Episode: “Moth Quilt”

Albie visits a quilter when her favorite blanket gets munched on by a moth. Even though she’s disappointed that her blanket has a few holes, Albie has fun learning about sewing scraps of fabric together to make something new.

Activity

Materials:
- Small paper plate
- Scissors
- A very long piece of yarn (up to 10 feet)
- Tape or a plastic sewing needle
- Hole puncher
- Markers

Steps:
1. Watch “Moth Quilt,” and talk about how Albie feels when the moth takes a big bite out of her quilt. How does Albie react when she sees the moth with a mouthful of fabric?
2. Imagine your paper plate is Albie’s quilt. Get out your scissors and cut a big circle in the center. Imagine your scissors are the moth chomping a big hole!
3. Use your hole puncher to “chomp” a bunch of little “moth holes” all around the edge of the plate. This moth must be hungry!
4. Cut a long piece of yarn (as much as 10 feet long).
5. If you have a plastic sewing needle, thread the needle with the yarn and tie a knot. If you don’t have a needle, wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it easier to poke through the holes.
6. Tape the other end of the yarn to the back of the plate, and begin sewing by pulling the yarn through one of the smaller holes, across the big hole in the center and back down through the other side of the plate.
7. Continue sewing and criss-crossing in and out and up and down across the big hole and through the little holes, almost like a web.
8. When you’re done, use markers to decorate the edges, or border, of your plate.
Tips

- This activity is great for practicing fine motor skills. Let your child help with punching the smaller holes or with cutting.
- Experiment with cutting different shapes in the center, like a heart or diamond, and punching the smaller holes around the border of that shape.

In this activity, your child:

- Honed their fine motor skills by practicing sewing
- Followed the pattern of weaving in and out and up and down.

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

- Albie’s blanket was really important to her, so she was disappointed when the moth ate some of it. Has something special or important to you ever gotten ruined or broken? How did you feel when that happened and what did you do to make it better?
- The moth made Albie very angry at first. What did the moth do to help make it right?
- What things can we find around our home that are made with fabric or have been sewn? Let’s look for stitching in our clothes, blankets and furniture.

Vocabulary

Sew: Using a needle and thread to join two things together
Stitch: Each loop of thread or yarn
Quilt: Pieces and layers of fabric that are sewn together with a layer of padding in the middle
Keep Going!

**Paper Quilt**
Cut lots of geometric shapes from colorful paper, like triangles, squares, diamonds and circles. Create patterns and designs using your cut shapes to create a quilt-inspired collage.

**Memory Quilt**
Find some fabric scraps to cut into squares. Try using an old t-shirt, pillow case or any other old pieces of fabric. Use permanent markers or fabric markers to draw a picture on each square. Glue the patches onto a piece of paper to make a collaged quilt with fabric patches, or try sewing them together to make a real mini memory quilt.
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by Albie’s Elevator.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

*The Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie Flournoy and Jerry Pinkney
A classic book about a grandmother who makes a meaningful patchwork quilt made of many family memories.

*Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold
A book about a child’s dreamlike journey flying over the city, based on the artist’s famous story quilt of the same name, with a quilting aesthetic in the illustrations.

*Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett
Annabelle knits clothing for her whole community, even for objects, using her magical box of yarn, until an evil archduke tries to get in the way!