

Project Skills:

Learn to use a sewing machine

Life Skills:

Learning to Learn WI Academic Standards: Family and Consumer Education F.4. Learning to Learn

Time:

25-30 minutes

Supplies:

- License to Drive Straight Line and Corner sheet
- 1 threaded sewing machine for each 2-4 youth

Getting Ready:

- Make 2 copies of the License to Drive Straight Line and Corners sheet for each youth.
- Familiarize yourself with safe, basic operation of the sewing machines youth will be using.
- Set the stitch length to 10-12 stitches per inch for each sewing machine.

Adapted from 4-H Fun with Clothes, Lesson 1 – Activity 8 (IFAS Pub. #SPCCL20), pages 22-23.

USE A SEWING MACHINE TO STITCH SIMPLE PATTERNS ON A PAPER TEMPLATE

WHAT TO DO

Demonstrate and provide the following sewing machine driving instructions:

- Turn the balance wheel toward you until the needle is up and out of the throat plate.
 Raise the presser foot.
- 3. Move the *License to Drive Straight Line and Corners sheet* under the presser foot to the point where needle enters the black "Start Here" dot.
- 4. Turn the balance wheel forward to move the needle down into the dot.
- 5. Line up the paper so that your stitching will follow the lines beginning on the dot. Lower the presser foot to hold the paper in place.
- 6. Remind the youth to always keep their fingers away from the sewing area.
- 7. Start the machine; slowly stitch on the line, guiding the paper as you go. Keep stitching until you reach the "End Here" dot.
- 8. Turn the balance wheel toward you until the needle is up and out of the throat plate. Raise the presser foot.
- 9. Remove the paper and cut the bobbin thread.

Practice sewing straight lines on the sewing machine

- 1. Divide the youth into groups 2-4 youth per sewing machine.
- 2. Make sure youth can reach the foot controls of the sewing machines. You may need to tape the foot control to a box under the table.
- 3. Give each youth a *License to Drive Straight Lines and Corners sheet*.
- 4. Have youth take turns practicing using the sewing machine to follow the pattern sheet.

Take the "Driving Test"

- 1. Give each youth another License to Drive Straight Lines and Corners sheet.
- 2. Have youth take turns using the sewing machine to take the "Driving Test" by follow the pattern sheet as closely as possible.
- 3. When all youth are finished, congratulate them and ask them to take their completed "Driving Test" home to show their parent(s) or guardian(s).

ENHANCE

If time allows, have youth use the *License to Drive Curves sheet* to practice sewing curves and then take the "Driving Test". Use the same procedures as described in the straight lines and corner practice and test drive steps above. You will need to make 2 copies of the *License to Drive Curves sheet* for each youth.

TALK IT OVER

Try to get each youth to express his or her feelings and experiences.

Reflect:

- How did it go sewing with a sewing machine?
- What was difficult about learning to stitch correctly?
- How did using a practice sheet prior to taking the "Driving Test", help you learn to use a sewing machine?

Apply:

- How can you use this new skill you have learned?
- What other things do you do that could be improved by practicing them first?

LICENSE TO DRIVE



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LICENSE TO DRIVE

