Christmas crafts for kids

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Easy Christmas crafts for kids use what's already in the house: paper chains, paper stars, a handprint wreath, a toilet-roll reindeer or a sock snowman. The 25 cards below are sorted by age, each with its time, mess level and what you need, and the steps are one tap away.

Pick by age and time

By age: 2 to 4, 4 to 7, 7 and up. By time, with the age each one starts at:

- About 10 minutes: Torn-paper tree (2+), Fingerprint string of lights (2+), Gift tags (4+), Paper stars (5+), Origami star (8+)
- 15 to 20 minutes: Cotton-ball snowman (3+), Paper-plate Santa (3+), Paper-plate wreath (3+), Potato-stamp wrapping paper (3+), Paper chains (4+), Beach Christmas card (4+), Toilet-roll reindeer (4+), Paper Christmas beetle (5+), P?hutukawa flower card (5+), Twig tree (5+), Paper-cone tree (5+), Six-sided paper snowflake (7+), Pop-up present card (7+), Folded 3D star (8+)
- 25 to 30 minutes: Handprint wreath (2+), Sock snowman (5+), Woven paper heart (9+)
- Plus drying time: Pine-cone tree (4+), Salt-dough ornament (4+), Tissue-paper window star (5+)

An age is where a child can start with help. Older children enjoy the early ones too, and a five-year-old can do plenty of the younger group alone.

What's in the craft box

Nothing here needs a trip to a craft store. The whole page runs on paper, a glue stick, tape, kid scissors, crayons and a little washable paint, plus what would otherwise go in the recycling: cardboard tubes, cereal boxes, old greeting cards. Odd socks finally have a job. If you're short of one thing, swap it: a torn magazine page makes as good a tree as green paper.

Three things to do before you start

- Cover the table. Old newspaper or a flattened box saves the most cleaning, and the mess level on each card says when you'll want it.
- Clear the small things. With a baby or toddler in the house, put the rice, buttons, cotton balls and rubber bands away as soon as the bigger child has finished with them.
- Read the grown-up steps first. They are in bold. There are no real candles or flames in any step, and nothing that needs a battery. The only heat on the page is an oven, on one card, and that's a grown-up's job.

When Christmas comes in summer

It's the start of summer in Australia and New Zealand in December, so a paper snowman can look like a joke (a good one, if you like). Three cards start from where you are: the Beach Christmas card, the P?hutukawa flower card and the Paper Christmas beetle. Stars, chains, gift tags and the twig tree don't mind the weather.

Questions parents ask

What are some easy Christmas crafts for kids?

Paper chains, paper stars and gift tags are the easiest, and each takes about ten or fifteen minutes with paper you already have. For a child who can't cut yet, try the torn-paper tree or the fingerprint string of lights.

What Christmas crafts can a toddler do?

Tearing, pressing and printing. The torn-paper tree, the fingerprint lights and the handprint wreath all work from about age 2 with a grown-up beside them, and a grown-up does the cutting.

Which crafts work for a whole class?

Paper chains and paper stars, since each child needs only paper and kid scissors and a room's chains can be joined into one long one. The fold-and-cut snowflake suits older grades. Leave the paint and the rice for a smaller group.

We don't celebrate Christmas. Are any of these still useful?

Some families don't celebrate Christmas, and these crafts work just as well as winter crafts: snowflakes, stars, paper chains and the sock snowman have no holiday on them. The winter games are about snow and cold days too.

Can you eat salt dough?

No. It looks like cookie dough, and it isn't food: there is enough salt in it to harm a pet or a small child who eats it. Keep the dough and the ornaments out of reach. If someone eats some, call your poison center, doctor or vet.

Is this free?

Yes. Peabody is free through the end of 2027, with no ads and no sign-up to start. A phone propped up at the table is all you need for the steps.

More Christmas at Peabody

- Christmas activities for kids: every Christmas page here, and a list of things to do this month.
- Christmas games for kids for when the glue is drying.
- Christmas stories for kids to read together.
- Christmas coloring pages to color on the screen or print.

Free at peabody.kids/holidays/christmas/crafts