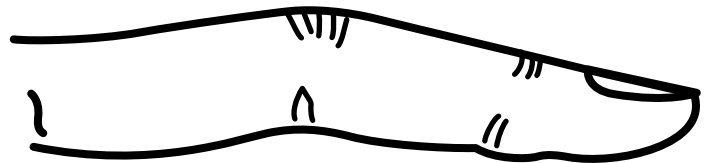


## Sheep's Wool

1. Look at the SHEEP at the Farm. Talk about how the sheep grow WOOL to keep them warm during the cool months and how we SHEAR the wool in late May so that the sheep will stay cool in the warm months.
2. Go into the sheep pen to feel the sheep's wool.  
★ (**CAUTION:** Be sure the ram is locked in the back sheep pen **BEFORE** going into the pen. Check with the Farm staff if you are unsure.)  
Can they feel the LANOLIN? Explain that the lanolin keeps the wool from tangling and makes it soft. It also makes the wool waterproof to keep the sheep's skin dry during the rain. Lanolin is used to make hand lotion.
3. Have students measure the depth of the wool by sticking their index finger into the wool. How far does your finger go down into the wool?  
To the first knuckle?  
To the second knuckle?  
Compare different sheep.  
Compare adult sheep with any lambs.



4. Gently pull off a piece of wool. Explain that the sheared wool is WASHED, DYED, CARDED, and SPUN into yarn to make clothing and blankets.  
Demonstrate the spinning process as follows:  
HAND SPINNING: ★ (You may want Farm staff to demonstrate this process)
  - Gently pull the wool into a sausage shape. To spin, the wool must be twisted tightly, a little at a time.  
Have one child hold one end, while the other child or adult begins to pull and twist small amounts of wool.
  - When all of the wool has been twisted, the child or adult who is twisting should let the yarn "double back" on itself to form a stronger, tighter string of YARN. To do this the twister should continue to hold tight to the end of the string while putting the index finger of the other hand on the yarn at the half mark. Fold the string in half by keeping the index finger in the middle and handing the child who has been holding the beginning of the wool, the end. Pull your index finger out of the yarn and it will double back on itself. Make sure the child holding both ends does NOT let go.
5. Read stories:  
Pelle and His New Suit by Elsa Beskow  
Charlie Needs A Cloak by Tomie de Paola