

4.2s Felt Fairy Module

By Isobel McLoughlin

In September 4.2 started our eleven weeks of the Craft Module. Our teacher, Ms. Byrne, taught us how to make felt fairies – cute little dolls made of wool.

In the beginning I had absolutely no idea what a felt fairy *was*, much less how to make them. We soon learned that we would be using wool (not the kind you knit with, a sort of less processed wool) to make the heads and bodies for our fairies. Using a special barbed needle, you essentially fold and stab your wool until it has formed the shape that you want it to be. This occurs due to the friction of the needle bonding the wool's fibers together. But enough Physics, back to Craft.

We began with the head and body, using plain, white wool. Once that was done, we covered the heads and body in peachy coloured wool, to make our fairies' skin. These were then put in the washing machine to help the fibers bond even more, so that none of the wool would unravel.

Next, using pipe cleaners, we made the arms and legs by wrapping some more of the peachy wool around the pipe cleaner, and added any colour that we wished to give them stockings.

Then we assembled the fairies. We cut the body in half (I know, poor fairy!) and stuck the arms and legs on to the bottom piece using hot glue. We also pushed a small hole into the head and stuck another pipe cleaner in to make the neck. We then stuck this onto the bottom piece too. Finally, we glued the top piece back on, and sewed it on to secure it. Now that I look back on it, that was more of a fairy torture session than a Craft class.

We then finally started on the hair and face. Using a different type of wool, we added the hair onto the heads. I chose to use blonde, as I was taking a LOT of inspiration from Tinkerbell, but brown and red were also available. We used googly eyes for their cute little eyes, a red pencil to draw a mouth and a tiny piece of wool to make a nose.

In our last two classes, we made dresses. We did this by tearing up some of the wool, laying it down flat and adding water and soap, before pressing and rubbing it to help it bond together, before leaving it to dry. The following week we cut shapes out of this to make a dress. We also used a little netting under the dress, to add to the look.

We then took a photo with all our fairies.

I really enjoyed the Craft module, it was a relaxing, yet also a productive use of our time. It truly was one of the highlights of my week. I hope that the next class doing Craft enjoy it as much as I did.



