

Advent Calendar – Mommy Camp Christmas Edition

Snowy Christmas Science

For the trees:

- Small pine boughs
- Yellow and brown play dough
- Red pipe cleaners
- Sparkles



For the Oobleck:

- 2 cups corn starch
- 3/4 cup of water
- Baking pan, bin or tray to play in

1. Decorate “trees” with pipe cleaners and sparkles
2. Cover with oobleck “snow” Be sure to point out how the fluid changes when they quickly press it vs. when they slowly move their hands through it.

Candy Cane Science

- 2 candy canes
- water
- vinegar
- 2 bowls



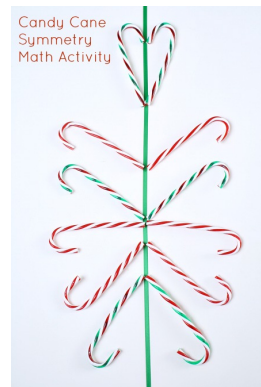
1. Hypothesize about what will happen to each candy cane when placed in the water/vinegar.
2. Place them and wait.
3. Discuss the results.

Candy Cane Math/Symmetry

- candy canes
- tape

Symmetry

1. Place a line of tape down the table/floor
2. Discuss the word symmetry.
3. 1st person lays down a candy cane and the other mirrors it on their side of the “game board”



Counting

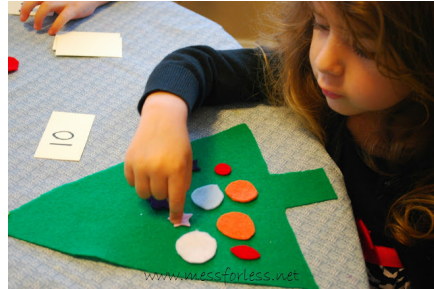
1. Draw a number card (made from paper cut outs) and place the correct number of candy canes to match.

2. Expand the counting by placing one number set on one side of the line and another on the other. Have them line them up on each side and then decide which has more or less.

Felt Christmas Tree Math

- various felt colors including green
- number cards (use from candy cane math)

1. Give a number and have them place the correct number of “ornaments” on the felt tree.



Coffee Filter Snowflakes

- coffee filters
- scissors
- ribbon
- tape/glue

1. cut out snowflakes
2. string and hang



Borax Crystal Ornaments

- Borax
- Pipe Cleaners
- String
- Craft sticks
- Jars or glasses
- Food coloring (optional)
- Boiling water



1. Bend pipe cleaners into different shapes, then tie them with string to the craft sticks. It's important not to make the shapes too large if you are using mason jars because the rim is narrower than the jar itself, and you need to be able to get the crystals out once they have grown.

2. Leave on the shelf for several hours or overnight, until the solution has completely cooled down and crystals have formed on the pipe cleaner.

Tape Resist Glitter Forest

- Large piece of sturdy paper (card stock is perfect)
- Masking tape
- Tempera paint and brushes
- Glitter

1. Tape trees
2. Paint
3. Glitter



Holiday Optical Illusions

See Printout

Bendy Candy Canes

- parchment paper
- candy canes



how to
BEND
candy
canes

1. Place on parchment paper and put in oven at 250 degrees for 10 minutes
2. Cool slightly and bend. You can use chopsticks to manipulate them too.

Baking Soda and Vinegar Cookie Cutters

- baking soda
- vinegar
- food coloring
- a large pan/dish to contain the play
- containers for the colored vinegar
- a dropper/pipette {or even just spoons}
- Christmas themed cookie cutters

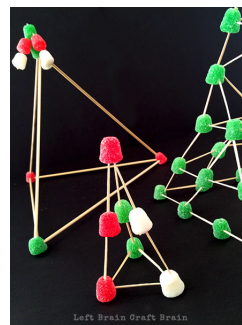


1. Place cookie cutters in your large pan/dish.
2. Fill the cookie cutters with baking soda.
3. Pour vinegar in containers and add food coloring. {We used red and green for Christmas colors.}
4. Place the colored vinegar containers alongside a dropper or spoon.

Gumdrop Christmas Trees

- Gumdrops (lots of them!)
- Toothpicks
- Bamboo skewers

Encourage play and building experimentation.



Santa Marshmallow Math

- marshmallows
- printout
- dice

Candy Cane Hunt

- candy canes

1. Hide candy canes for finding

Paper Plate Christmas Tree Art

- paper plates
- green paint
- various stickers and gems

1. Cut plate into 4 pie shapes to create.
2. Paint plate pieces green and let dry.
3. Decorate with stickers and gems and hang.



Dramatic Play Salt Dough Cookies

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup warm water

1. Mix ingredients and form shapes
2. Bake for 2+ hours at 200 degrees and let cool
3. Paint



Gingerbread play dough

- 1/4 cup Molasses
- 3/4 cup Cornstarch (cornflour)
- 4 tsp Baking Soda
- 2 tsp Water
- 2 tbl Vegetable oil
- 1/4 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp Allspice
- 2 Tbl + 2 tsp Flour

1. Mix the cornstarch, baking soda, cinnamon, and allspice.
2. Then add the water, oil, and molasses.
3. Add 2 tablespoons of flour.
4. Then keep adding flour 1/2 teaspoon at a time, mixing well after each addition, until

your dough is no longer sticky.

5. Pair with cookie cutters, cookie tins, kid oven, bakers hat and a child sized rolling pin for a dramatic play station

Christmas Play Dough Mats

- green, red and white playdough
- play dough mats

Christmas Glasses Craft

- printable
- glitter
- glue
- colors

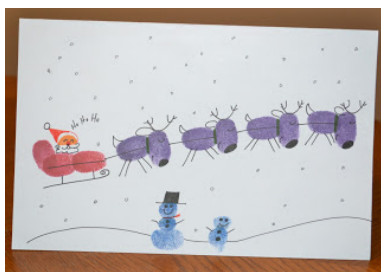
Gingerbread Paper Dolls

- [dolls](#)
- [house](#)

Foot Print Art



Santa's Sleigh Thumbprint Art



Make a Gingerbread House (graham crackers)

Watch the Grinch and Grinch Craft

- Plastic
- Cotton balls
- Paper
- Tape
- Glue
- Small green envelope (optional-or a white envelope with green paper glued to it)



Directions for card assembly:

1. Print the card out and cut out the inside of the heart to make a peek-a-boo card. Another option would be to leave the heart as is, and use markers to color it.
2. Use the heart cutout from step 1 as a template and trace the heart on some clear plastic like cellophane or a bag. Then draw a Grinch face, and cut out the heart. If you don't want to draw his face on your own, you can trace it from the book or a photo online.
3. Tape the plastic heart to the inside of the card.
4. Stretch out a cotton ball and glue it around the heart
5. Cut out hearts, and write down why you or your kiddos love and appreciate the card recipient. This is the best part! If your kiddo is having a hard time thinking of ideas, ask questions like What is your favorite thing to do with ____? What do you miss about ____? Why are you thankful for ____? You could also skip the heart part, and write the reasons on the card.
6. Place the hearts in an envelope and glue the front side of the envelope to the card, so the opening of the envelope is up.

Wrap Christmas Presents/Dramatic Play Wrapping Station

- wrapping paper
- scissors
- tape
- bows
- tags

Bake Peppermint Cookies or Brownies

- box brownie mix/sugar cookie
- peppermint extract
- candy canes

1. Follow box directions and add a few drops of peppermint oil to batter.
2. Crush candy canes and sprinkle on top of batter in pan.