

# Instructions for an ABC Chain With Calculator Chain

## The handicraft material you need for making an alphabet chain with arithmetic chain and name:

- 1 keyring
- 3 m cord (PP-polyester cord)
- 1 motif bead
- colourful wooden beads
- optional: 2 safety beads
- letter cubes for the desired name and the entire alphabet

## The small tools you need:

- scissors
- lighter
- tweezers

## Let's Get Crafty!

### Step 1: Experimenting With Beads

Think about your ABC chain's, calculator chain's as well as name chain's designs by laying the material down. Arrange the beads and letter cubes until you are satisfied.

**Tip:** We recommend using a **safety bead** at the name string's and the ABC string's ends. A safety bead has a larger hole in which the knot can disappear.

On the other hand, a security bead is not helpful for the **arithmetic bead string**. That's because the child should be able to push the calculator chain's beads back and forth. Thus, they shouldn't remain rigidly in place. In our example we also used larger beads for the arithmetic chain to make it easier to grip.

Also note that you use more cord for the calculator chain than you use beads. That's because we need a few centimeters of blank cord at the end. Only then it is possible moving the beads back and forth.

## Step 2: Attaching the Keyring

Are you satisfied with your design? Great! We start with the first strand: the **name chain**. Double a sufficiently long piece of PP-polyester cord. Pass the resulting loop through the keyring from behind and then pull it back over the keyring from the front. Doing this creates a **knot**.

## Step 3: Preparing the Stringing

For easier stringing we're using a **little trick**: Put the two cord ends together so that one of them protrudes about 2 centimetres. Now **melt** both ends slightly with a lighter. Use your fingers to press the lower cord end slightly against the protruding one. This way you can string the wooden beads onto the double cord more easily thanks to the protruding end.

## Step 4: Stringing the Wooden Beads

Let's string the name chain: It is recommended not to string the security bead yet. Because there's a little trick to making it fit tighter. To do this, pull the two cord ends apart again and make a **simple knot** on the wooden bead in front of the safety bead.

## Step 5: Making the Bead Strand's Final Knot

With some force, pull the safety bead with its smaller opening first over the simple knot. Make a very tight **double knot** behind it.

Carefully cut off both cord ends. **Weld** the knot with the lighter and press it together with your fingers. Press the welded double knot into the safety bead's hole by using **tweezers**.

## Step 6: Making the ABC Chain

Proceed identically for the **ABC chain's bead strand**. Just repeat steps 2 to 5 with your letter cubes and if you want to other beads as well.

## Step 7: Making the Arithmetic Chain

For the **calculator chain**, basically repeat steps 2 to 4 – with the crucial difference that you deliberately leave a few centimetres of cord visible, i.e. blank, so that the beads can be **moved back and forth**. The double knot at the bead string's end remains visible as well. Weld the knot with the lighter, so that it is secure.

We wish your child lots of fun in **learning through play** with its own **ABC chain with calculator chain!**

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