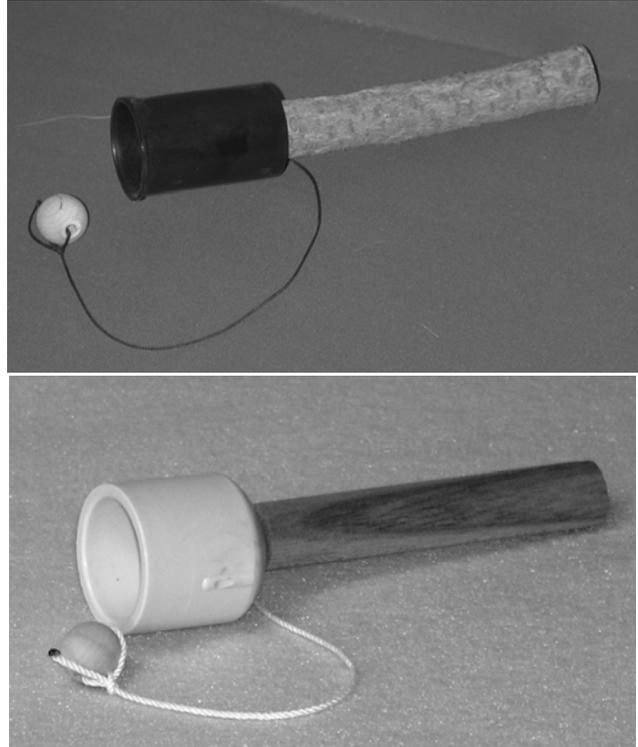


Ball in a Cup Game

This game is in many cultures under different names. The toy can be elaborately carved in some cultures or made from recycled materials in this example.

Materials needed:

1. 1" PVC pipe end cap or any small plastic or metal can (eg. prescription bottle) or 35mm film canister (free at photo printing stores, but these are getting rare in the digital camera era!).
2. 4" tree branch (about 3/4" to 1" in diameter) or 4" x 3/4" wood dowel.
3. 5/8" to 1" wood (or rubber) ball (available from craft stores or cf. #43, 3/4" with 3/16" hole from cherrytreetoys.com).
4. 12" braided fishing string or yellow polyester cord used in construction.
5. 1 - 1 5/8" sheetrock screw.
6. Phillips screwdriver or electric screwdriver (boys love to use electric screwdrivers!)
- [7. Butane fireplace starter]



Before the meeting:

1. Cut tree branch or dowel to 4" long.
2. Drill a 1/8" hole about 1/2" into one end of the tree branch or dowel 'handle' (else, when you put in the sheetrock screw, the handle will split).
3. Drill a 1/8" hole in the center of the bottom of the PVC pipe cap (or film canister, prescription bottle, etc.)

Assembly at the meeting:

- [1. Optional. This is a good time to teach the boys about melting plastic (polyester, nylon, etc.) ropes so they don't unravel. A butane fireplace starter is a good, safe way to melt the ends of a polyester cord. But be sure they learn NOT to touch the melted plastic for about 20 sec.! Cut a 10" length of yellow polyester cord. Melt one end to show them how 'to do it'. Have the boys melt the other end.
2. Tie string to ball using a square knot. This is a good time to show the difference between a granny knot and a square knot!
3. Attach film canister and free string end to handle using 1" sheetrock screw and a Phillips screwdriver. (see photos).
4. Make sure the ball is attached to about 8" of string.
5. Have a contest to see who can make the most 'balls in a cup' in 10 tries.

Note: rubber balls tend to bounce out of the cup, whereas the wood balls tend to stick in the cup.