by inserting and gluing bamboo skewers into strips of corrugated cardboard about 1"x5". The loom remains part of the art project. (See illustration.)



- (4) A rigid heddle loom can be made from popsicle sticks and used like a back strap loom. Holes must be bored in the sticks and these glued onto other sticks to form a frame. (See illustration.)



- (5) Try off-loom weaving between branches, around an embroidery hoop—let the children use their imagination to create a loom.

Good things to have on hand for all these projects are a plastic needle, a big crochet hook, and small stick shuttles made from wood or heavy cardboard. Collect bright beads, gold foil paper, and glitzy yarn to help inspire creativity. ❁

Illustrations by Marian K. Allen.