



Christmas Decorations

Here are a few ideas of some craft ideas to keep the children busy this Christmas season. Please tag us or comment on our posts so we can see your creations.

Have Fun 😊

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Gift Boxes

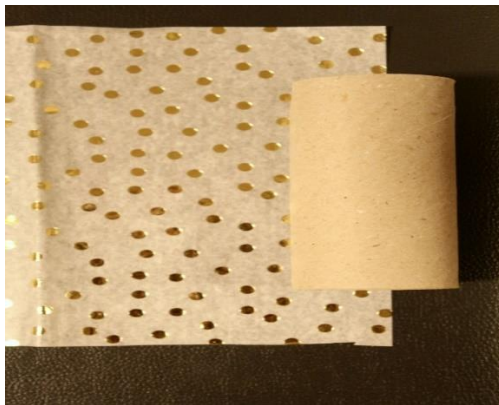
These are perfect for those small presents like jewellery or chocolates.

What you will need:

- Toilet paper rolls
- Tissue paper in colour and pattern of choice
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Ribbon in colour and pattern of choice

Directions:

1. Cut tissue paper long enough to go around the toilet paper roll three times. As for the width make it 1" wider than the paper roll, on each side.
2. Apply glue on a small portion, on the "wrong side" of the tissue paper, starting at one end
3. Start wrapping it around the toilet paper roll and add more glue as you go until you covered the whole surface and finished wrapping the whole tissues paper strip around the toilet paper roll.



4. Looking at one end of the toilet paper roll, gently press the extra tissue paper inside the roll, until all tissue paper is nicely tucked in and glued to the tube. Do the same on the other end of the toilet paper roll.
5. Press with your finger on each end of the roll to fold so each half would slightly bend towards the centre (just like a half moon). They

will slightly overlap in the middle. Make the crease nice and sharp by smoothly running your nail along it.



6. Stick your small gift inside.
7. Cut some ribbon to go around the tube 3 times, from one end to the other, wrap around and make a pretty bow, either in the middle or off centre.



8. Your little toilet paper rolls gift boxes are ready to be delivered!

Crackers

How to make your own Crackers

You will need:

- Paper towel which has been tie-dyed, tissue paper or wrapping paper
- Paper rolls – either paper towel rolls cut in half or toilet rolls. You will need as many as the number of crackers you wish to make (which might depend on how big your family is)
- Optional - Cracker snaps
- A small toy, trinket or sweet to have as the surprise.
- Tissue paper
- Double sided tape
- A stapler
- Ribbon, twine, or coloured wool to tie the ends
- Jokes

Method:

1. Make the hats to put inside the crackers. Partially unfold a sheet of tissue wrap. Cut a jagged line across the centre. Cut across the base, unfold and you will have sheets of paper crowns. Instead of sticking them into crowns place a piece of double-sided tape on one end of each crown so that they can be made to fit each head. Fold each piece into a small bundle that fits inside a cracker, it may help to tie it with an elastic band



2. Place a joke, a hat, and a surprise and if you are using them, a cracker snap inside each paper roll
3. Wrap with a square of tissue wrap, twist one end around the cracker snap and staple together with the snap so it stays in place. Repeat with the other side.
4. Wrap with a sheet of tie dyed paper towel, and tie with string, wool or ribbon

5. Make as many as you need for your Christmas table



Make your crackers in any colour combination to suit your Christmas theme.

If corny jokes aren't your thing, you could also try filling your crackers with some fascinating facts about Christmas around the world.

Advent Calendars

If you haven't been saving up toilet rolls tubes don't worry you can still make them. They won't be as sturdy but will work just the same. Get a brown paper bag or craft paper. Cut out a rectangle that measures 4 1/2 x 6 inches. Form a tube by overlapping the width ends and stapling them.

Stacked

Here is a pretty idea that can be made as individual as you want. A good way to use up those scraps of wrapping paper laying around and of course that dreaded glitter!

1. Decorate your paper toilet rolls and then make circular disks by using any cardboard you have (you can use other toilet rolls you have or cardboard from a cereal box). Don't forget to decorate these as well
2. Stick the disks on the ends making one end into a flap and put your treats inside.
3. Stick them together in the shape of a tree and stick a star on the top. Don't forget to number the tubes.



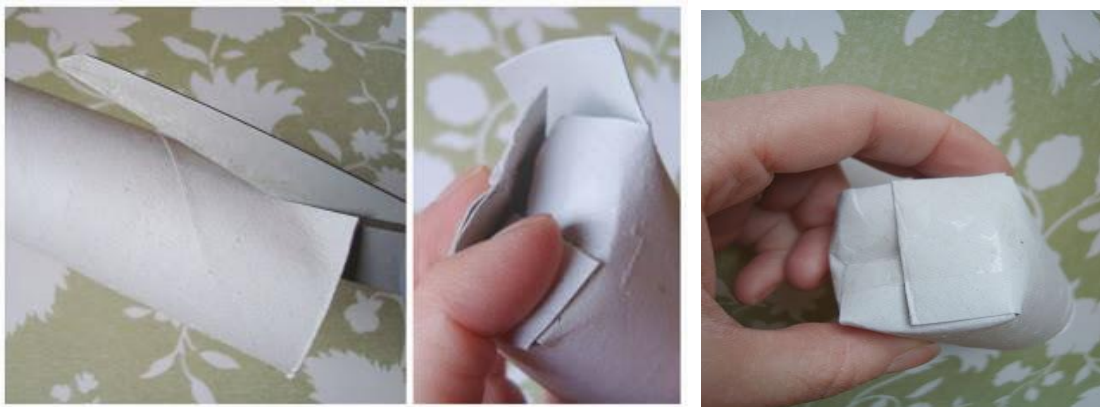
Hanging

What you will need:

- * 8-24 tubes, depending on your celebration
 - * Either mod podge or white glue for fabric OR glue stick for paper (depending on how you are decorating your tubes)
 - * 1-2 yards of twine or ribbon
 - * Rubber stamps with numerals or a permanent marker
 - * Decorative elements: fabric, scrapbook paper, ribbons, glitter, stickers, etc.
- scissors: regular and fancy edged
- * Hole puncher
 - * Tape

Make:

1. Cut four one-inch slits around the bottom of a tube. Cut an equal distance from each one.
2. You will have four sides to fold over, one after the other. Tape down after final fold. Scotch tape works, but duct tape (in clear) is the strongest.



3. Decorate each tube to your heart's content. You can opt for simple or go as mad as you want. Just remember that you have to decorate 24 tubes!



4. Flare out the top with little snips. Make up your own techniques and see what you like. Let the kids go mad!
5. Arrange your decorated tubes in the order that you will hang them.
6. Stamp your numbers on the front (the seam of the paper or fabric is the back side). You can also print out your numbers from the computer, use stickers, or write them on with a sharpie... you choose.
7. Punch holes on the top right and left side of each tube.
8. String your countdown calendar into a lovely garland. Start with the last number first. Hang up or put on the tree



Decorations

You Tube Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=TA3XngmqS18>

Christmas Trees



Materials Needed:

- Toilet Paper Roll
- Brown Paint
- Green and yellow construction paper
- Pom poms, stickers, paper punch shapes, glitter, etc.
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

1. Start by putting the empty toilet paper roll over your child's fingers (this makes it sturdier for them to paint on) let them dip their paint brush into the brown paint and cover the entire tube.
2. Depending on age, you can have the child draw the outline of a Christmas tree and cut it themselves or have them pre-cut.
3. Have them decorate the tree with whatever materials you give them and have them make a yellow star out of construction paper to put at the top of the tree. Let it sit and dry.



4. Once the toilet paper roll is dry from the brown paint, cut two slits on the sides that are straight across from each other. Stick the green construction paper tree between them. Depending on the weight of the paper you might need to make the slits a little deeper than normal.

Reindeers

Materials Needed:

- Toilet paper roll
- Scissors
- Cereal box cardboard
- Tape/Glue
- Red Ribbon
- Red tissue paper
- Black marker



1. First trace your child's hands on cardboard (this is where the cereal box comes in) then cut them out.



2. Cut two slits across from each other on the toilet paper roll and stick the handprints in them. Take a black marker and draw the reindeer's eyes!



3. Cut a small square of red tissue paper and roll it up into a ball. Make sure it's a compact ball. Roll a piece of tape and stick the red ball onto the toilet paper roll. This is going to be Rudolph's red nose!



4. Then draw a mouth coming down from the nose with a black marker. If you want, you can use some shiny red ribbon and tie it around the reindeer's body 3 times then tied it in the back.



5. There you have it! A happy little reindeer ready for Christmas!

Salt dough clay

Ingredients:

1 Cup / 128g / 4.5oz Salt

2 Cups / 256g / 9oz Flour

$\frac{3}{4}$ Cup / 177g / 177ml Water

Method:

1. Mix all of the ingredients together and then turn out the dough onto a table and knead with your hands until smooth. Get your kids to help with this step.
2. Roll it out and use cookie cutters to cut out shapes, make handprints, get each family member to put their fingerprint in it or make a pawprint one!
3. Poke a hole out of the top (or 2 if it is a larger decoration)
4. Place on a baking sheet.
5. Bake for two hours at 250 degrees Celsius/482 degrees Fahrenheit
6. Let cool completely before decorating with paint, glitter, or beads.
7. Once decorations are dry, thread a string through the hole and tie. Now it's ready for a special spot on your tree.



**CHURCH
URBAN
FUND** ⊕

**ROUGH
SLEEP** **I****N**
CHALLENGE



Snowflakes



1. Start with a square sheet of paper.
2. Fold the square diagonally in half to form a triangle.
3. Fold the triangle in half again to make a smaller triangle.
4. Divide the triangle into 3 sections and fold the left section towards the front, then the right section towards the front.
5. Flip it over so that the side with the horizontal edge is facing front.
6. Cut along the horizontal (top) edge.
7. You should have a wedge shape.
8. Keep the wedge folded and cut out random shapes out of the edges.
9. Then, open it up and you should have a one-of-a-kind snowflake.