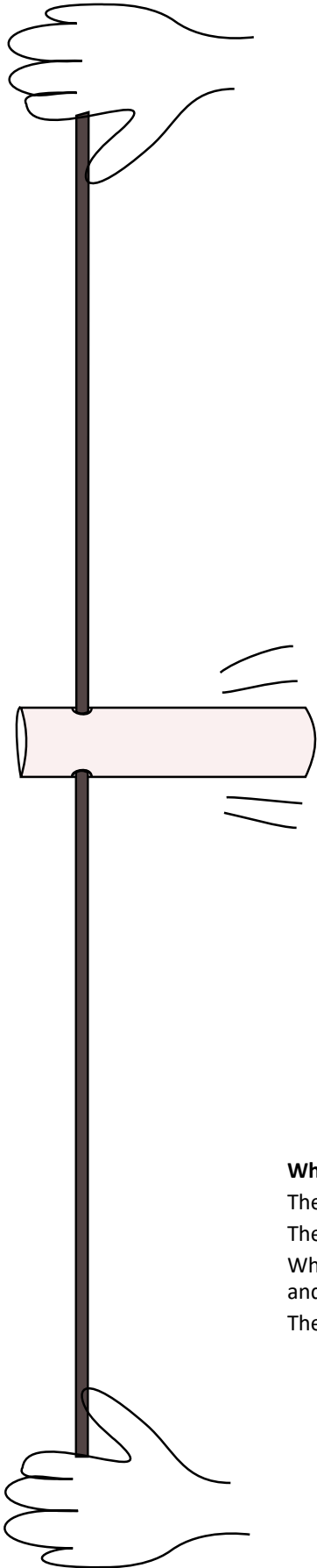


# Jitter Stick



**Materials:** A smooth string 1mtr  
Stick the size of a finger.

## Making

Make a smooth even sized hole in one end of the stick using an awl. The hole must be clean and larger than the string.  
Cut a string 1 mtr length, the string must not be hairy or stiff.  
Thread the string through the hole.

## Playing

Hold each end of the string tightly with the stick at the top, when the stick goes to the bottom make that hand go to the top so the stick can run down again.

If the stick goes too fast hold the string at an angle.

## When it doesn't.

The hole is too big or too small.

The string is too rough.

The stick is too heavy.

The hole is too near the middle.

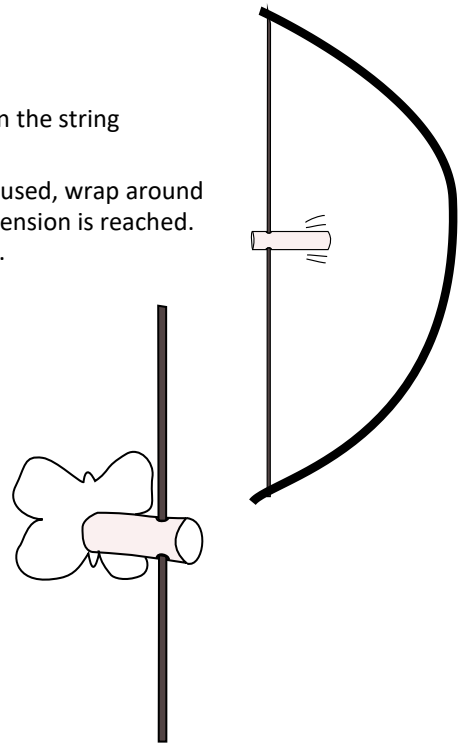
Not enough or too much tension on the string

## Variations

A long bent stick like a bow can be used, wrap around the end of the stick until the right tension is reached. This helps younger children to play.

A small cardboard insect can be added.

If added to the climbing stick they can be made to climb high before jittering down.



## Why it works.

The stick wants to fall, the friction with the string slows down one end.

The friction increases with the angle of the stick.

When the friction is too great the end stops and the other end continues down and is bounced up.

The up bouncing frees the friction with the string so it starts to fall again.