

Combine little kids and Christmas and you've got a truckload of energy that's next to impossible to contain. Keep those little bodies busy by focusing some of that excitement on Holiday activities that kids and parents both will enjoy!

Homemade Stockings

Collect used, clean, hole-free socks in white or bright colors. Give one sock to each child and let them decorate their socks with red and green markers, fabric paint or by gluing on holiday ribbons, bows, lace etc. Display with your holiday decorations!

Pine Needle Envelopes

Give each child an envelope with several pine needles inside. Seal the envelopes after you have shown the contents to the children. Let the children hold the envelopes parallel to the floor and shake them to spread out the needles. Have them rub the long, flat sides of unwrapped crayons across the envelopes to create designs. Then have them create more designs by shaking the envelopes to move the needles around and rubbing them again.

Little Lanterns

Cut 5 x 5 ½ inch rectangles out of aluminum foil. Cut colored tissue paper into small pieces. Set out the foil pieces, the tissue paper squares, bowls of diluted white glue, and brushes. Have your child brush glue over the foil pieces. Then let them cover the foil with the tissue paper squares. Allow the glue to dry. Secure each child's tissue-covered foil to an empty toilet paper tube. Punch holes in the tops of the tubes and attach pieces of yarn for hanging.

Holiday Stencil Cards

Use holiday cookie cutters to press shapes into clean plastic foam food trays. Cut out the shapes with a craft knife and discard. Fold pieces of construction paper into cards. Let your child place the stencils over the fronts of the cards and use felt tip markers to fill the centers.

Holiday Sewing Cards

Cut the fronts off sturdy greeting cards. Punch holes around the edges of the cards and tie a shoestring to one of the holes on each card. Give the cards to your child. Let them use the shoestring to sew around the cards.

Rudolph Faces

Give your child a piece of brown or yellow construction paper. Trace around their hands. Let them cut their hand shapes out for antlers. Give your child a brown paper triangle to place in front of him or herself with the point facing down. Fold down the 2 upper corners to make ears. Next, glue the hand shapes at the tops of the triangles. Add black paper circles for eyes and red circles for noses.

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