

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A DRAWSTRING BAG

Any rectangle size of material is suitable but here is a basic size that is suitable to hold an exercise book.

Find a piece of any type of scrap fabric and cut to approximately 50cm wide and 40cm long.



Using pinking shears cut around all sides of the fabric, or if you have an overlocker, overlock every side. Zig Zag stitch on sewing machine may also be used.

Fold the fabric in half with right sides together, so that the 'bag' is inside-out. Starting approx 6 cm from the top of the bag, sew a seam (approx 1cm wide) down the side and along bottom edge of bag.



Keeping the bag inside out, fold down the top edge approx 3 cm or to where the side seam starts, to make a seam to thread a drawstring through. If necessary, pin around the hem to hold in place, then sew a hem.

The drawstring can be made out of ribbon, cord, thick wool crocheted in a chain, elastic or plaited string or whatever you think is suitable and is available.

The drawstring will need to be as long as twice the width of the made up bag plus approx 5cm. Attach a safety pin to the end of the cord and thread through the seam.



Knot the two ends together. Turn the bag right side out and fill with some writing materials.

What's suitable to go in the bags?

- Pens
- Pencils
- Colouring pencils
- Pads of A5 paper
- Empty exercise books
- Pencil sharpener
- Plastic stencils
- Stickers
- ... any other surplus school materials suitable for a primary school student

Keep an eye out for sales in your local shops, especially at the end of the school year and after Christmas. You would be amazed how much \$10.00 can get sometimes and your items will be appreciated far beyond their value by orphans in Tanzania and Kenya.