

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. The children 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 polystyrene or card print. They then use rollers to apply printing ink and roll 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 Tree

You Will Need

Green paper in different shades a piece of Christmas wrapping paper
scissors pencils glue brown and red paper
Large piece of plain paper for the display

Method

Ask the children to draw round their hands on the green paper and cut them out (of course you may have to help them or do it for them according to age). Starting at the top, stick the hand onto the large piece of paper, overlapping them to make a triangular shape that looks like a Christmas tree. Put the tree up on a display board then, at the base, make a tree stump out of the brown paper and a pot out of the red paper.

Alternatives:

You could make presents out of wrapping paper or the children's own designs to put around the tree and make baubles for the tree.

Instead of drawing round the hands onto green paper the children could put green paint on their hands and print.

Hand Print Wreath

Make a wreath from the children's handprints.

You will require the same materials as were needed for the hand Christmas tree. In addition you will also need some red foil or tissue paper and decorations for the wreath such as glitter.

Method

Trace the child's hand on a piece of green construction paper. Cut out the hand print. 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.

Christmas Santa

You will need:

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

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 Printed Christmas Cards

You will need:

Coloured card white paper for the insert black paper polystyrene tile
Felt tip pens or printing inks rollers envelopes glue white paper

Method

Measure the envelope and then cut the card to ensure that it will fit (when folded) into the envelope. Fold the card and then cut the black paper to fit on top of the front of the card leaving a 1cm border all round. Cut the polystyrene tiles to the same size as the black paper. Make a template on your white paper by drawing round the polystyrene, cut out the white paper so that it is the same size as the polystyrene.

Attach the paper to the front of the polystyrene using paperclips and with a sharp pencil draw your idea e.g. angel, Christmas tree, bell...Ensure that the pencil marks the polystyrene. Then remove the paper and go over the grooves in the polystyrene with a blunt pencil.

Roll some white printing ink onto the polystyrene, turn it over onto the black paper and roll over the top with a clean roller. Take the polystyrene away and leave the print to dry.

Once dry colour in with paints or felt tip pens.

Stick the finished print onto the front of the card and inside write a Christmas wish with perhaps a poem or 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

Stained Glass Star

You will need:

Black sugar paper
glue

Scissors

Colored tissue paper

White

Method

A card template can be made of a star for tracing. Trace Place the star template in the middle of the sugar paper, draw round and cut out. You could include some smaller stars around the main star.

Cut some pieces of tissue paper to fit centre of star and points. Put a line of glue on back of star and place tissue pieces on glue. The glue will dry transparent. Attach in a window so light can shine through it.

More Complex Stained Glass Windows

You will need:

Black sugar paper Scissors Colored tissue paper White
glue white pencil

Method

The 12 days of Christmas is a good option for older children. They would need to draw the scene for each day on the black paper and carefully cut out. Next stick tissue paper on the side where they have used pencil to draw the scene. You will need to discuss the fact that there needs to be black paper in between different parts of the tree for example and it is always a good idea for the children to practice on smaller paper first. After the five gold rings you could just draw one of each animal or person. 8 maids a milking, for example might be rather difficult!

Candleholder

What You 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

With string wrap around the candleholder and then measure to ascertain the length of wire that you need. Then 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 Stamps

Brainstorm ideas for Christmas stamps and/or provide the children with old Christmas cards.

Provide them with rectangular shapes on plain paper or let them draw them and then design 4 different stamps on the Christmas theme using whatever media you wish according to the size of the paper

Postcard from Santa

You will need:

A piece of card A5 size or less ruler pencil travel brochures
Coloured pencils

You could watch the video of or read the book of *Father Christmas goes on Holiday* by Raymond Briggs. Then discuss places that Santa might like to go. Perhaps these could be a mix of real and imagined countries.

Nativity/ Christmas scene Collage

This looks great as a large display and very effective but it can be time consuming. Would be a good idea to do it as an art and craft afternoon with the children divided into groups to work on one character/object etc according to what you decide

You will need:

Lots of magazine pictures/photos, different coloured paper (and different types)
Large sugar paper to draw the object on scraps of material
glue
plastic containers scissors

Method

The most time consuming part is to go through the magazines and tear out small pieces from the magazine and put into containers according to their (main) colour

Draw the images that you want to use. E.g. the wisemen, a Christmas scene

Give each group an image. They have to cover that image using the pieces of magazine, different coloured paper and scraps of material.

You will need to talk about collage first and demonstrate how the materials can go together. It is really important that the children only use small pieces of all art media. Sometimes, if the task is time-consuming like this one there is a tendency to use very large pieces and ruin the effect.

Christmas Hanging Garlands

You will need:

A wire coat hanger
wire

newspaper strips cut approximately 3 cm wide

green crepe paper
baubles

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.