



Paper chains are easy and great fun to make, whether they're for a special occasion or just to brighten up your bedroom!

Once you get the hang of folding and cutting them from a sheet of paper, you can make a chain of almost anything. Try these cute girls and boys to start with.

Ingredients

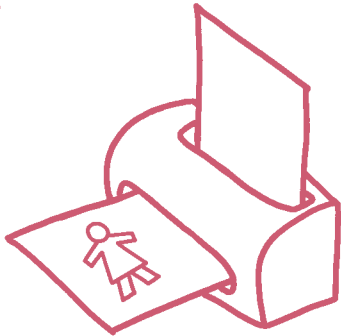
- Plain white printer paper
- Glue
- Thin cardboard (eg. the side of an empty cereal box)
- Decorations: glitter, sequins, beads, etc.. (optional)

Equipment

- Computer printer
- Scissors
- A pen or pencil
- Colouring pencils, crayons or felt pens
- A flat surface to work on

Instructions

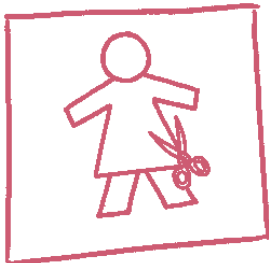
- 1 Decide whether you want to make a chain of girls, boys or both and print the templates onto a piece of paper.



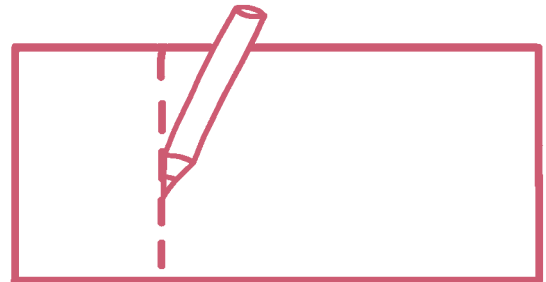
- 2 Cut roughly around the outline of your doll shape and glue it onto a piece of thin card. Press the paper firmly onto the card, smoothing out any wrinkles.



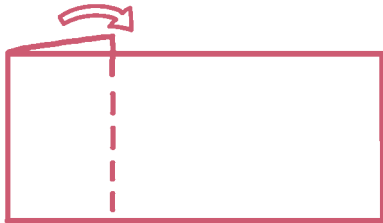
- 3 Leave the glue to dry and then cut carefully around the outline of your boy or girl. You might want to ask a grown-up to help with this bit.



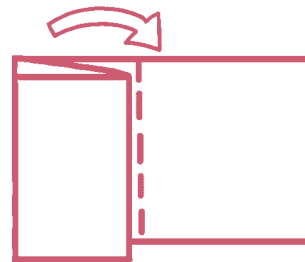
- 4 Take a piece of plain paper and mark a line 5cm from one of the short sides.



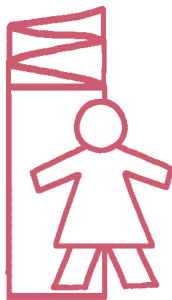
- 5** Carefully fold the paper along the line, and then, working on a flat surface, turn the paper over so the folded section is facing downwards.



- 6** Lift the edge of the folded section and turn it back towards the front, making a second fold in the paper. Keep going until the whole sheet of paper is folded backwards and forwards like a concertina.



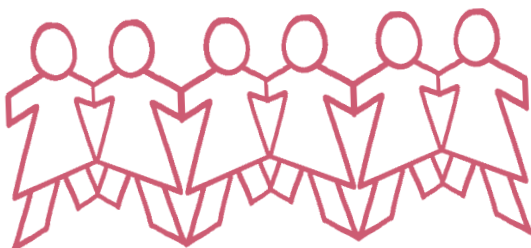
- 7** Lie the folded paper strip in front of you and rest your doll template on half of it, as shown.



- 8** Draw around the template and then very carefully cut the doll shape out, snipping through all the layers of paper. Make sure you don't cut along the folded edges – these are the parts where your dolls join together and make a chain.



- 9** When you've finished cutting, throw away the leftover bits of paper and gently pull at the ends of your paper to see the finished chain of boys or girls appear like magic!



- 10** Now it's time to decorate your dolls. Draw hair and faces onto each one and add some clothes, too. You might want to make them all look the same, or have a row of differently-decorated dolls. Use colouring pencils, crayons or felt pens to colour them in, and then try adding other bits and pieces to make them look extra-special. Glitter and sequins will turn your girl dolls into a row of disco divas, whilst fun stickers or pictures snipped from old magazines make brilliant t-shirt decorations and jean-patches for the boys.



TOP TIP:

You can use paper doll chains almost anywhere! Stick them along the edge of a plain shelf to jazz up your bedroom, wrap them around boring folders or school books or make lots of them to match the theme of your next birthday party and hang around the room before your guests arrive.

Paper Dolly Templates

