

### THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE'S INTO THE ROUNDHOUSE BEAN BAG TOSS

Enjoy the summer and engineer some fun activities to let your children let of steam outdoors! Thomas' Bean Bag Toss may be customized for different ages and abilities.

*The following activities are designed for parents and children to do together. Supervision of children with materials such as glue, scissors, etc is strongly recommended.*

**Time:** 30-45 minutes, plus drying time

#### To prepare Thomas' Into the Roundhouse Bean Bag Toss, you will need the following cargo:

- Two large pieces of white foam core 30 x 20 or larger (typically 3/16" thick)
- Paint brushes in varying sizes – wide for the background, fine for the brick details
- Acrylic paint in black brown, white, green
- Utility knife
- Ruler
- Electrical tape
- Six bean bags (*Bean bags may be made easily; see directions below*)

#### To make bean bags you will need:

- Twelve 4" x 4" fabric squares (these may be all the same color or half red and half blue, like Thomas and James)
- Several packages of dried beans (pinto beans or smaller work well) or plastic pellets available at craft stores
- Needle and thread

#### The Right Track:

1. Using electrical tape, give the foam core a frame, wrapping the tape around the sides and edges of the foam core to increase durability.
2. Paint each piece of foam core board to look like Tidmouth Sheds – apply a light brown background to the entire board (mix white and brown to desired shade).
3. Paint the top 4" black to represent the roof and add dark brown 'brick' details.
4. Draw three green windows (*of course, the real Tidmouth sheds does not have windows, only doors, but you will need 3 holes through which to toss the beanbags!*). Draw these windows in the shape of Tidmouth Sheds' doors – tall rectangles with a curved top. Position these windows as the eyes and nose on a face.
  - a. Use the ruler to make sure the lines are straight
  - b. Make sure the openings are approximately 3.5" tall and 3.5" wide.
5. When the paint dries, use the utility knife to cut out the windows, leaving a thin, green border.
6. Make the beanbags by pairing up pieces of the 4" x 4" fabric and sewing 3 of the 4 sides to make a pocket.
7. Fill the interior with beans and sew the final side closed.
8. Prop each of the Tidmouth Shed boards against a box or the back of a chair.
9. Standing 6' to 12' away (depending on the age and skill of your engineers), have each person try throw their 4 bean bags towards the opposite Tidmouth Sheds, trying to get the bags into the holes.
10. Assign 1 point for every successful toss. Play for as long as you like, then tally up the score!

*Full steam ahead to fun!*

