

# Art & Craft Guide - Unit 3: Traditions and Celebrations

## Art Vs. Craft

let the  
Process  
not the  
product  
be your  
focus

This guide provides suggestions for both ART and CRAFT experiences. Art experiences are a program requirement and must be offered daily. Crafts are optional and can be offered at your discretion. Whenever you offer a craft, please be sure that (1) the easel is also open and open-ended and (2) the art cart/art center includes a variety of 'extra' materials to encourage creativity.

- **Art** options are focused on the skill of creative expression - more open ended, less directed, and offer a variety of tools and materials for children to choose from and create freely. To discover more about process art, click [here](#).
- **Craft** options are a little more structured and incorporate the goal of exercising **fine motor skills**. These are also more project oriented and teacher guided.

Unless otherwise noted, all activities are OK for toddlers through SA, with the understanding that adults must provide appropriate supervision and age-appropriate materials.

### Implementation:

The success of Art and Crafts relies heavily on teacher implementation. Your environment and interactions will influence how children interact with art materials.

**Small groups**— Art should be facilitated in a group of no more than 4 children! **Small groups = higher quality interactions.**

**Center Vs. Activity**— Setting up an art center where students can participate as they please will provide students with a higher quality experience.

**Repetition** is necessary to gain mastery of a task. Therefore, art and craft experiences are intended

**Smocks** will help contain the mess and are required for the majority of the options. Do NOT remove children's clothing for art/craft

**Be responsive and flexible** based on your children's interest.

**Process Vs. Product**- How can teachers focus on creativity and value process over product? Click [here](#) for more information.

### Safety:

In all classrooms, teachers are responsible for (1) providing active supervision, (2) knowing children's abilities well, and (3) using good judgement about which materials each child can safely use.

**Shaving cream** is no longer permitted in any of our centers!

**Glitter** is not permitted in infant rooms and is not recommended for toddlers due to concerns about children's eyes. To substitute, dye sugar with food coloring for the same effect.

**Chokables** (any item small enough to fit in the choke tube, including wiggle eyes) are not permitted in infant and toddler rooms and should be monitored in all classrooms. Tissue paper can be used in full sheets and large pieces, but small pieces should be discarded.

**Be aware of allergies!** Double check allergy cards when preparing materials for arts & crafts (flour, cinnamon, etc.)



Look for the Gift Giving icon—this denotes art and craft activities that make great gifts to send home!

Please feel free to send your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to [db.educationteam@gmail.com](mailto:db.educationteam@gmail.com) and/or complete a Program Input Form at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/bravoinput](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bravoinput).

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### CRAFT– Paper Plate Cookie

You will need:

A paper plate for each child, brown tissue paper, pre-cut brown circles (or have older children cut their own), glue

Provide each child with the materials listed above. Encourage them to glue the tissue paper and circles to their paper plate to create a cookie!



### ART- Sticky Cookie Art

Cover brown circles– sticky side out– with contact paper. Provide black circles to represent chocolate chips or cut up straws or yarn for sprinkles. Invite children to stick the materials to their cookies!

\*Differentiate by inviting PSPK friends (who are ready for these skills) to trace a large circle with a paper plate or circular container (fruit fresh up buckets may work well) and then cut out their own cookie



### ART– Cookie Cutter Prints

Provide little ones with cookie cutters, paint, and paper. Show children how to dip the cookie cutters in paint and press them to the paper to make a print!



### ART– Tissue Paper Art

Invite students to rip and tear tissue paper, or use tissue paper previously ripped for other activities. Encourage them to arrange their tissue paper on a piece of white poster paper any way they wish. Then, show them how to use a spray bottle and spray water over the top of their tissue paper. They can pat the tissue paper down with their hands to make sure it makes a print. When they remove the tissue paper, it will make a colorful design. You can control the mess by completing this activity in a sensory bin. \*Older rooms may add a little vinegar to their spray bottles —this makes the colors more vibrant!



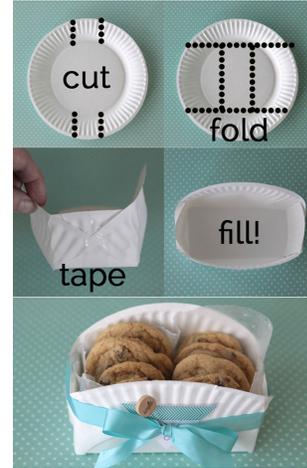
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## CRAFT– Cookie Basket Gift



Invite children to decorate the bottom side of a paper plate. Using the diagram on the right, cut and fold their decorated plate into a basket, and decorate as they wish! Use the eggless cookie recipe found [here](#)- and engage students in the process of making cookies (included in week 1 of the curriculum) to send home as gifts for their loved ones. \*Wrap cookies in wax paper before placing in gift basket.

*Remember: Proper hygiene and handwashing procedures is expected while making cookies!*



## CRAFT– Button Wreath (Ages 3+)



Invite children to string buttons onto a piece of ribbon. Once little ones have placed all of their buttons on the ribbon, help them tie the ribbon at the top to make a circle.



## CRAFT– Snowman in a Bottle (Ages 3+)



You will need: An upcycled water bottle for each child, felt, buttons, cotton balls. Invite children to fill their water bottle with cotton balls, then ask them to decorate the outside of their bottle to represent a snowman!

*\*Remember process over product is always important. Each snowman will look different and unique, and that is what makes the gifts special!\**



## CRAFT– Winter Sun-catcher



Choose holiday or winter themed cookie cutters. Place a sheet of wax paper underneath your cookie cutters. Dye glue using food coloring and show children how to squeeze the glue into the cookie cutter.

Once the glue is dried you can remove the shapes from the wax paper and hang using yarn!  
*Ages 3+ add beads, gems, and other small décor to your cookie cutters at the same time you squeeze the glue.*



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### CRAFT- Wrapping Paper Ornament



Cut pieces of craft foam into a square. Provide children with pieces of wrapping paper. They can rip it into little pieces and glue to the craft foam. Provide ribbon and allow the children to glue the ribbon to their masterpiece. Have the child pick a picture of himself to glue to the ornament!



### CRAFT—Cinnamon Dough



Click [here](#) for directions on how to make these ornaments.

- Place on wax paper to dry for 2 days, turning occasionally. Insert ribbon through holes and decorate as you wish.

\* Please note it is important to roll these thin so that there are enough ingredients for everyone. Only a limited supply of cinnamon and applesauce was ordered for your center. Please be respectful and only take what you need.



### ART - Rock Painting Paperweight Gift



Invite students to bring in smooth rocks or provide them if you'd like.

Set out paint, brushes, and any other decorative materials that you'd like (Toddler teachers beware of choking hazards).

Encourage children to create without giving much direction.



### CRAFT—Salt Dough Ornaments (All Ages)



Makes 4 ornaments: 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, food coloring

Moisten the cookie sheet with water and add a tad of oil to keep the ornaments from sticking. Mix together the ingredients and then roll out dough on a cookie sheet. Once you have your form made, use your straw to make a whole in it before children emboss their hand print. Keep in mind you need to have your dough thick enough to form the handprint. If your dough is too thin, it will not work. Place in a 150\* degree oven for an hour. Or you can air dry over night & for 24 hours.



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### CRAFT—Shake It Up!

(Ages 3+)



Use strong glue to attach a plastic toy to the inside of a jar lid, then add baby oil and glitter for a homemade snow globe; it makes an excellent gift!



### ART- Mitten Painting

Provide students with a mitten and plates of paint! Invite children to explore openly, and create a masterpiece by dipping the mitten in the paint and dabbing it on the paper.



### CRAFT - Candy Cane Keepsakes



Provide felt with a candy cane patterns for students to trace and cut out (toddlers younger preschoolers may need their felt cut out ahead of time).

Set out paint, various art cart materials such as gems, buttons, etc. to decorate with.

\*\*Toddlers must use paint only—buttons and gems are choking hazards.

Finish by hole punching and attaching a ribbon.



### CRAFT - Craft stick Kwanzaa Craft

(Ages 3+)

Provide students with a large supply of craft sticks. Give them red, black, green and yellow paint to paint the craft sticks as they please. Once the craft sticks dry provide the children with glue and show them how to glue the craft sticks together. The final product should not look exactly like the picture! It is just there for example.



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### CRAFT– Salt Dough Ornament



Using a holiday themed cookie cutter to create a shape made of salt dough. Provide little ones with a straw to punch holes in their cut out and create a lacy salt dough ornament. These can air dry or bake in the oven. Once they are finished, children can paint them.



### CRAFT - Elf Yourself

Provide each child with a photo of their face and a variety of construction paper, glue, scissors and decorate materials to Elf Themselves.

Toddler teachers, please precut various pieces ahead of time for children to choose from. (Assorted hats, legs, arms, gloves, shoes, bodies, belts, etc.) Invite them to create freely and try not to guide too much. You may want them to glue down on top of another piece of long paper like newsprint or bulletin board paper.



### ART– Funnel Painting

Provide children with a sheet of poster board paper and a funnel. Add a bit of paint to the inside of the funnel, and invite children to hold it over the top of the poster board to drip onto the paper.



### ART/CRAFT– Hanukkah Candles

Collect paper towel rolls to decorate! Have children paint their paper towel roll any way they would like. Then, provide them with a popsicle stick to paint as well. Ages 3+ can cut out a flame to glue to their popsicle stick. Toddler teachers, precut a flame ahead of time. Guide the students in gluing their flame to the popsicle stick. They can then “Light their candle” by putting the flame on top of their candle! This is a cute activity to make a classroom menorah to display during Hanukkah!



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### ART - Plastic Wrap Painting

Paper, paint, spoons, plastic wrap

Using a spoon, dribble assorted paint colors onto the paper on a flat surface. Place a sheet of plastic cling wrap over the paint, making sure the plastic covers the whole surface.

Invite children to use their fingers to move the paint around under the plastic wrap. When they are content with their work, carefully peel off the plastic wrap and let dry. Be sure to talk about all the interesting marks left by the wrap!

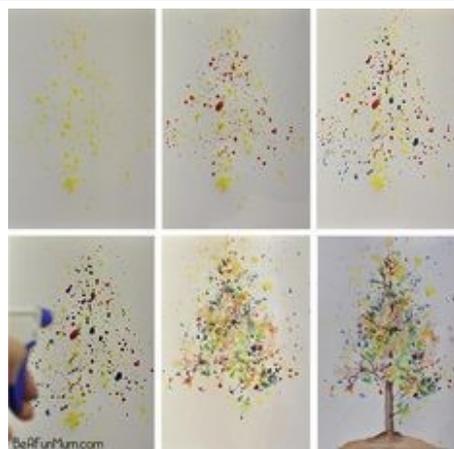


### ART - Christmas Tree Spray Art

Provide several spray bottles of diluted paint and large paper. Let them know they can use the spray paint for anything they'd like, a Christmas Tree is just one of many ideas.

Invite children to spray at their leisure and use as many colors as they'd like. Then invite them to use paint and brushes to add any additional details (trunk, tree skirt, star, etc.).

You can contain the messy by providing each child with an empty sensory bin as a work area.



### ART - Holiday Prints

With this art activity, students will get to choose their own cut out shape as well as their own paint and stamping tool. Invite pre-k and preschool students to cut out their own shape(s) from paper of your choice. Toddler teachers will need to ask toddlers what they would like and cut it out for them.

Provide assorted stamping tools and paint (plastic cups, sponges, etc.). Add hole punchers and ribbon if they would like to turn their design into an ornament or hanging.



### ART - Wax Resist Holiday Painting

Provide sturdy paper and crayons and encourage students to create a holiday scene, memory, or greeting card for some-one special.

Then, invite them to paint over the piece with diluted paint. The areas where they used crayon will resist the paint, adding an interesting science experiment to the process!



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### ART - Dance Mural

Set out bulletin board paper, a few paint colors on paper plates, and turn on some music!

Invite students to dance and create a mural together.



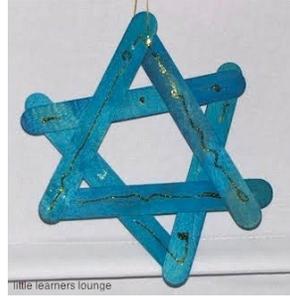
### CRAFT—Hanukkah Crafts

#### *Menorah Hands*

Provide blue, white, and yellow paint on large paper plates. You may offer glitter to PreS & PreK only. Invite children to create a menorah using their handprints.

#### *Star of David*

Provide craft sticks, paint, Offer assorted decorations to PreS & PreK (glitter, gems, etc.). Show students how to make two triangles, then glue them on top of each other to make a star.



### ART - Painting (with Wet Towel Effect)

Provide assorted paint and heavy paper either on a table top, on the floor, or at the easel.

After children have painted, provide a damp paper towel and ask if they'd like to see what happens to the paint if they brush it lightly with the damp towel.

Discuss what happened!



### ART - Winter Paper Plate Collages

Ahead of time, take a nature walk and collect items to collage with. Provide paper plates, glue, play dough, and any other decorative materials of your choice. Encourage children to create a collage with their nature items using anything they see on the table.



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### CRAFT—Kwanzaa Mat or Handprint Wreath

**Mat** - Cut tissue paper into small squares. Cut “mats” from black construction paper for each child to decorate. Hand each child a black mat (square of construction paper). Have them brush or squeeze glue on their mat and add crinkled pieces of red and green tissue paper.

**Wreath** - Give each child a white wreath cut out. Paint the children’s hands differing colors (red, green, and black) to resemble to leaves, as they stamp them on. You can add a Kwanzaa colored bow as well!



### ART- Salty Science Paintings

Invite children to squeeze lines of glue on a sturdy piece of paper. Then, provide small cups of salt with spoons or shakers to shake salt over the glue. Next, invite students to drip diluted paint (using eye droppers) onto the salty lines they’ve created and watch what happens! Let dry for a few days.



### CRAFT - New Year’s Party Attire!

**Hats**—Invite each child to help you roll the paper to a hat shape, fitting it to their head. Secure with staples. Invite children to decorate their hat using assorted art cart materials (Toddler teachers avoid gems, glitter, and other choking hazards) Toddlers can use feathers, dot stickers, paint, etc.

**Party Shakers** - Each child can choose to make a shaker with a paper plate or a tube (a portion of a paper towel roll). Invite them to choose a material to go inside (rice, beans, a couple of jingle bells, etc.). Have them pour the contents in and seal it with duct tape. Then, provide wrapping paper, tissue paper & glue, paint, and assorted decorative materials to decorate. \*You may need to help them wrap tubes with wrapping paper.



### ART- Coffee Filter Holiday Garland

Paint on coffee filters using holiday colors. This is great for Christmas, Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah.

When they are finished drying fold them over a piece of ribbon and glue to create a festive garland.



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### CRAFT - Kwanzaa Cuff Bracelet

Cut paper towel tubes in 4 pieces, then cut each piece through one side of the tube to make a cuff ahead of time. Provide paint, glue and art cart materials (sequins, gems, etc.) to decorate with.

**\*Toddler teachers avoid gems, sequins and other choking hazards. Stick with paint, dot stickers, etc.**



### CRAFT- Classroom Paper Chain

Provide a large stack of colorful, pre-cut paper. Whenever someone does something nice for you, or you observe someone doing something nice for someone else, write it on a strip and add a loop to the chain. (You'll have to get it started yourself with a few loops!) create a chain of thankfulness, kindness, generosity, friendship. This is a lovely way to focus on the true 'gifts' of the holiday season.



### ART/CRAFT- Family Collage

Provide students with open art materials and a copy of "The Family Book" by Todd Parr. Invite children to create a picture of their family. Take time to compare all of the family portraits that your class has created. Notice how each portrait is different? Each family is different and celebrates different holidays and has different traditions.



### CRAFT- Kwanzaa Necklace

(Ages 3+)

Invite students to paint pieces of pasta. They can paint them with a paintbrush, shake them in a bowl, or any other creative way they can think of. Then, guide them in stringing their dried pasta onto a piece of ribbon. Create a Kwanzaa necklace!



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### CRAFT - Photo Frames

Create holiday themed photo frames and insert a photo of little ones enjoying their day at Doodle Bugs!



How to create the frame:

- cut a piece of cardboard into a rectangle.
- cut a piece of poster board into a rectangle and cut out the center as a place to put the photo.
- Invite children to decorate their frame. Consider personalizing each photo frame by switching out the handprint theme. You can also help children create a menorah frame or a kinara frame,



### ART—Christmas Light Chalk Stencil

Provide students with black construction paper, colored chalk, and light bulb stencils. Show little ones how to use the chalk to trace around the stencil. Then connect their holiday lights with a squiggly line! Remember this isn't supposed to be perfect. Let them lead the way. Process over product!



### CRAFT - Jolly Java Jackets

Children can fashion a striped or solid sock into a reusable sleeve for coffee or hot cocoa to go.



What you'll need: Old socks, fabric scissors, buttons, felt, fabric glue

Make it: Cut 4 inches from leg of sock to form a cup cozy. Add embellishments using fabric glue.

**\* Toddler teachers avoid choking hazards such as buttons and other small decorative materials!**



### CRAFT— Rudolph Ornament

Invite children to place their handprint on a sheet of paper to create a Rudolph ornament.



**3+ use a pompom for the nose. Toddlers substitute with a dot sticker or bingo dabber.**



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### CRAFT- 3 Little Pigs

Provide students with a house cut out and scraps of construction paper that resemble straws, sticks, and bricks. Give them glue, and invite them to create freely.



### CRAFT- Jack and the Beanstalk

Draw a beanstalk outline on a large sheet of bulletin board paper for little ones to sponge paint. Cut out the beanstalk outline, and glue pictures of each child to the beanstalk.



### CRAFT- Itsy Bitsy Spider

Provide students with cutouts that portray the itsy bitsy spider song! Invite them to glue the cutouts where they choose to create an itsy bitsy spider scene. This picture is just for a guideline, and the final products should not look perfect. Remember to keep this activity child centered and open ended.



### ART- Egg Shaker Painting (Ages 3+)

Create egg shakers by placing rice in Easter eggs. Leave out a generous amount of paint and egg shakers or other instruments to paint with! Show little ones how to tap their instruments on the paper to create musical art.



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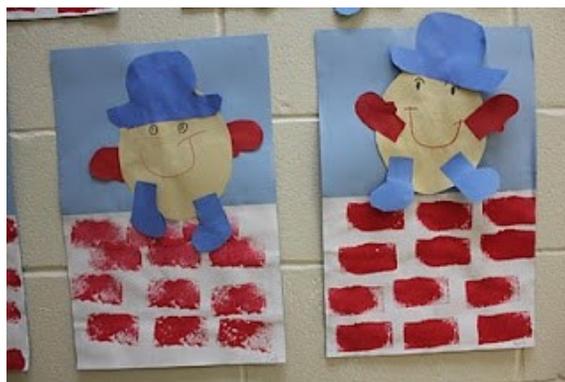
### ART - Painting with Ice

- Craft sticks, ice cube trays, paint, newsprint
- Freeze diluted paint in ice cube trays ahead of time. Add craft sticks half way through freezing to make a handle.
- Give the children a piece of newsprint and their choice of ice cube.
- Have them create an icy masterpiece by rubbing the colored ice onto the newsprint.
- Encourage the children to dip their ice in paint to give the color more pigment.



### CRAFT- Humpty Dumpty Block Painting

Use blocks and paint to create a wall for humpty dumpty to sit on! Then provide little ones with a humpty dumpty cutout to glue on their wall.



### ART- Mitten Painting

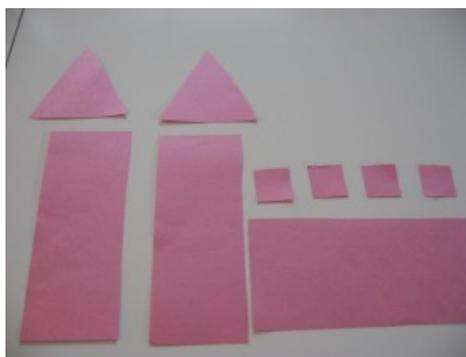
Give your students mittens and paint. Invite them to explore the materials provided to engage in process art.



### ART/CRAFT- Shape Castles

Cut out different shapes for little ones to create their own castles with! Preschool and pre-K students can cut out their own shapes. Toddler teachers please precut the shapes for them. Provide pictures of castles and allow them to create their own story to go along with their castle.

This can also be adapted to be an open art experience. Simply invite children to make anything that they would like with the pre-cut shapes.



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## CRAFT - 3 Little Kittens

- You will need construction paper, crayons, glue, art cart materials, craft sticks, \*scissors and yarn for PreS, PreK use only.
- Provide each child with a variety of construction paper, glue, scissors and decorative materials to create a Three Little Kittens puppet!
- Toddler teachers, please precut shapes ahead of time.
- Invite them to create freely and try not to guide too much.
- Glue a large craft stick on the back and use them while reciting The Three Little Kittens .



## ART– Rolling Pin Yarn Prints

Wrap a rolling pin in yarn and show little ones how to roll it back and forth. This may be a little difficult and require narration of what exactly you are doing. Then, squirt some paint directly onto a piece of paper. Show children how to roll the rolling pin around and create an exciting picture.



## CRAFT— Book Making (Ages 3+)

- Large paper plates (2 per student), google eyes or dot stickers, construction paper or felt
- Outline or cut out spoon shape ahead of time.
- Prepare insert for books (copy of Hey Diddle Diddle)
- Invite children to create their dish and spoon cover as they wish and have them glue the rhyme inside.



## ART/CRAFT– Paper Bag Book (Ages 3+)

You will need : 3 paper lunch bags per child, yarn, a hole punch, and lots of art materials

Fold three paper lunch bags. Punch two holes in the middle of the paper bags on the seam. Thread a piece of yarn through and tie a knot in the middle. Load the table full of art supplies (crayons, stickers, scraps of paper) and glue sticks. Little ones can create their own story. The lunch bags will naturally create pockets that students can store note cards and other fun materials in as well.

