**Patience Crystal Bouquet**

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| **Directions for making the Patience Bouquet** | **Your Child Can Help** |
| 1. Select three colorful pipe-cleaners for the flowers, and four green pipe-cleaners for the stems | \* Your child can choose the colors |
| 2. Using a wire cutter, cut each of the *flower*-pipe cleaners into two pieces of unequal length. That is, cut one in half so you have two 6-inch lengths, cut another so that you have 7-inch and 55inch pieces, and the last one so you have 8-inch and 4-inch pieces. Cut all the green pipe-cleaners into equal halves. |  |
| 3. Coil each of the flower pipe-cleaners around a pen or a pencil, leaving about 2/3 inch uncoiled; then slide each of the flowers from the pen and repeat with the next one. | \* Your child can help. First poke the back of your child's hand very lightly with one of the pipe-cleaner ends so they understand the wire ends are sharp and they need to be careful. Then help the child hold the pipe-cleaner against the pen, and show how to coil. |
| 4. Twist the 2/3 inch end of the flower onto the tip of one of the six green pipe-cleaner pieces |  |
| 5. Coil the end of the remaining two green pieces of pipe cleaners once, to make a coiled "leaf" | \* Your child might be able to do this if you show an example first. |
| 6. Arrange the bouquet attractively, with the two green "leaves" pointing outward | \* Your child can do this |
| 7. Twist all the stems together |  |
| 8. Bend / hook the end of the bouquet stems around a tongue-blade so that the bouquet can be suspended into the Borax solution with the tongue-blade balanced over the rim of the mason jar |  |
| **Directions for making the solution** |  |
| 1. Find a large clear container such as a mason jar or vase, and test the size by suspending the bouquet into the empty jar. It is important the bouquet does not touch the sides or bottom of the jar. |  |
| 2. Fill with water (leave about 1/2 inch at the top), one cup at a time. | \*Your child can count the number of cups of water required |
| 3. Pour the water into a sauce-pan or microwave-safe container, and boil it. |  |
| 4. While waiting for the water to boil, measure the Borax into a large bowl. For each cup of water, you will need 3 Tablespoons of Borax. Remember that 4 Tablespoons = 1/4 cup, so if you have 4 cups of water, you will need 15 Tablespoons of Borax, which is just shy of 1 cup (that is, 4 x 1/4 cup) | \* Your child can help measure the Borax. Pour the Borax into a small mixing bowl so your child can dip and fill the measuring cup, and with a knife scrap off the top to give an even measure. |
| 5. When the water has boiled, pour it over the Borax in the large bowl, and mix-mix-mix until it is completely dissolved. | \* Your child will be able to mix, but with caution (no splashing) because the mixture is boiling hot. |
| 6. Carefully pour the Borax solution into the container |  |
| 7. Suspend the pipe-cleaner bouquet into the solution so that the pipe-cleaners to NOT touch the bottom of the sides. |  |
| 8. Patiently wait 12 hour |  |
| 9. Lift the Patience Bouquet from the solution, discard the solution, the suspend the bouquet into the empty container, so that it can dry out completely |  |
| 10. You can display the bouquet in a glass or vase, although because it is heavy with crystals be sure the vase won't tip over. |  |