

# Christmas

## Decorations and cards

### Create Your Own Christmas Wrapping Paper

There are many ways to do this activity according to age and ability. For example you could take a sheet of paper and fold it into equal parts. Your child could then make a design (for example a snowman, Santa, Christmas tree) and copy it onto each section using a variety of art media. Alternatively, this could be a repeating print activity where the children make either a card print or vegetable (e.g. potato) print. They can use rollers or a brush to apply printing ink or thick paint and press the print onto a piece of plain paper and repeat the design. Another option is that using IT the children could make a design and then apply copy and paste to make a repeating pattern

### Hand print Wreath

Make a wreath from your children's handprints.

#### You will require

Paper                      thick green paint                      different shades of green paper  
  
red foil or tissue paper                      decorations for the wreath such as glitter.

#### Method

Trace your child's hand on pieces of green paper. Cut out the hand prints. You can just use green paper or you could make some handprints by painting your child's hand and printing it on paper and cutting out when dry.

Make about between 10 -15 paper hands for each wreath. Glue the hand prints together in a wreath shape, with the wrists overlapping a little bit. Make a ribbon with the foil or tissue paper and glue onto the wreath

Optional: Decorate the wreath with glitter or glitter glue.

If you have more than one child you could mix the hands to make one wreath (perhaps using different shades of green?) or make one wreath for each child.

## Christmas Santa

### You will need

a polystyrene ball                      paper cup                      paint  
2 plastic eyes                      red, black and white felt                      small red wool ball for  
the nose                      cotton wool                      white cotton wool ball                      glue  
red, black and pink craft foam

### Method

Paint the ball pink and the cup red and leave to dry. Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup.

Cut two arms from red foam and two hands from pink. Glue one hand to the end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the body. Cut a strip of black felt and glue it around the middle of the cup as a belt. Make a hat by rolling some red felt into a cone. Glue the edge of the cone and glue the hat to the top of the ball. Cut a band of white felt and glue it around the edge of the hat. Add the cotton wool ball to the end of the hat.

Make a beard from the white cotton wool and glue on the face. Add the red nose and the two eyes.

## Christmas Nativity scene

The same method as that used to make the Christmas Santa (i.e. the polystyrene ball and paper cup) can be used to make the human figures for your Christmas Nativity scene with young children. If you are lucky enough to have a kiln then the figures can be made from clay and glazed?

## Easy Christmas Cards

### 1. You will need:

a camera                      coloured card                      white paper for the insert                      glue

## Method

An easy card to make that relatives and friends love to receive. Take photos of your child/children and download onto a computer. You could then print out as many photos as you want. Alternatively, many photo programs and word processing programs have Christmas borders you can add and also draw facilities so that a Santa's hat and beard could be added to your child's face. Follow instructions below for completing the rest of the card.

## **2. You will need:**

Coloured card    white paper for the insert    glue    white paper  
Last year's Christmas cards

## Method

Cut out pictures from last year's Christmas cards. Fold the coloured Christmas card and stick pictures on the front. It could be just one picture and your child could draw the rest in. It might be a montage of pictures. You could put glue around the outside of the card and add glitter or make a border with coloured pens

Inside the card write a Christmas wish with perhaps a poem or print a verse from a Christmas carol.

## **Christmas Cookie Cutter Ornaments**

### you will need:

Salt Dough (recipe provided on website)  
Christmas cookie cutters  
permanent colour felt tip markers, paint or glaze.  
glitter                  sequins                  white glue                  coloured ribbons

## Method

Make the salt dough following the recipe  
Roll out dough on a floured surface about 1/4" thick. Cut with cutters to make Christmas shapes. Make a hole in the top of the shape for stringing a ribbon. Place the shapes on a cookie sheet.  
Bake the shapes at 225 degrees F (107 degrees C) for two or 3 hours. Turn

them over occasionally to keep them from curling.

Remove shapes from oven and allow to cool for several hours. Decorate the shapes with the felt tip markers, paint or glaze, glitter and sequins. Many other materials can be used to decorate the shapes. Thread the ribbon through the hole at the top and hang on your tree or other object

### **Paper chains**

#### You will need:

a variety of different coloured paper, scissors and glue

#### Method

Cut the paper into strips approximately 30cm x 3cm. Glue one end and make into one part of a chain then link the next colour through the first chain and glue. Repeat the process until you make chains long enough to decorate your room.

Making a repeated pattern of colours e.g. red, blue, yellow green, red, blue..... will give your child practice in maths skills such as sorting and pattern.

### **Candleholder**

#### You Will Need

Thin wire            wire cutters            glass or plastic beads

glass votive candleholder            green or red votive candle

Probably a hot glue gun would be best for this or you will need strong glue

#### Method

Using the string, wrap around the candleholder and then measure to ascertain the length of wire that you need. Cut the wire to that size.

Place one bead on the end of the wire, threading the wire through the bead a second time to secure. String beads on wire as desired, securing last bead as for the first.

Wrap beaded wire around candleholder to determine the placement. If you desire more length, simply cut and bead an extra length of wire.

Secure one end of beaded wire with glue at the top edge of the candleholder.

Wrap the beaded wire or wires around the candleholder securing with glue about every inch. Place the candle in the holder

## Christmas Hanging Garlands

### You will need:

A wire coat hanger	newspaper strips cut approximately 3 cm wide		
wire	baubles		
green crepe paper	greenery	clippers or secateurs	crepe bow

### Method

Shape the hanger into a circle, leaving the hook

Sellotape one strip of newspaper to the hook of the coat hanger

Wrap the newspaper around the rest of the wire to cover it, pulling it tight.

Overlap the joins and sellotape the ends only.

Keep doing this until the hoop is nice and fat then repeat the process with strips of green crepe paper

Organise the greenery on the table and cut into small lengths (this can be any type of greenery that is seasonal although evergreens and ivy are good choices).

Arrange the greenery symmetrically around the hoop and wire it into place. Use plenty of greenery

Finish off with a bow (red perhaps) and baubles wired in place around the hoop.