

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!

