

# CRAFTY KIDS



- 20 fun and budget friendly activities
- Great ideas for rainy days and holidays
- Quick and easy ideas for young children



***Bringing the light of Christ into communities***

A division of churches of Christ in Queensland and working with Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas

# Sugar clay

## Materials:

- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup of cold water
- 5 cups of boiling water
- food colouring.

## Procedure:

1. Mix food colouring into cold water.
2. Mix sugar, flour, and cold water together.
3. Add boiling water and cook for five minutes stirring constantly.
4. Knead when cool.

# Playdough

## Combine in saucepan:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar.

## Procedure:

1. Add and whisk until smooth:
  - 1 cup water
  - 1 tbsp oil
  - food colouring (cake decorators paste or liquid makes great colours)
2. Cook over medium heat until playdough is nearly set.
3. Add 1 tbsp imitation vanilla extract.
4. Stir until vanilla is blended, then remove and knead when cool. Store in zip-lock bag or airtight container. The vanilla extract seems to improve the texture and adds a nice scent as well.

# Cinnamon and spice dough for ornaments

## Materials:

- 1 1/2 cups of flour
- 1 1/2 cups of ground spices (cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, allspice)
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water (you may need to add a bit more depending on how dry the dough is).

## Procedure:

1. Mix everything together. Knead the dough until it is pliable and not sticky.
2. Have the children use cookie cutters to create ornaments. Bake at 150°C for half an hour.
3. Check the ornaments, if they are not hard enough, bake for another 15 minutes.
4. These ornaments smell GREAT even after they have been baked.



## Goop

### Materials:

- 2 packets of cornflour
- 2 cups water
- food colouring
- large container
- plastic or newspaper-covered table, outdoors
- apron.

### Procedure:

1. Adult: mix the water and colouring into cornflour.
2. The goop should have a thick consistency, add extra water if necessary.
3. Put on aprons.
4. Plunge hands into the goop and feel the consistency. Use words to describe the feeling: 'sticky, slimy, cool' etc.
5. Enjoy exploring the behaviour of goop; it runs through the fingers, swirls slowly and has a pleasant, heavy feeling.
6. This activity looks messy but clean up is quite easy. Goop can be picked up or wiped off the table and easily washed off hands. However, aprons should be worn.



## Soap snow

### Materials:

- 2 cups soap flakes
- 1/2 cup cold water
- cardboard or heavy paper
- piping bag
- food colouring
- electric mixer
- mixing bowl and a small bowl.

### Procedure:

1. Put cold water into a bowl.
2. Adult: turn mixer on and add soap flakes. Beat until stiff. Do not underbeat.
3. Put portion of soap snow into smaller bowl, add colouring and beat thoroughly.
4. Put into piping bag and let children pipe onto paper.
5. Repeat with another colour. Soap snow dries to a fluffy, fragile texture.
6. Caution: this mixture clogs drains.





## Soap crayons

### Materials:

- 1 cup of soap flakes
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tbsp cooking oil
- food colouring

### Procedure:

1. Mix all the ingredients together, making sure there is lots of colour, until it is a thick paste with no lumps
2. Roll into thick crayon like sticks.
3. Leave for a few days to dry.

## Slime

### Materials:

- 1 cup Lux flakes
- 2 litres warm water
- egg beaters
- large plastic container
- food colouring (optional)
- kitchen gadgets such as a funnel, cup, whisk, soup ladle, sponges, etc

### Procedure:

1. Adult: dissolve soap flakes in warm water in a large plastic container. Add food colouring if desired.
2. Allow mixture to stand until it becomes thick, add more water if necessary.
3. Beat mixture with eggbeaters. Children can help too!
4. Use the kitchen gadgets to pour, measure, scoop, beat and whisk.
5. Children can also use words to describe how the mixture feels and what they are doing. Do not put down drain as this can clog your drains.

## Colourful creative salt

### Materials:

- 5-6 drops food colouring
- 1/2 cup household salt or rock salt

### Procedure:

1. Add 5-6 drops food colouring to 1/2 cup salt. Stir well.
2. Cook in microwave for 1-2 minutes or spread on waxed paper and let dry.
3. Store in an airtight container.
4. Use as you would glitter.

## Chalk

### Materials:

- 1 cup plaster of paris
- 1 cup of water
- powdered tempera paint or food colouring.

### Procedure:

1. Adult: mix plaster of paris and the water together.
2. For coloured chalk add paint or food colouring.
3. Let mixture stand for a few minutes and then pour into mould.
4. Dry completely for at least 24 hours.



## CD mobile

Use some old CDs that you no longer need and make a mobile.

This will catch the children's eyes and sometimes the sun.

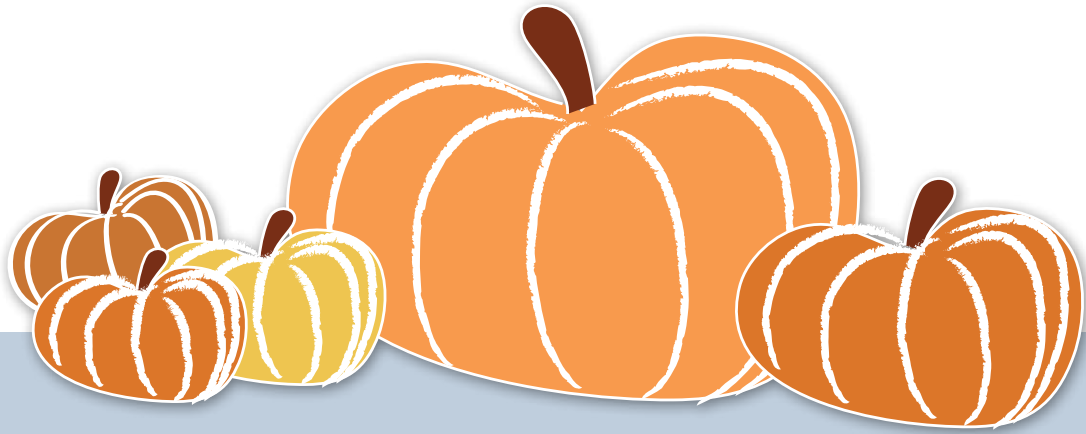
It will cast different colours on the wall.  
This mobile is a bit like a crystal sun catcher.

## Spaghetti painting

### Procedure:

1. Adult: cook 500gms of spaghetti and toss it with a little oil so it won't stick together.
2. Give each child a handful and have them dip the spaghetti into pie tins of paint, then place it onto construction paper.
3. If they don't want to use their hands, have them use tongs. It looks really cool and it's okay if they mix the colours!

# Five little pumpkins craft activity



## You'll need:

- orange and brown construction paper
- glue
- scissors
- ice block craft sticks.

## Method:

1. Cut out a fence with the brown paper and cut out pumpkins with orange paper.
1. Glue the pumpkins on the craft sticks (five).
1. Now you are ready to sing the five little pumpkins song:

### Five little pumpkins song

**5 little pumpkins sitting on the gate, the first one said “My it’s getting late”.**

**(take away one pumpkin stick)**

**4 little pumpkins sitting on the gate, the first one said “My it’s getting late”.**

**(take away one pumpkin stick)**

**3 little pumpkins sitting on the gate, the first one said “My it’s getting late”.**

**(take away one pumpkin stick)**

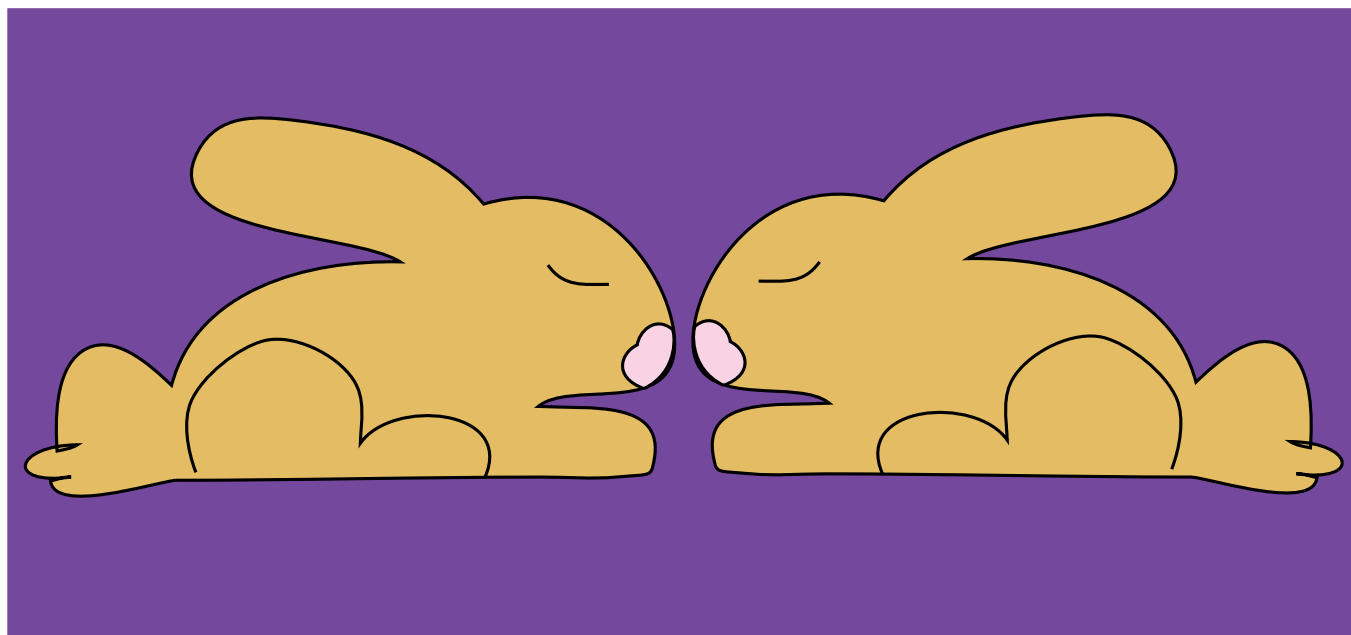
**2 little pumpkins sitting on the gate, the first one said “My it’s getting late”.**

**(take away one pumpkin stick)**

**1 little pumpkin sitting on the gate, he said “I guess it’s getting late”.**

## All the bunnies activity

Have children lie on the floor, pretending to sleep as they set up for this song. It can be done even in a relatively small space.



### All the bunnies song

**All the bunnies fast asleep**

**All the bunnies not a peep**

**If I should sing my song today**

**Will all those bunnies get up and play?**

**(Children get up and hop around room)**

**Get up little bunnies hopping, hopping**

**Get up little bunnies hop, hop, hop.**

**Get up little bunnies hopping, hopping**

**Get up little bunnies hop and stop!**

# Handprint rainbow

**Children will see that every hand print is different as they work together on a cooperative art project.**

## What you need:

- coloured paints of your choice
- large paper or cardboard
- trays to put paint on for hand prints
- optional: rubber gloves.

## What you do:

1. Ask the children, “Who would like to make a rainbow with their hand print?”
2. Ask the children to choose a colour they want their hand print to be.
3. Ask each child to put their hand out, spreading their fingers.
4. Let the child dip his/her hand into the colour of their choice.
5. Place the child’s hand onto the row of their colour choice.
6. Discuss the differences in size and shape of all the children’s hand prints.



## Handy hints

- Use the kitchen sponges that you are able to put soap into the handle, and fill with tempura paint. The children love to sponge paint with these.
- Use empty film canisters to put glue in so that each child gets an individual portion and doesn’t waste too much! You can also fill them with acrylic paint for fine brush painting for the older children as well.
- Collect several hole punchers (circle, star, bears, etc). Let your children make several punches on different coloured paper. Give each child a piece of contact paper. Let them arrange the paper punches on the paper. This makes a great sun-catcher.
- Another way to paint is to use roll-on deodorant bottles. The ‘roller-ball’ can be pried out with a butter knife. Empty, clean and refilled with paint.

## Food for feathers and fur

### Kitty cat treats

#### You will need:

- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/4 cup skim milk powder
- 2 tbsp soy flour
- 1 tbsp wheat germ
- 1/2 tsp catnip
- 1 large egg- fork beaten
- 2 tbsp cod liver oil
- 1/4 cup water.

#### Method:

1. Combine first 5 ingredients in a bowl.
2. Beat 1/2 of egg, cod liver oil and water in a small bowl.
3. Add to flour mixture.
4. Mix well, adding a bit more flour if dough is sticky.
5. Roll pieces of dough on lightly floured surface into long ropes about 6mm (1/4 inch) in diameter.
6. Cut into 6mm pieces.
7. Repeat with remaining dough.
8. Place pieces on ungreased baking tray.
9. Bake in 175°C (350°F) oven for 15 minutes.
10. Brush with remaining 1/2 egg mixture. Bake for 2 minutes. Makes about 180 pieces.

### Fido biscuits

**Dog lovers will love these as a gift, you could also add a cookie cutter and the recipe.**

#### You will need:

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup wholemeal flour
- 3 tbsp cooking oil
- 2 tbsp instant rolled oats
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 tsp beef stock powder
- 1 tsp Gravox
- 1/3 cup water.

#### Method

1. Combine first 7 ingredients in a large bowl until a dough forms.
2. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface.
3. Roll out to 6mm (1/4 inch) thickness.
4. Cut out with a bone shaped or dog shaped cookie cutter.
5. Place on ungreased baking tray.
6. Bake in 190°C oven for about 15 minutes.
7. Combine 1/3 cup of water and Gravox mixture, turn biscuit over and brush with mixture. Bake for 10 minutes until brown. Makes about 2 dozen biscuits.



# Magnet painting

## Method:

1. Set a shallow box on top of four blocks. (two at each end). Put paper with two or three blobs of different coloured paint on it, into box.
2. Place magnet balls, paper clips, and other metal items in box.
3. Have child swipe a bar magnet under the box. This will move the items and thus the paint in the box. They will be amazed that they are painting with no brushes! It sometimes takes some experimentation to find metal objects that work well for this activity.

# Ladybug rock pets

## What you'll need:

- smooth, round or oval rocks, washed and dried
- acrylic craft paint in colours of your choice
- black acrylic craft paint
- 2 wiggle eyes for each ladybug
- black permanent marker
- acrylic matte sealer spray
- white craft glue (recommended: tacky glue).

## How to make:

1. Completely wash and dry all rocks.
2. Paint rocks in desired colours, remove and allow to dry. Apply second and third coats if needed. Lighter colors will require more coats than darker shades.
3. Paint head on using black acrylic craft paint. There is no pattern needed, simply paint about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the rock black in the 'front.'
4. Use a black permanent marker to draw a straight line down the center of the rock, starting at the centre of the base of the 'head.'
5. Dip the end of a large paint brush, or the eraser of a pencil, in black craft paint. Dot on the spots, reloading with paint after every dot.
6. Once the paint is dry, spray the rock(s) with acrylic sealer spray. Allow sealer to dry completely.
7. Using white craft glue, attach wiggle eyes and let dry.



# Cotton ball trees

## What you'll need:

- plastic water bottle
- 1 sheet brown felt
- 1 green skinny chenille stem
- 3 small foam flower stickers
- 2 small blue pom poms
- scrap of goldenrod coloured felt
- 1/2 bag of cotton balls
- green dust-free powdered tempera paint
- gallon size zip-lock plastic bag
- 1 sheet of green construction paper
- stapler
- scissors
- pebbles, coins, sand, or something else to weigh down bottle
- sandwich size zip-lock plastic bag
- white craft glue
- hot glue gun (optional)

## How to make trees:

1. Cut the top off the plastic water bottle. Recycle the top or save it for another project.
2. Wrap the plastic bottle in brown felt. Glue the felt to the bottle and tuck excess inside the top of the bottle. Leave bottom of bottle open as it will stand better that way.
3. Fill zip-lock sandwich bag halfway with something heavy that you don't need, such as pebbles, sand, or pennies. Close zip-lock and place inside water bottle.
4. Roll up construction paper into a cone shape and staple to hold together. Fold down the larger open end to create a solid top and staple to keep closed.
5. Place skinny end of cone into water bottle opening and glue in place.
6. Place a small amount of green powder paint into the gallon zip-lock bag, about one tablespoon.
7. Add cotton balls to the zipper bag and close. Shake until the cotton balls are covered with the green powder paint.
8. Glue green cotton balls to the construction paper form until completely covered.
9. Stick the foam flowers stickers to the 'trunk' of the tree and cut pieces of green chenille for the stems and leaves. Glue chenille pieces in place.
10. Cut small squares from the goldenrod felt. Parents, using a hot glue gun, place a dot of glue in the centre of the square and gently hold halfway closed to create the beak (until glue dries). Glue beaks to blue pom poms.
11. Glue the pom poms to the cotton balls to make it look like baby birds looking for food.



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