

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE'S FULL STEAM AHEAD KITE

It's a bird, it's a plane... it's a train, steaming ahead through the air! Kids will have as much fun engineering this kite as they will flying it on a windy day!

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.

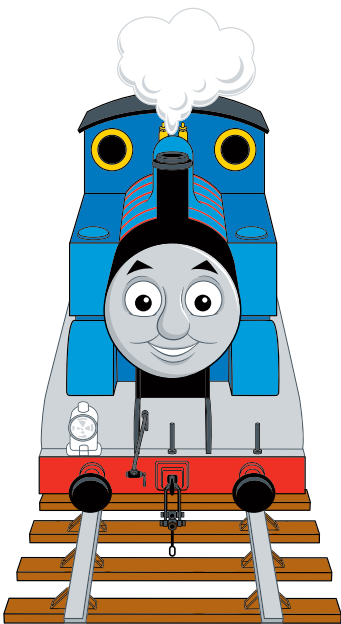
Time: 20 minutes

To create Thomas the Tank Engine's Full Steam Ahead Kite you will need:

- Large bright blue plastic bag (cut open to lay flat)
- Red duct tape
- Yellow duct tape
- One 24" thin dowel (1/8" wide)
- One 16" dowel (1/8" wide) – or cut a longer dowel to be 16" long
- Clear tape
- One roll of 50' Kite string
- A Ruler
- Scissors
- Utility knife
- A Sharpie pen
- Sewing needle

The Right Track:

1. Measure and mark the center of the short wooden dowel.
2. On the other dowel, mark ¼ of the way from the top.
3. Cross the dowels at the marking points and secure with tape and string. This is the kite frame.
4. Use the utility knife to cut notches in the ends of the dowels. This is to hold a string in place around the perimeter of the kite frame.
5. Cut a piece of string, longer than the perimeter of the frame, and wrap it around, tucking into each notch around the perimeter.
6. Tie the string at the bottom (it may wrap around the dowel if necessary).
7. Lay the kite frame in the middle of the blue plastic bag.
8. Cut a rectangle out of the bag, bigger than the kite frame.
9. Place the dowel cross in the center.
10. Fold the bag over the frame and tape in place.
11. Cut several streamer tails for the kite out of the extra bag.
12. Tie these streamers (without ripping them) to the bottom end of the kite, between the dowel and the plastic.
13. Where the dowels meet, poke a small hole in the plastic with the sewing needle.
14. Poke one end of the string (connected to the large spool) through the hole, tying it to the point where the dowels cross.
15. Decorate your blue kite to resemble Thomas' side – add pieces of red duct tape to the bottom sides of the kite
16. Make a # 1 out of the yellow duct tape and stick in the middle of the kite, making sure to avoid the string tied to the center.



Full steam ahead to outdoor fun!