

Christmas Activity Calendar

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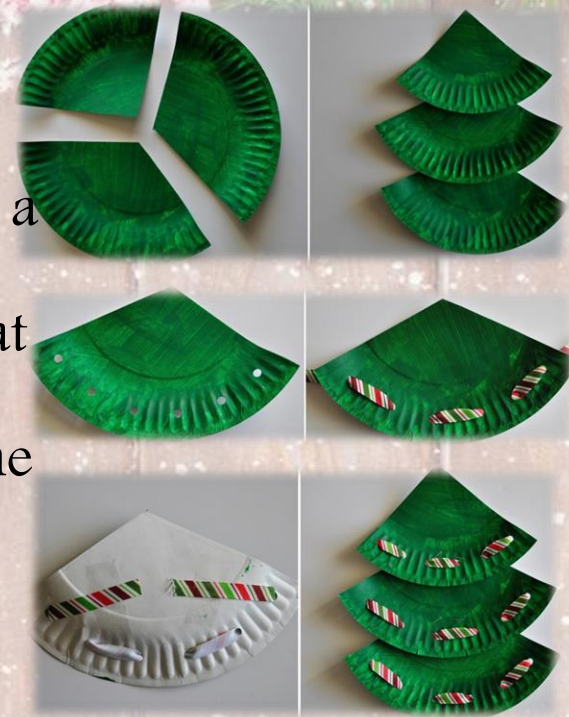
PAPER PLATE CHRISTMAS TREE CRAFT

Materials needed:

- paper plate
- green paint
- paint brushes
- scissors
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn
- tape
- stapler
- brown cardstock paper or brown foam sheet
- star foam sticker (optional)
- sequins, glitter, pompoms or stickers
- glue

Instructions:

- Paint your paper plate green and let it dry
- Cut the plate into thirds, one of the sections a bit smaller than the other two
- Layer the three pieces with the smallest one at the top to make a Christmas Tree shape
- With a hole punch, make six holes across the bottom of each paper plate section
- Lace your ribbon through the holes of your paper plate section, starting from the back, then tape the excess piece of ribbon to the back of the paper plate
- Use a stapler to staple the pieces together into your Christmas tree
- Stick on a brown tree stump cut out from your brown paper and add a foam star sticker at the top
- Finish your Christmas tree by adding sequins, glitter, pompoms or stickers as decorations



🏠 WRITE CHRISTMAS CARDS AND POST THEM

• Materials needed:

- shallow cardboard box, dressed up as a Santa post box
- cotton wool
- red paint or red wrapping paper
- envelope
- Christmas cards
- Ribbons and stickers
- stamps and ink
- glue, scissors, pens and pencils

Instructions:

- Create your Santa post box by painting a the red or covering it with red wrapping paper, adding cotton wool and a black belt and buttons
- Together with your child, write and decorate your Christmas cards, put them in an envelope and send the card off by putting them into the Santa post box





HAVE A GLOW STICK BATH

Materials needed:

- glow sticks
- bubble bath foam

Instructions:

- Draw a super bubbly bath, add the glow sticks and turn off the light
- You could also add a bath bomb for extra bubble fun

(Always supervise your child in the bath and ensure they don't bite the glow sticks)





BAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Materials needed:

- whisk
- Flexible spatula
- large bowl
- rolling pin
- cookie cutters

Ingredients:

- 250g soft butter
- 250g sugar
- 2 eggs
- 500g flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder

For the decorations:

- icing sugar or chocolate
- food colouring (optional)
- orange extract (optional)
- sprinkles



Instructions:

- Mix the soft butter and sugar together until the texture is nice and fluffy, then add the eggs and mix again
- Using the flexible spatula, gradually stir in the flour and add the baking powder
- Put the dough into a bowl, cover it and leave in the fridge for at least 30 minutes
- Roll out your dough with a rolling pin, then use the cookie cutters to cut out the cookies
- Put the cookies onto a baking tray (use baking paper or butter and flour to avoid the cookies sticking to the baking tray) and bake them in the oven at 200°C for around 7 minutes
- The cookies will still be soft, but harden once they cool down
- Have fun decorating the cookies with the icing sugar mixed with some orange extract and food colouring, chocolate and sprinkles



DECORATE YOUR OWN WRAPPING PAPER

Materials needed:

- brown paper
- ink pad / black or green paint
- tape
- Potato
- Christmas tree cookie cutter

Instructions:

- Cut the potato in half and push your chosen cookie cutter firmly into the potato half. With a sharp knife, cut a slice of the potato around the cookie cutter and remove it. Press the potato onto to some kitchen paper to get rid of the excess starch.
- Lay your brown paper across a long surface such as a dining table or the floor. Tape or weigh the ends.
- Squeeze a small amount of paint onto a plate (or use an ink pad). Dab your potato stamp into the paint (or onto the ink pad), covering the tree cut out with a thin layer of paint.
- Decorate your wrapping paper with the trees





MAGICAL LANTERN CRAFT

Materials needed:

- glass jars
- tissue paper or napkins
- PVA glue (watered down)
- paintbrushes
- yarn or wool
- cardboard
- tealights or battery-powered candles

Instructions:

- Make sure your jar is clean and dry. Take your tissue paper and cut it into strips or squares to make it easier to apply to your jar. If using napkins, separate the different layers and use one layer at the time.
- Cover your jar with the watered down PVA glue and apply the tissue paper all over your jar. It's ok if your tissue paper overlaps. If some of your tissue paper tears, which does tend to happen, just add some more tissue paper on top of the tear.
- Let your jar dry and get your trees ready. You can use plain green tissue paper or patterned tissue paper or a combination of both.
- Make a simple tree template and cut it out of cardboard. Use this template to make your tissue paper trees.
- Brush some your PVA glue onto the jar where you want your trees to go, then carefully place them on, pressing down gently.
- You can add other decorations such as snowflake sequins for an even more magical look
- Apply a final coat of PVA glue all over the jar, ensuring to seal the top and bottom of the jar with the glue
- Finish your jar by wrapping your yarn or wool to the top of the jar





SENSORY SNOW PLAY

Materials needed:

- 450 g baking soda
- shaving cream (unscented and organic if possible)

Instructions:

- Let your child(ren) pour 450g of baking soda into a large tray
- Spray the shaving cream. You will need to experiment with it by starting to spray just a little at first and then adding more, as needed.
- Let your child(ren) 'knead the snow'. It will start forming almost immediately.
- Encourage your child(ren) to form the snow into a shape, add toys or animals, provide spades, spoons or other utensils. Grab a coffee and watch them play.





SALT DOUGH CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS

Materials needed:

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup plain flour
- Up to 1 cup of water (add gradually)
- green food colouring or paint (and paint in other colours)
- glitter
- twine or wool
- paintbrushes
- fabric stars (optional)



Instructions:

- Combine the salt and flour, then gradually pour in the water, stopping when it has become dough-like and not too sticky. There should be no residue left on your fingers when you touch it.
- Knead it on a floured surface for a few minutes to make it soft, workable and stretchy.
- Add green colouring and glitter.
- Roll out the dough and form it into a flat circle.
- Ask your child(ren) to press down their hand(s) in the middle of the dough circle
- Poke two holes at the top of the ornament, using a straw. The holes are vital for being able to thread twine through and hang them up afterwards.
- Bake the ornament(s) at about 100°C for 2-3 hours.
- When they have cooled down, paint the inside of the handprint(s) with a darker shade of green paint, then leave them to dry again.



TOILET ROLL CHRISTMAS TREE

Materials needed:

- empty toilet rolls
- canvas or thick cardboard paper
- green paint
- Embellishments (pompoms, glitter, sticker etc.)
- Glue
- paintbrushes



Instructions:

- Paint your empty toilet rolls green, let them dry and cut them in half (length-wise)
- Glue the toilet roll halves onto the canvas or cardboard sheet (hot glue probably works best, but you could also use regular glue and stick something like cotton wool in between the roll and the canvas to hold it in place)
- Let your child(ren) decorate their tree using glitter, pompoms and whatever else you have at home



BAKE AND DECORATE CHRISTMAS CUPCAKES

Ingredients:

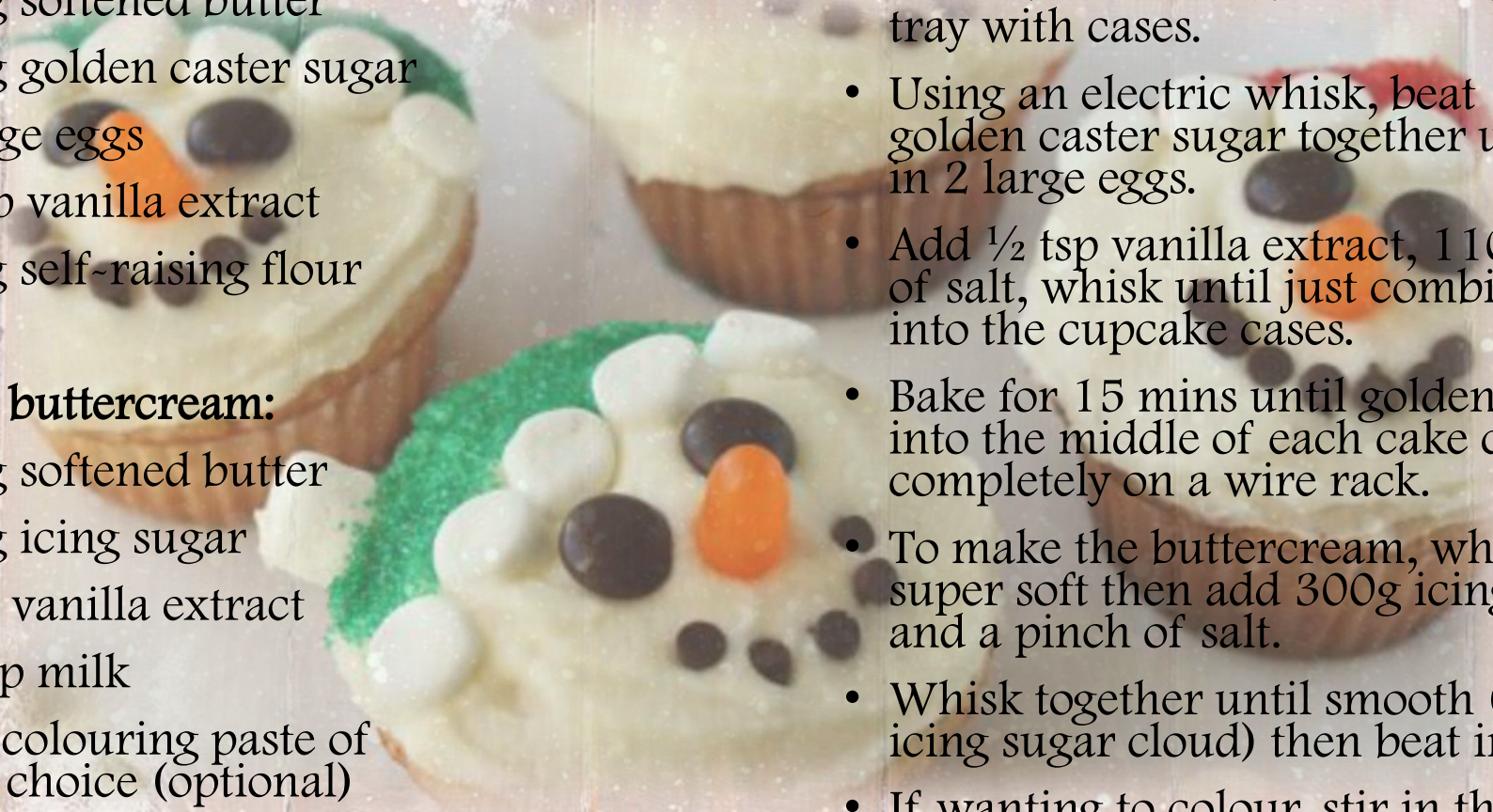
- 110g softened butter
- 110g golden caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 110g self-raising flour

For the buttercream:

- 150g softened butter
- 300g icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 tbs milk
- food colouring paste of your choice (optional)
- Sprinkles, gummy bears and marshmallows

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and fill a 12 cupcake tray with cases.
- Using an electric whisk, beat 110g softened butter and 110g golden caster sugar together until pale and fluffy then whisk in 2 large eggs.
- Add ½ tsp vanilla extract, 110g self-raising flour and a pinch of salt, whisk until just combined then spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases.
- Bake for 15 mins until golden brown and a skewer inserted into the middle of each cake comes out clean. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.
- To make the buttercream, whisk 150g softened butter until super soft then add 300g icing sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract and a pinch of salt.
- Whisk together until smooth (start off slowly to avoid an icing sugar cloud) then beat in 3 tbs milk.
- If wanting to colour, stir in the food colouring now. Spoon or pipe onto the cooled cupcakes.
- Decorate your cupcakes, let your imagination run wild 😊





SNOWMAN BOWLING PIN GAME

Materials needed:

- empty tin cans
- masking tape
- white paint
- paint brushes
- black, red and orange felt or cardboard/paper
- pencil
- scissors
- glue
- ball



Instructions:

- Stick some masking tape around the sharp, inside rim of the tin cans.
- Let your child(ren) paint the outside and bottom of the tins with white paint and leave to dry. Apply a second coat to make sure they look crisp and white.
- Out of felt or cardboard/paper, draw and cut out some round black eyes, carrot-shaped orange noses and red and black mouths.
- Stick a face onto each painted tin can.
- Play a game of snowman bowling with your little one(s) 😊



EGG CARTON REINDEER CRAFT

Materials needed:

- egg carton
- red pompoms
- googly eyes
- brown card stock paper
- glue/hot glue gun
- brown paint



Instructions:

- Cut individual cups from an egg carton (the corner ones work best because they are bigger).
- Have your child(ren) paint them brown and let them dry.
- Glue on some googly eyes and a red pompom for the nose.
- Cut out some reindeer ears/antlers with card stock paper and glue them onto Rudolph



BUILD YOUR OWN GINGERBREAD CARDBOARD HOUSE

Materials needed:

- 4 large cardboard boxes
- gummed reinforcement tape (or very strong masking tape)
- paintbrushes and paint (optional)
- paper plates for the roof
- Scissors (or cutter)
- card or paper in different colours



Instructions:

- Open up your cardboard boxes and turn them inside out so the printed sides are on the inside of the house. Two boxes are used for the gingerbread house walls, and two more to make the roof.
- Using the scissors (or cutter), cut a window and door into the house
- Stick everything together, using the gummed reinforcement tape.
- Paint your house (or leave it as is)
- Create and decorate the roof of your house using the rims of the paper plates and card or paper in different colours



CHRISTMAS MOVIE BINGO

Materials needed:

- Christmas BINGO printout sheet (get it [here](#))
- pens
- your favourite Christmas movie
- snacks and a blanket to cuddle up together



Instructions:

- Print out the Christmas BINGO sheet
- Get comfy on the sofa, have your snacks ready and put on your favourite Christmas movie
- Every time you see one of the items from the BINGO sheet on screen, cross it off – the first person to get 5 in a row, shouts BINGO and is the winner



CHRISTMAS ROCKY ROADS

Ingredients:

- 100g butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for the tin
- 250g Christmas biscuits, such as shortbread or chocolate biscuits
- 75g shelled nuts (use up a bag of whole nuts, or bits and bobs from the baking cupboard)
- 100g mixed dried fruit (such as raisins, cherries or glacé ginger)
- 75g Christmas sweets (candy canes, marshmallows or jelly sweets)
- 400g milk or plain chocolate (or a mixture of both), chopped
- 140g golden syrup (weigh this straight into the pan you will use for melting)
- 2 tbsp sprinkles, or more sweets, to decorate



Instructions:

- Butter and line a 20cm square tin, or use a 20cm square silicone mould. Break the biscuits into pieces – they need to be no smaller than a pea, but not too chunky or your rocky road won't hold together.
- Halve any larger nuts either by snapping them or carefully cutting with a knife, then combine them with the biscuits. Halve any large pieces of dried fruit and chop or snap sweets into smaller pieces, then add these to the bowl.
- Melt 300g of the chocolate, the butter and the golden syrup carefully in a pan set over a low heat, stirring occasionally, then pour this over the biscuit and nut mixture and mix together so the chocolate covers everything.
- Tip the mixture into the tin, then level the top – it doesn't need to be completely smooth.
- Melt the remaining chocolate in the microwave in short blasts, or in a heatproof bowl over a small pan of simmering water, then drizzle this over the top and sprinkle with the decorations.
- Chill for at least 3 hrs or overnight before cutting into squares. (Will keep in the fridge for three to four days.)



MAKE YOUR OWN ICE LANTERNS

Materials needed:

- two empty tin cans, one small enough to fit inside the other with at least 1/2" of room on either side and at the bottom
- some greenery and berries
- rocks or some other heavy item
- tape
- tea light candles
- diagonal cutters



Instructions:

- Clean out your tin cans and remove the labels. Don't worry about the sticky label residue; it won't hurt the ice lanterns if it doesn't all come off.
- Put a small amount of water into the larger tin can, then put the smaller tin can inside. The smaller tin can should be floating inside the larger one.
- Add a few rocks to the smaller tin can to hold it down so that the tops of both cans are level. Add tape on all four sides to help hold the smaller tin can centred in the larger one.
- Cut your greenery into smaller pieces and stick them with the berries into the water between the two cans.
- Add a little more water between the cans, until the water is about 1/2" to 1" below the top of the can and put it in the freezer.
Remember: Water expands as it freezes, so don't fill it too full or the water will overflow as it turns to ice.
- Once the water is frozen, run warm water over the outside of the can and inside of the smaller can to help loosen the ice. Once the outsides melt a little bit, you should be able to slide the ice lanterns right out of the tin can molds.
- Stick a small tea light in the ice lantern, light it, and enjoy the glow of your ice candle!





COTTON BALL SNOWMAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

Materials needed:

- shallow container
- glue
- cotton balls/wool
- craft paper
- Pen or marker
- scissors

Snowman decoration ideas:

- sticks
- googly eyes
- stickers
- Pieces of paper



Instructions:

- With a pen or marker, draw the outline of a snowman onto a piece of craft paper.
- In a shallow container, add some glue and have your child(ren) dip the cotton balls in it and stick them on the paper to fill up their snowman.
- Let your child(ren) add some decorations to their snowman.



REINDEER & SNOWMAN CHRISTMAS BARK

Ingredients:

- 100g milk chocolate, chopped
- 100g dark chocolate, chopped
- 7 red Smarties
- 8-10 small pretzels
- 22 white mini marshmallows
- 1 red jelly shoe lace, cut into lengths
- sprinkles and stars
- black food writing pen



Instructions:

- Line a baking tin with baking parchment. Heat both chocolates in separate bowls in the microwave in 30-sec, or over pans of simmering water.
- Pour the dark chocolate into the baking tin, then pour the milk chocolate on top in a trail. Spread the chocolate out to make a reasonably thick slab.
- Arrange the red smarties over the slab at intervals – these are the reindeer noses. Cut a marshmallow in half and press above the smarties to make eyes. Snap a pretzel in half for each set of antlers, snapping off any excess pretzel, then push into the chocolate near the noses.
- To make the snowmen, arrange the rest of the marshmallows in lines of three. Use pieces of pretzel for the arms and a piece of shoe lace for the scarf. Sprinkle over the stars and sprinkles, then leave the chocolate to set completely.
- Once the chocolate is hard, use an icing pen or small brush dipped in black food colouring to add pupils to the reindeer eyes, and faces and buttons for the snowmen. Use a knife to cut the bark into pieces around the reindeer and snowmen. To give them as gifts, put the chocolate shards in cellophane bags and tie with a pretty ribbon.



BOW TIE NOODLE WREATH CRAFT

Materials needed:

- bow tie noodles
- green paint
- paint brush
- green glitter
- red ribbon
- glue
- card



Instructions:

- Paint all the little bow tie noodles with green paint and shake with green glitter.
- Once the noodles are completely dry, glue them into a circle on a card or a thick piece of paper.
- Tie a bow with a red ribbon and glue it on the bottom of the wreath.



SNOWMAN HOT CHOCOLATE GIFT SET

Materials needed:

- white pillow boxes
- cardstock – orange and black
- googly eyes
- fabric or ribbon
- black marker
- glue and scissors
- small plastic bags and pegs (optional)
- contents for hot chocolate gift set box such as: hot chocolate ingredients, cookies, or other fun winter treats.



Instructions:

- Assemble the pillow boxes – they will come packed flat, so simply fold the ends over to make a gift box.
- Cut long strips of fabric or ribbon and wrap them around the lower half of the pillow box like a scarf.
- Cut a hat and ‘carrot’ nose out of cardstock and attach them using glue.
- Draw on your snowman’s mouth with a black marker.
- Now your snowman is ready for filling.
- Place the hot chocolate mix and marshmallows into a small bag, fold over the top edge a couple of times and pop a peg on it to keep it closed. (If you don’t have a peg, just use tape.)





WATER BEADS SENSORY PLAY

Materials needed:

- 1 bag of water beads
- waterproof Christmas decorations or toys



Instructions:

- Follow the directions of your water beads to make them the night before the activity
- Add your waterproof Christmas decorations or toys to the bowl or tray of water beads
- Let your child(ren) fish out the Christmas decorations using their fingers, a spoon or another utensil or simply enjoy the feeling of the water beads
- Please note that water beads are not safe for kids who put things in their mouths, as water beads should not be swallowed. Kids should be supervised at all times when playing with water beads.





SNOWBALL DIPPERS

Ingredients:

- 150g bar dark chocolate, broken into chunks
- 10 fat white marshmallows
- white sparkles
- 10 lollipops or cake pop sticks, to serve

Instructions:

- Melt the chocolate in a water bath or in the microwave.
- Push a lollipop or cake pop stick into each marshmallow. Scrape the melted chocolate into a small bowl. Tip the white sprinkles into another small bowl. Put a wire rack next to the bowl of chocolate and a sheet of baking parchment next to the bowl of sprinkles.
- Holding the end of a stick, dip a marshmallow into the chocolate so that it is completely coated. Lift it out, but hold it over the bowl to allow the extra chocolate to drip back in, then put it on the wire rack. Dunk the marshmallows, one by one, then line them up on the wire rack in the order that you dunked them.
- Pick up the first marshmallow you dunked and dip into the sprinkles to completely coat. Sit the snowball marshmallow on the baking parchment. Continue to dip and coat the marshmallows, working along the line so that you cover them in sprinkles in the same order that you dunked them in chocolate. When all the marshmallows are covered, leave them on the baking parchment until they are set.
- You can now wrap the marshmallows in cellophane and tie with ribbons if you're giving them as a present. Alternatively, if you want to enjoy them right away, use your snowball as a stirrer in a hot chocolate and keep stirring until all the sprinkles, chocolate and most of the marshmallow have melted. (Will keep for up to 2 weeks in cellophane bags.)





POPSICLE CHRISTMAS TREE CRAFT

Materials needed:

- 3 popsicle sticks
- green paint and a paint brush
- 1 square of brown card stock
- a star cut from glittery card stock
- a piece of twine, approximately 6" long
- hot glue gun
- scissors and a craft/utility knife

And to decorate them, you can use whatever you have on hand:

- pom poms
- sparkly pipe cleaners
- jingle Bells
- rhinestones
- buttons
- glitter



Instructions:

- Position the popsicle sticks to make a triangle
- Add glue to the ends of the stick at the bottom and stick the other two popsicle sticks onto it
- For the top corner of the triangle, add some twine in between the two sticks, then glue everything together
- Use a small dab of hot glue to attach the star to the top and the tree trunk to the bottom.
- Start decorating the tree with pompoms, or wrap some sparkly pipe cleaners around the sticks





PLAY DOUGH COOKIE CUTTER PLAY

Materials needed:

- green and red play dough ([home-made](#) or store bought)
- glitter
- cookie cutters

Instructions:

- Add the glitter to the red and green batches of dough.
- Set up the table with the play dough and the cookie cutters. You can also add other utensils, such as a rolling pin or a kid's knife for your child(ren) to experiment with.
- Sit back and let them play 😊





Full list of materials needed

Materials you may already have at home:

paper plates
paint (green, red, white, brown)
paint brushes
scissors
hole punch
ribbon, wool or yarn
tape
stapler
cardstock paper (brown, red, orange, glittery/gold)
foam paper (optional)
sequins
glitter
pompoms
stickers
stamps and ink
pens and pencils
PVA glue
cotton wool/balls
bubble bath foam

cookie cutters
glass jars
tissue paper or napkins
real or battery-powered tealights
baking soda
unscented shaving cream
salt
flour
pieces of fabric
empty toilet rolls
empty tin cans (two sizes)
masking tape
ball
egg carton
googly stick on eyes
bow tie pasta noodles
popsicle sticks
sparkly pipe cleaners
play dough
cardboard boxes (1 shallow one, medium size, 4 large ones)

Things you may want to purchase:

glow sticks
gummed reinforcement tape (or very strong masking tape)
water beads
pillow boxes
A hot glue gun

Things you can find outside:

greenery and red berries
small rocks



Full list of ingredients needed

butter

sugar

eggs

plain flour

self-raising flour

baking powder

icing sugar

food colouring

orange extract

sprinkles

vanilla extract

milk

marshmallows

shelled nuts

shortbread biscuits

mixed dried fruit

milk and plain chocolate

golden syrup

small pretzels

red smarties

black food writing pen