first we'll discuss how to make a regular, normal sword. first, the materials you will need are:

1) PVC pipe. ussually 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches. you can find this at most hardware stores for relatively cheap.

2) Duct tape.

3) sheet foam. places like Walmart have it in their camping section for about 6$. its used for placing under sleeping bags for people with soft tooshies ;)

4) a sharpie

5) a ruler or straight edge.

6) a sharp knife. I found that steak knives work perfectly.

7) (optional) contact cement. this can be found many places as well and relatively cheap.

HOW TO PROCEED

lay all of your materials out in front of you. I suggest laying the foam curve side down. I also suggest finding a surface that you dont mind being cut up to do your work on. I found that the kitchen table and the living room rug arent the best choices as it makes mother rather angry....

step 1) find what size you want your blade length to be. I suggest two to three feet. Measure this out on the pvc and go 6-8 inches beyond that for a handle. Cut it either using the steak knife or a saw.

step 2) place your handle down on the foam, leaving the 6-8 inch length free of the foam and 2-3 inches around the edge of the pipe. use the straight edge to draw the shape of the blade out around the pipe. The wider it is the easier it will be.

step 3) When you come to the point, make the tip of the point a good 4-5 inches above the pipe as this allows you to thrust safely, without having to worry about the pipe making a suprised entrance into your friends stomach or nether reigons.

step 4) cut out the shape and trace over to create two equall peices of the blade. one for each side.

step 5) place the pipe onto the middle of the strip of foam. now, you can either use contact cement for a stonger sword that will take almost 100x as long to make, or you can simply use duct tape. either way is completley safe and usefull. if you use contact cement however, make sure your in a well ventilated area. secure the pipe either with contact cement, duct tape, or both! if you use contact cement, use either vice grips or another heavy weight and secure it safely overnight. if you use duct tape, simply secure to the foam.

step 6) now, before you place the other strip of foam on, cut out another stip of foam about half as wide as your blade. Cut a strip down the middle for the pipe to fit into. secure this to the foam with the pipe on it.

step 7) now you can place that other strip onto the rest! you should now have something that at least looks like a sword. tape this on securely, covering the EINTIRE blade in duct tape. I dont meant its fine if there is a few little holes. I mean COMPLETELY cover it!

step 8) next is the crossguard. this is perhaps the hardest as it takes more damage that you think! cut a small strip out the size that you want, bend it in the middle and cut a hole in it. slide this up the handle and secure to the blade with duct tape and/or contact cement.

step 9) then, take another strip and wrap it around the base of the nadle (the pommel). duct tape this securely and cut a longer strip to go around this. continue till you have a pommel of the desired size. then, cut out a foam disk and duct tape it to the bottom of the pommel to cover up the end of the pipe. duct tape the whole thing to the handle or it may come off during combat. then, wrap tape (i like electrical tape) around the handle of the sword and viola! you have created a weapon of.......foam.