

Braiding Card Instructions

Cut out a template (see below). Templates can be made from lightweight plastic or thin cardboard.

Cut seven "strands" of yarn or fibers twice the length that you want the finished cord. Twist yarns together, fold over and thread through the center hole. Knot yarns together. Knot should be on the bottom side of the card. Thread yarns into seven of the eight slots. From the empty slot, count two yarns in either direction (once you choose a direction, you must continue in the same direction for the entire project). Move the third yarn into the empty slot. From the new empty slot, count two yarns and move the third yarn into the new empty slot. Repeat until you have reached the end of the yarns or you have the desired length of cord. Release the yarns from the slots. Pull through the hole. Knot end.

For longer cords, yarns are easier to handle if you wrap them on embroidery floss cards. Different types, weights, textures and colors of yarns make a more interesting cord. Metallic threads give a dramatic look. Another variation is to place two or more thin threads together in one slot and treat them as one. Cords can be used for jewelry, straps on tote bags and purses and for ties on gift bags.

For younger campers, you can put arrows in the direction they should count. Tell them to put the empty slot at the top and count from there, following the arrows. If they can count to 3, they can braid! Be sure to keep yarn short for younger kids and first-time braiders.

