

Sparkly Christmas Playdough

You and your child can use this easy to make sparkly dough to construct all sorts of Christmas shapes like stars, candy canes and Christmas trees. They can even use it to make Christmas gifts!



Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 to 1.5 cups boiled water (add in gradually, until it feels right.
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- Red and green food colouring

Directions:

- * Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a mixing bowl.
- * Add the food colouring to the boiled water and then pour it into the dry ingredients
- * Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky dough
- * Allow it to cool down, then take it out of bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone.
- * If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until it feels just right.



Christmas Stockings

Why not spend some time with your child making Christmas stockings to decorate your home.



Items needed:

- Cardboard or paper
- Red paint
- A sponge
- Cotton wool pads or balls
- Glitter or star stickers, or both!
- Glue
- Children's scissors

Directions:

- * Draw a stocking outline onto the cardboard and get your child to cut it out. They may need help but this activity is great for developing scissor skills!
- * Using a sponge dipped in paint, paint the stocking and leave it to dry.
- * Stick the wool buds or pads onto the top of the stocking and then decorate it with glitter and stickers.





Christmas Sensory Bin

We love sensory bins/tubs. So let's make it Christmas themed by adding in bells, tinsel and even candy canes to make this bin a lot of fun for little ones.

Items Needed

- * 1 large bag of dried pasta.
- * Candy canes
- * Christmas tree decorations
- * Tinsel
- * A large plastic tub



Directions:

Pour the pasta into the tub and then mix in the candy canes, Christmas decorations and tinsel. Let your little one shift through the pasta to find the Christmas items



Christmas Light Hunt!

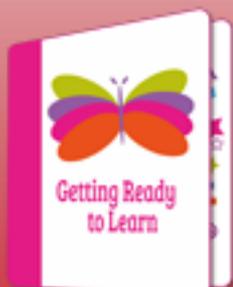
Wait for it to get dark, then bundle up warmly and go for a winter walk to admire the Christmas lights.

- * Discuss the different Christmas lights and decorations that you see.
- * Can your child identify all the colours?
- * Which lights are their favourite and why?
- * Can they rank their favourites, use language such as 1st and 2nd.



While young children need to play, they do not need toys. Young child will spend time playing with boxes, a sink full of water, or digging outside. In other words they need things to play with but this does not need to be toys. Studies have even shown that less toys mean that children play with them for longer, helping improve their concentration and leading to more creative play.

Therefore you do not need to spend large amounts of money to make Christmas Day special for your child! A cardboard house or playsets made from boxes will all spark your child's imagination, provide excitement and fun!



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS



Christmas Games

Hide a Xmas ornament somewhere in the house and have you child search to find it. Say “hot” if close or “cold” if far away.



Build a Christmas Fort

Create an indoor fort with blankets, chairs, fairy lights and cushions. Join the kids—read stories, sing carols and eat supper.



DIY Christmas Tree

Cut a large Christmas tree shape out of junk/recycling card and decorate it with recycled bits of paper. Hang on the wall.



Christmas Readathon!

Go to library and borrow some Christmas books. Cuddle up on the sofa and have a daytime Christmas story session.



Make Some Reindeer Food!

Gather together some porridge oats, sugar and sprinkles. Mix together. Spread outside on Christmas Eve. extra make up bags for friends.



Christmas Dance Party

Put on some Christmas music and encourage your child to dance, then when the music stops they should freeze like Santa, Rudolph an elf, a snowman, a robin, etc.



Learn a New Song—I’m a Great Big Snowman (tune of I’m a Little Teapot)

I’m a great big snowman, Tall and fat, Here’s my tummy. Here’s my hat. Buttons for my eyes, And a carrot nose, I’m all snow from head to toe!



Nativity Story Stones

Make your own nativity playset/ story stones. Collect a number of large flat stones in different sizes. With simple felt tips draw the main characters, the stable, star, angels etc onto the stones. Help your child to use the stones to tell the story.

Christmas Light Hunt

At night take your child on a drive or walk around your neighbourhood to find the best decorated houses. Get your child to pick their favourite and explain why they like each house.



Snowball Fight

Give your child paper and help them scrunch it up into balls. Now take turns throwing the balls into a bucket or laundry basket. Who will win?



Homemade Snow!

Pour a pound of baking soda, add a small handful of shaving create and add more as required. Let the kids knead the ingredients until it starts to look like snow. Let your child play with the snow, add toys and vehicles for more fun!



Gingerbread Races

Cut 10 cardboard gingerbread men. Place them in a pile and encourage your child to run and pick them up one by one. Shout “ Run, run as fast as you can. You can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man.” Time them, to make it more interesting.



Christmas Experiment

Ingredients: milk, food colouring (green & red), washing up liquid and cotton buds. Put a thin layer of milk in an oven dish, dot drops of food colouring around the milk, dip the cotton wool bud into the washing up liquid. Put the cotton bud in the milk and press it down for 15 seconds. Watch what happens!

Christmas Tree Garland

Cut out Christmas tree shapes and allow your child to decorate with pens and other craft materials. Punch holes in the trees and string them together to make a garland.



Learn An Action Rhyme ‘Here is the Chimney’

Here is the chimney (make fist with thumb inside), Here is the top (put other hand over fist) Open the lid (remove from fist), And out Santa will pop (pop up thumb from fist).



Ripping Christmas Wrapping

Keep scraps from wrapping your presents. Minimise mess by placing scraps in a box. Let your child have fun ripping the paper to shreds. Excellent for developing fine motor skills and grip strength.



Fun Christmas Food

Be creative with food. See Pinterest for inspiration. Create Santa toast with sliced strawberries for the hat and sliced bananas for the beard. Or allow your child to decorate plain biscuits with fruit and icing,



Christmas Movie Cinema

Set up a cinema in your living room. Make tickets and snacks and encourage your child to role play the cinema worker.



Christmas Hat Day

Wear a Xmas hat all day! Complete some crafts—what about a mini wreath. Thread beads along a pipe cleaner. Once complete, make a circle and tie at top.



Make Your Own Xmas Cards

A snowman card can be made with 2 cotton wool pads, add eyes, hat and scarf. Draw a tree shape on card and allow your child to decorate with scraps of wrapping paper.

