



- CRAFT GUIDE -



Needle Felted Play Mat

www.fiddlestickseducation.com

Felted play mats easily bring an enchanted feel to any play set up, paired with a few simple loose parts and animal toys you can easily create magical small world scenes that will have your little ones' imaginations soaring. These mats look amazing and are super quick and easy to make, your little ones will love creating their own habitats with you.

Supplies

Wool Felt Sheet

Wool Roving (dyed in various colours)

Needle Felting Tool (or single needles)

Piece of thick Polystyrene (Styrofoam) or Foam

Scissors

Instructions



Start by cutting your felt sheet into a natural shape.

Place it on top of your polystyrene board.

Select several different colours of roving that represent the habitat you wish to recreate.

Gently pull the roving into strands and lay on top of your felt base.



Lay lots of strands in varying colours until the whole felt piece is covered.

Try interspersing some contrasting shades to create interest in the piece.

Next use the needle felting tool, press the tool on top of the wool causing the wool to attach to the felt beneath.



Continue repeatedly and the roving will begin to felt together and form part of the mat.

Keep felting in this way until your finished play mat is smooth, at this stage fill in gaps and add any additional colours or details as you wish.

Pay extra attention to the edges to make sure they are felted well.



Finish off by trimming the loose strands from around the edge of your base (this is easier to do from the back). You can sew another piece of felt to the back if you wish to create a smooth finish, however this doesn't alter the play value of your mat.

Variations



Experiment with different colour combinations to represent various habitats.



Try laying your roving in a circular pattern instead of in lines.
Or use thin strips of roving to felt patterns onto your mats before trimming.



Try creating ponds or streams using blue and white roving together.



But most of all have fun creating and playing, the possibilities are endless.

