

Maypole Instructions

Please feel free to e-mail me if anything is unclear
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Simple Maypole song can be found at www.SingWithOurKids.com in song library

This Maypole is made from inexpensive and widely available materials. The umbrella topper spins freely in the pole, so children can walk around. If you want to do more traditional complex weaving dances with older children you will need to prevent the umbrella topper from spinning. The Maypole is quick and easy to make, and the plastic streamers hold up well and are waterproof. Make sure to read through all the photos and notes before shopping for the materials. Most hardware stores will cut the PVC pipe to length for you. I've included prices below to give you some idea of the cost of materials based on what I found in March, 2014.

Materials list:

- Brightly colored umbrella (children's size works best, and thrift store purchase is recommended!)
- PVC pipe: [prices are from Home Depot, March 2014](#)
 - 7' length of schedule 1" 40 (pipe is sold in 10' lengths, so have the store cut it for you) [\\$3.48/10ft](#)
 - 2 or 3 1" schedule 40 couplings [23 cents each](#)
- 54 X 108" plastic table cloths in assorted bright colors [\\$1.99 at party stores](#)
- Outdoor umbrella stand [\\$20-70 on Amazon. Check local stores seasonally](#)
- Wooden clothes pins to keep streamers rolled up and out of the way when not needed (plastic clothes pins break easily, so do look for wooden ones!). [\\$2.35 for 50 pack at Home Depot](#)



Thrift Store Umbrella

Children's size works best because handle is smaller and fits in the PVC pole. If you use an umbrella with a handle that is too large or one that has a hook at the end, just cut it off with a hacksaw. You will still be able to open and close the umbrella, although you'll want to put some duct tape over the cut edge if it's sharp.



Plastic Table Covers

These are least expensive and better quality if purchased at a party store, although you can also find them at stores like Target and even grocery stores. To get the most length from each streamer, cut 2" strips from the long side. I had to unfold and refold the table cloth lengthwise to cut through multiple layers at once.

- I made my streamers 18 ft long by stapling together two streamers and covering the staples with clear packing tape to make them safe. You don't have to make them that long. It's all up to you!



Poke holes in the outer edge of the umbrella, and thread the streamers through. You could tie each one at the hole, but I pulled them all to the top as you can see, so there wouldn't be extra pressure on the umbrella edges. There is usually a button or small tip at the top of the umbrella and you can gather all the streamers and wrap a rubber band around them, or tie a leftover piece of streamer. My Maypole has about 36 streamers, but you can have as few or as many as you like.



top of pole
←

bottom of pole
→



I used two PVC couplers at the top of my pole to make it more rigid. The couplers are connected with a 1" length of the PVC pole, which I just cut off the longer piece. **You can have your hardware store cut that for you when you purchase the pole.** I put that on the top of the pole to make it more rigid, but it probably isn't necessary. I also put a coupler and some sticky-back Velcro I happened to have around the bottom of the pole to make it fit in the umbrella holder. Another piece of Velcro at the top of where the pole would sit in the umbrella holder also keeps it from wobbling around. You don't have to be that fancy; just wrap a towel around it until it's snug!



I found a great weighted outdoor umbrella stand for \$15 (at the end of the season). It's very portable and works great indoors or out. You could use a Christmas tree stand, but it would need to be weighted somehow. You can also just have an adult stand in the middle and hold the pole. That actually works just fine and is certainly easy!



Rolling up the streamers using an empty prescription bottle makes it quick and easy! After they are rolled, slip the bottle out and clip a clothes pin on the streamer to keep it secure. Reminds me of the old days of giant hair rollers!



Have streamers pinned up before event. Each child can choose a color, and the unused streamers can stay pinned up out of the way where they won't get tangled up. You also won't have to re-roll the streamers that aren't used.

Walk Around the Maypole, indoors and out!



This Maypole has about 35 streamers, and about that many kids! Fun in the sun!



If you don't have a stand, have a friend hold the Maypole, like my friend Martha! She makes a great stand-in for a pole!



Children's librarians testing the fun! ↓

