Many of us are currently confined at home with our children. Le Korsa and the Albers Foundations would like to offer you workshop ideas to allow your child to explore the magic of creativity. We are creating a series of prompts that can be completed using materials you may already have around your home.
Using a Card Loom to Make a Multi-Colored Weaving

MATERIALS
° Yarn in at least two colors
° Plain thread
° Scissors
° A piece of cardboard, roughly the size of printer paper or smaller
° Two or more thin strips of cardboard
° A butterknife or another thin flat object that can slide between threads

DESCRIPTION
Create a card loom from cardboard and thread, then use it to make a weaving with two or more colors. Several steps may be best done by an adult, but the majority of the weaving can be done by a child.

STEPS
1. With your scissors, cut small slits along the top and bottom edge of the cardboard. Space the slits about a finger width apart.
2. Tie a small knot in your plain thread. The thread will be your “warp”, or vertical threads in the weaving. Slide the thread into the first slit along the top and pull it so that the knot is against the cardboard. Stretch the thread to the corresponding slit along the bottom. Slide the thread through the slit, bring it up behind the cardboard and slide it through the second slit at the top. Continue until the thread has filled all of the slits. Cut the thread and tie another small knot so that it won’t slide out of the last slit.
3. Weave your butterknife between the warp threads, going over and under every other thread. By turning the knife 90 degrees you can create a space, which is called a “shed”, through which your horizontal threads will be able to easily pass. The horizontal threads in a weaving are called the “weft”.

4. Cut a small slit at one end of your thin cardboard strip. Slip the end of one color of yarn through the slit and wind the yarn around the cardboard. This is your “shuttle”, which will carry the yarn back and forth in the weft. Make a shuttle for each color of yarn that you plan to use. (Hint: don’t put too much yarn on your shuttle or it will be hard to get through the shed.)
5. With the shed open, pass your shuttle through, leaving your first row of weft. Leave a short tail hanging off, which you can tuck back in later.

6. Remove the butterknife and use your fingers to push the weft to the bottom of the loom. Slide the butterknife back in, but going over and under the opposite warp threads from your first pass. Send the shuttle back through the shed and repeat. Remember to go under and over your warp threads in the opposite order for each row of weft.
7. When you are ready to add another color, leave your first color attached to the loom but set it to the side. With the shed open send the shuttle with your second color of yarn through, leaving a short tail.

8. Repeat steps 5 and 6 as many times as you want. Add a third color if you’d like.
9. When the loom is full or you are done with a color, cut your yarns off of their shuttles leaving short tails, which you can tuck back into the warp.

10. To finish, turn the loom over and cut the warp threads in the middle. They will still be held in place by the slits.
11. Turn the loom over again. Slide two warp threads at a time out of the slits and tie them together. Repeat this across the top and bottom so that all of the warp threads are secure and holding the weaving together.

12. Trim the warp threads and any other stray yarn. Congratulations on making a multi-color weaving!