



Caring & Sharing

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WHO CARE & SHARE WITH CHILDREN

Winter Wonderland Soap Globes

When they wash enough they get the prize!



Materials: •Ice cube tray •Clear glycerin soap •White soap
•Blue soap dye •Small figurines •Peppermint oil or soap fragrance
•Knife •2 microwave safe containers with pour spout (*All items found at local craft stores. We used large buttons for figurines.*)
Directions: **1.** Cut clear soap blocks into small 1/2 in. cubes (*Start with a small amount first 1-2 blocks and make a few soap cubes to understand the pace and steps. If you try to do too many at a time, they will cool and harden too quickly.*) **2.** Place in microwave safe container and heat on high for 30 sec. **3.** Stir and continue to heat in 10-15 sec. intervals until soap is a thick liquid **4.** Add blue dye a drop at a time, continuously stirring until you have the desired color **5.** Pour blue liquid into ice cube tray filling each about 3/4 full. **6.** Carefully test the temperature of the liquid (*It gets very hot, but cools fairly quickly*) **7.** When soap is firm, but soft insert figurines upside down. Let firm. **8.** Repeat steps 1-3 with white soap and pour it over to coat tops. **9.** Let firm, then break out the globes from the tray. Trim edges if necessary



This is the Way We Wash Our Hands

Tune: The Wheels on the Bus

This is the way we wash our hands,
Wash our hands, Wash our hands,
This is the way we wash our hands,
To get them squeaky clean!

First we start with the water,
With the water, With the water,
First we start with the water,
To get them squeaky clean!

Then we rub the soap all over,
Soap all over, Soap all over,
Then we rub the soap all over,
To get them squeaky clean!

The soap goes all over our palms,
On the backs, And between our fingers
The soap goes all over our hands,
To get them squeaky clean!

Finally, we rinse again,
Rinse again, Rinse again,
Finally, we rinse again,
To get them squeaky clean!

Then we dry our hands,
Dry our hands, Dry our hands,
And when we dry our hands,
Our hands are squeaky clean!

Move to the Music: Use this song with hand movements. Practice. When the children know the song well, wash your hands for real!

Sensory Play: Make soap suds in a sink with dish soap and transfer it to tubs. Let children explore!

11 Trusty Tips to Beat the Cold & Flu Season!



• Hand washing is a vital way to keep germs at bay and should be conducted frequently during the daily classroom routine.

• Don't touch your face! Wash your hands before you do.

• Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, or as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice.

• It is a good idea to turn off the water with a paper towel after your hands are clean.

• Hand sanitizers are a good alternative if soap and water are unavailable. However, make sure it is at least 60% alcohol based. Store it completely out of reach from children.

• Use enough sanitizer to completely wet all parts of your hands. Rub until dry.

• Antibacterial soap does not kill more germs than regular soap. It could, actually, make killing some germs more difficult after repeated use.

• Wash toys & table tops frequently.

• Achu! When possible, sneeze and cough into tissues. Otherwise, teach children to use the crook of their arm. Then discard tissue and wash up!

• Teach children to step back when another person is sneezing or coughing.

• Wipe down things you don't often think about like your cell phone, car steering wheel and purse.



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Important Dates:

- Dec. 21 - Winter begins
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan. 11 - CCR CPR & First Aid
- Jan. 15 - Snowflake Day
- Jan. 20 - MLK, Jr. Day
- Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day
- Feb. 8 - CCR CPR & First Aid
- Feb. 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17 - President's Day (observed)
- Feb. 22 - Washington's Birthday

Christmas in the Classroom



Santa Claus Keepsake Ornament



Dough Materials: • 1 c. cornstarch • 2 c. baking soda • 1 1/4 c. water • Parchment paper
Directions: 1. Mix ingredients in a pot over medium heat 2. Stir to avoid sticking until thick dough has formed 3. Remove from heat and let cool 4. Roll out until about 1/2 in. thick 5. Outline children's hands, cut out with toothpick, smooth edges 6. Make hole for hanging. 7. Place hands on parchment paper with names labeled and bake at 375°F for about 30 min. or until barely brown and dry

Santas Materials: • Craft paint • Ribbon • Perm. marker **Directions:** (*See diagram for paint strokes.
Let dry between steps) 1. Paint hands white 2. Paint flesh colored oval above the fingers 3. Paint red from thumb to bottom of palm 4. Paint two sides of mustache from center of face to edge 5. Paint round nose in flesh color over center of mustache 6. Paint eyes, cheeks & mouth 7. Paint white edge of hat and tip of thumb 6. Add ribbon and write "Merry Christmas 2013 - Abbey, 3 years old" on back

1, 2, 3! | Can Decorate the Christmas Tree!

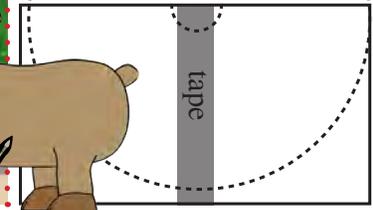
Your class will love this sticky activity

Materials: • Green poster board, 3 sheets • Clear contact paper or strong spray adhesive • Hot glue • Misc. decorations • Scissors • Paper plate • Pencil • String • Duct tape

This craft can be done in 3D, shown here, in 2D by cutting a large tree shape from butcher paper and attaching to a wall.

Directions: 1. Lay two pieces of poster board side by side, long sides together and tape 3. Using the pencil tied to string method, draw a half-circle as large as possible on the poster and cut out 4. Cut a small half circle in the center of the top edge as shown 5. Bring flat edges together overlapping slightly, use hot glue to attach 6. Repeat with a single piece of poster board for the top cone 7. Cut a circle in the paper plate large enough to fit snugly over the peak of the bottom cone, this will allow the top cone to sit above the bottom 8. Spray adhesive all over each cone, OR glue down contact paper, sticky side out 8. Hot glue paper plate in place 9. Decorate with hole punch circles, yarn, feathers, sequins, buttons, and anything else that needs to be cleaned out of the craft closet! Finish with glitter to add a sparkly, snowy effect.

Teach following directions by creating steps for decorating your tree. After making the cones and laying out all the materials, explain that you will first add yarn. Have everyone take yarn and add it to the tree. Continue with more decorations. It may be a good idea to take turns. Then after several steps allow them to finish the tree with their own creativity.



Nativity Advent Surprise! Teaching the Birth of Jesus to preschoolers

Craft: Decorate toilet paper rolls and number them. Insert lessons and figures, fold ends over to close. Hang on an advent tree in your classroom. (*Only 10 are shown for the 10 school days closest to Christmas*)

Lesson: "The Story of Christmas" by Patricia A. Pingry - This 10-page book simply states the events of the birth of Jesus and explains the reason for the season. Using it as an outline, fill each roll with a short lesson—one for each page. Add a corresponding figure from a nativity scene and Bible verses inside. When the lesson is complete, have the children add the figure to the nativity scene.

- Mon., 12/9 - Angel - Luke 1:26-33 God sent an angel to Galilee to tell Mary His will
- Tues., 12/10 - Mary & Joseph - Mary tells Joseph the news & they prepare
- Wed., 12/11 - Donkey - Travel to Bethlehem
- Thurs., 12/12 - Stable & Animals - No room at the inn
- Fri., 12/13 - Baby Jesus - Jesus is born
- Mon., 12/16 - Shepherds & sheep - Angel appears to shepherds
- Tues., 12/17 - Wise men - Followed the star to the stable
- Wed., 12/18 - Wise men - Gave him gifts
- Thurs., 12/19 - Birthday candle - Why do we celebrate? For Jesus' birthday!
- Fri., 12/20 - Tiny gift box - Why do we give gifts? To show God's love through giving





Join in the Snowman Games

Silly things to play on a chilly winter's day!

Snowman/Snowball Bowling Using the snowmen and snowballs you've made, bowl to see who can knock down the most "pins."

Toss 'em! Try a ring toss with each child's snowman and a ball toss with the snowballs into a hula hoop or basket.

How many will it take? Guess the number of snowballs it will take to fill up a jar or bucket. Label each child's guess on a large chart. Then count. The closest gets and applause!

Eskimo Walk Tape white masking tape to the floor in the shape of an igloo. Put a pile of snowballs at one end and a basket at the other. Instruct the children that they have to walk on the tape to retrieve the snowballs one at a time and fill up the basket. Try it with a big tape snowflake.

Fill 'em up! For little ones, practicing gripping the snowballs and putting them into a basket is a great motor skills game.

Popcorn Snow! Place snowballs in a blanket or a parachute. Everyone holds a piece of the blanket and pops the snowballs up and down. Try it softly, then wildly!

a Snowman just for me!

Materials: •POM juice bottle, empty •Snow Paint (see below) •White, black & orange craft paint •Small hats from craft store •Strips of fabric

Directions: 1. Apply Snow Paint to the bottle, covering completely 2. Let dry 3. Apply face and buttons with craft paint and let dry 6. Glue on hats (these can also be made with construction paper) 7. Tie strip of fabric on for a scarf

No-Melt Snowball

Materials: •White yarn •Scissors •Cardboard

Directions: 1. Cut 2 donut shapes out of cardboard; the bigger the donut, the bigger the snowball (*And the more yarn it takes*) 2. Cut 1 slit in each donut 3. Stack the donuts with slits aligned 4. Wrap the yarn around the donut (*see photo 4*) until there is no more room left 5. Cut the string to detach it from the skein of yarn 6. Cut the yarn around the edge of the donut (*see photo 5*) 7. Cut another piece of yarn at least 6 in. long 8. Slide it between the donuts (*see photo 5*), tying a knot to secure it tightly 9. Remove the donut 10. Fluff and trim your snowball!

This can also be done without the cardboard by wrapping the yarn around your hand or two hands spread apart. However, results vary.

Snow Paint!

Easy, minimal-mess 3D paint dries and looks just like snow!

Materials: •Shaving cream •White glue •Glitter (if desired)

Directions: 1. Mix 1 part glue and 1 part shaving cream. 2. Add a small amount of white paint and as much glitter as desired (*see photo 1*) 3. Using a popsicle stick (or fingers!) apply



Experience **SCIENCE** in the Classroom: **Freeze & Melt**

Snowman Science

A snowman made of ice is very, very nice!

Fill three balloons with water, the next slightly more than the last. Place in freezer on a flat surface. Place a heavy flat object on top of each so that the balloons form a flat top and bottom. Leave until frozen. When fully frozen, cut away balloons. Stack sections in a tray by placing a small piece of paper towel in between. Add construction paper face, buttons and hat. Arms are made of bent popsicle sticks. Make observations. What is in the bottom of the tray? Does he look wet? Return after some time and make new observations. Continue until your snowman is a puddle!

(To speed activity apply heat with a hair dryer)

BE MINE VALENTINE!



VALENTINE ORNAMENT

MATERIALS: •Yarn •1/4 c. cornstarch •1/2 c. water
•Heart-shaped cookie cutters •Parchment paper or aluminum foil

(For label: •Ribbon •Paint pen •Hot glue)

DIRECTIONS: Mix cornstarch and water. Heat until thick and translucent. Cut yarn into pieces. Place cookie cutters on parchment paper. Dip pieces of yarn into glue mixture and squeeze off excess. Lay gluey yarn into cookie cutter until a thin layer covers the bottom. Make sure yarn covers the whole outer edge of the heart. Gently lift off the cookie cutter. Press yarn down to ensure a tight hold. Add a piece of gluey yarn in a loop at the top for hanging. Let dry. If needed, place in a low oven for an hour or so. If ribbon is desired, write "Happy Valentines 2014" on three pieces of ribbon with a paint pen or puff paint and feed through ornament. Secure with hot glue.

VALENTINE CARD

MATERIALS: •Card stock •Cat coloring pages •Glue
•Crayons •Perm. marker •Tape •Scissors

DIRECTIONS: Have children use crayons to decorate the cat coloring pages. Fold card stock in half. Cut out the cats and glue them to the outside of the card. Write "You're the Purr-fect Valentine!" on the front of the card and "Happy Valentine's Day" inside. Have child sign their name and write the year. Attach ornament to front with tape.



Candy Heart Games



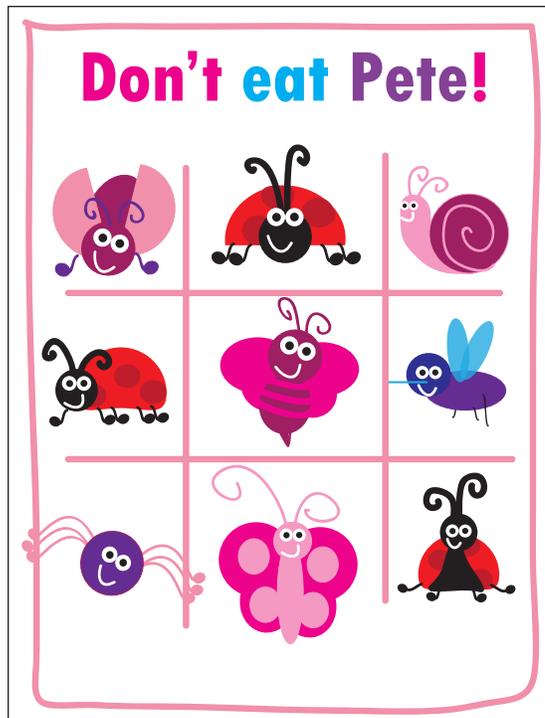
More fun!

Group and sort the candy hearts by color

Play candy heart BINGO!

How tall will they stack before they fall?
Guess and test!

Make candy heart letters, numbers and shapes by gluing hearts on dotted lines



Don't Eat Pete!

Put a candy heart on each love bug. Pick a child to be "it." Have them close their eyes and ears. The rest of the class decides which love bug is Pete. Then the child who is "it" starts eating candy hearts one at a time. When he or she starts to eat the designated Pete, the rest of the class shouts, "Don't eat Pete!"

Playing charts can be found online by searching, "Don't Eat Pete"

MILK CARTON MAILBOX

MATERIALS: •Milk carton, washed •Card stock •Glue stick •Hot glue
•Scissors •Decorations

DIRECTIONS: 1. Open top of carton (photo 1) 2. Cut all but back flap of the top (photo 2) 3. Fold back flap so it lays flat on the top of the carton and hot glue (this is now the front) 4. Fold 2 sheets of 8.5 x 11 in. card stock in half long-ways and cut along fold (photo 3) 5. Measure against sides of carton for width and trim 6. Cover back of carton with one strip of card stock, covering the glued flap and folding so it makes the door of the mailbox (photo 4), use glue stick to secure 7. Stack two strips of stock and cut curve in top 8. Glue to sides of carton 9. Cut opening in back at bottom (photo 6) by cutting three sides of a square 10. Cover bottom of back with card stock and glue down 11. Place hot glue along the back half of the curved edges and lay the last strip of paper along it, use glue stick to attach the rest to the back of the carton 12. Cut arched handle from card stock and glue to door and decorate!

Valentines go in the top and can be retrieved from back opening!

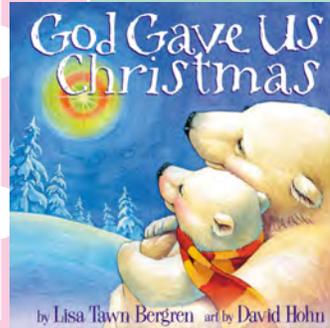


Book Review!



God Gave Us Christmas

by Lisa Tawn Bergen
illustrated by David Hohn
for ages 3 and up



"Who 'vented Christmas...was it Santa?" Baby Bear asks. Mama Bear explains that God gave us Christmas when he gave us Jesus. The two set out into the winter night to find God. Baby Bear soon discovers that God is every where because he created our world. Without spoiling Santa, this warm story points readers back to the power and great love of God.

Snowmen at Night

by Caralyn Buehner
illustrated by Mark Buehner
for ages 3 and up



Ever noticed that snowmen look a little lumpy and sloppy in the morning? Well, it's because they have a ball all night long! Expressive illustrations and inventive story are what made this a New York Times Bestseller. To top it off, children will love hunting for the hidden shapes on each page. Whether you need a story to round out an activity or one to read before nap time, this is great addition to any winter day.

It's A Small World I Love You!

written by Disney Book Group
for all ages



This board book takes readers around the world. Learn to say, "I love you!" like Monique in France, Pilar in Argentina, Ling in China and more. The phonetic is written under each phrase for correct pronunciation. With its bright, simple-shape illustrations, this book is as sweet as they come!

Hello Kitty Hello Winter!

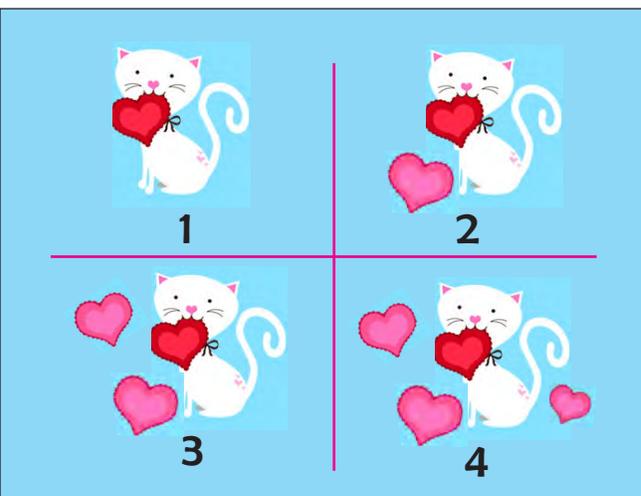
written by Sanrio
for all ages



Hello Kitty is enjoying the seasons all year long! A book for each time of year, Hello Kitty experiences every sight, sound and activity. For winter she explores the ice by skating, fishing and playing hockey. Then she escapes the chilly air by warming up with a cup of hot cocoa. The perfect book for a discussion with preschoolers about what winter brings.

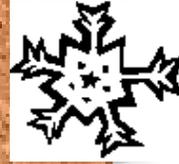
Count the Candy!

Count the hearts in each square and place the correct number of candy hearts. Make a large, class-size version with lots of boxes and count them out together!



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings for a Happy New Year!

F Y I



You can contact CCR @ 214-373-4744
www.childcareresourcesinc.com

Manhattan Group

Manhattan Toy Quixel Baby Rattles

Hazard: Colored arches break, creating a choking hazard

Description: Plastic rattles have four colored arches--red, orange, green and blue with sliding beads on each of the arches. They are held together by a single string of red, white and blue elastic. The arches measure about 5 in. in diameter.

Product was sold with and without a box.

"Manhattan Toy" is printed on one of the arches.

Sold: Toy and baby stores across the U.S. and Canada, as well as online at www.manhattantoy.com from September 2011 through October 2013 for about \$15

Manufactured in: China



product RECALLS