

Christmas craft activity workshop

We are going to make a Christmas Wreath using a cut out paper plate and adding some natural items such as leaves, twigs, nuts and dried fruit. This is a great activity that provides plenty of learning opportunities as listed below:-

Personal, social and emotional

- Interaction and cooperation between the two of you, as well as turn taking and sharing of resources

- Boosts self esteem and confidence as they are contributing and making their own creations, they enjoy praise and the responsibility of carrying out their own tasks.

Communication and language

- Understand simple sentences of what to do and follow instructions
- Learn new vocabulary (this could be of items you are putting on the wreath)
- Demonstrate listening by responding to what has been said
- Sharing thoughts, experience of activity
- May understand use of objects ie glue spreader, paintbrush
- May question things

Physical

- Control in using tools (glue spreader and paintbrush)
- Fine manipulative skills in picking up small objects (leaves, twigs etc)

Expressive arts and design

- Exploration of materials (glue, paint, leaves etc)
- Interest in textures, describe textures

Understanding of the world

- Notice features of the objects used in the activity (shape, feel and look)
- If you go on a walk to collect the items you could draw attention to the environment around them.

Literacy

- Write their name on the back and give them a pen to make their own marks. They are writing their name in their own way.

Maths

- Encourages to select a small amount, can you pass me a leaf? 2 sticks? another please? you have lots, can I have more? All developing their learning of quantity.
- They may notice simple shapes of the objects
- They may categorise by putting all of 1 item in one area and another in another in one place

These are some learning opportunities, the list is endless! So have fun making

Hope you have had fun making your decoration. Here are a few other ideas you could have a go at:-

- Make a wreath out of a paper plate and decorate with hand prints of your child (made by painting their hand and placing on paper to make a print) cut them out and glue them around the edge to make a wreath.
- Simple card shape decorations to hang on the tree. You could do a bauble shape or star and decorate with glue, glitter or sequins. You could also paint it or draw with felts to decorate.
- Clay hanging or salt dough decorations. Using cutters such as a circle or star shape (you could use a small tumble pressed down to make a circle shape) remember to put a hole at the top with a pencil before it sets or dries.
- Paper chains – get your child to decorate pieces of paper, this could be with pens, paint, glue and glitter. Then cut out into strips and make a circle with one strip by gluing each end. Next put your next strip through the circle and join again by sticking both ends together, they are now linked. Continue like this until you have a chain that you can put around your tree like tinsel or decorate your room

Recipe for salt dough

1 cup of salt

2 cups of flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water

This will then go in the oven on 180 degrees till dry it can take from 45 mins to 3 hours depending on thickness, alternatively you can let them air dry but this will take longer.

Just a few ideas to get you started, but there are lots of ideas on the internet. We will be asking children to bring in a tree decoration to decorate our playgroup tree. It can be one you have already have or if you are in the mood for a challenge you could decorate one yourselves. Have fun!