



Gingerbread & Hot Chocolate

WTG At Home, Winter Quarter Weeks 1 & 2

Materials in Purple will be provided at November 5 Art Pickup

Art Activity: Life-Size Gingerbread Kid!

Materials: Large piece of Craft Paper, tape, sharpie, washable markers, paints, crayons, etc., dot stickers (for buttons)

Directions: Tape the paper to the floor. Ask your toddler to lie down on the paper and trace the outline of their body. Once they have been traced, give them the art materials and let them decorate their “gingerbread kid”.

Once they are finished, add dot stickers down the middle for buttons, just like a gingerbread cookie! Have a grown up cut out the Gingerbread Kid and hang for decoration!

If you're worried about mess, put down an old sheet to protect the floor or consider doing this activity in a garage.



Art Activity: Gingerbread Cookie Cutter Stamping

Materials: House-shaped cutout, Gingerbread Cookie Cutter, paint

Directions: Put paint on a paper plate, then your toddler dips the cookie cutter in the paint and uses it to print gingerbread shapes on the paper.

Alternative: Use white chalk, crayons, or markers to decorate your house

Extensions: Ask your child to add details (faces, buttons, etc.) to the gingerbread cookies they stamp, use markers or crayons to decorate the house like a gingerbread house once the cookie cutter stamps are dry.



Fine Motor: Cotton Ball Pickup



Materials: Cotton Balls, ice cube tray, muffin tray (or mini muffin tray), other small containers, small tongs, measuring spoons

Directions: Put cotton balls in a small container or on the table. Encourage your toddler to use their fingers, tongs, or measuring spoons to move the cotton balls from the container to the ice cube tray and/or muffin tin.

Extensions: Encourage the math concept of “[one-to-one correspondence](#)” by asking them to place one cotton ball in each section of the ice cube tray or muffin tin. Help your child count the cotton balls as she places them.

Fine Motor/Sensory: Pudding Painting

Materials: Pudding! (any flavor/color)

Directions: Spread pudding out on a table, highchair tray, sheet pan, or cookie sheet. Allow your toddler to “paint” with their fingers in the pudding.



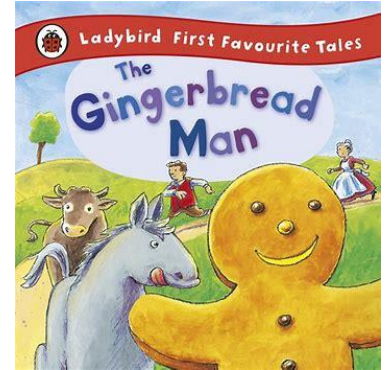
Extensions: For older toddlers, model how to draw shapes, write letters, and write numbers. See if they can copy what you have done. Encourage them to use only one finger at a time to “paint” in the pudding. Give them a piece of paper to pudding paint on so you can keep it.

Shaving cream is another material that works well for this activity, but only use if you can insure your child won't put it in their mouth.

Imaginative Play and Gross Motor: Run, Run as Fast as You Can!

Materials: “The Gingerbread Man” book

Directions: Read [“The Gingerbread Man”](#). Ask your child to pretend to be the Gingerbread Man and run while you chase them. Then ask them to do other movements, such as walk, jump, tiptoe, hop, crawl, etc.



Extension ideas: Switch roles so you are the Gingerbread Man and your child chases you. Let them direct you on how you should move. Ask your child to remember who and what chased the gingerbread man in the story. Act out those parts. You can even add props and other family members!

Imaginative Play: Gingerbread Man Finger Puppet



Materials: [Gingerbread Man Finger Puppet Kit](#)

Directions: Assemble your Gingerbread Man finger puppet. Use the puppet to act out the story of the Gingerbread Man!

Alternative: You may use any art materials you have at home to decorate your puppet!

Sensory Bin: Hot Chocolate Bin

Materials: Pinto beans, whisk, spoon, small cups, [cotton balls](#), chocolate flavored tea bags



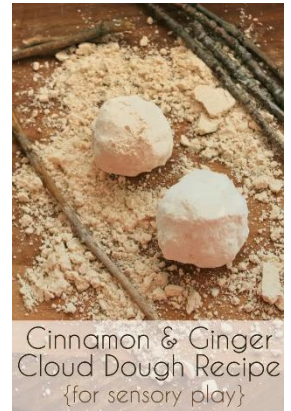
Directions: Fill small bin with dried pinto beans, cotton balls, whisk, spoon, and cups to make “hot chocolate.” Add the chocolate-flavored tea bags and cover when kiddos aren’t using it to give it a chocolate smell.

Extensions: Add a small pitcher help them practice “pouring”

Sensory Bin: Ginger and Cinnamon Cloud Dough

Materials: Flour, Olive or Vegetable Oil, ground cinnamon, ground ginger.

Directions: Put 4 cups of flour into a large bowl. Make a hole in the center of the flour and pour the oil in to it. Mix together with your hands so that all the flour becomes lightly coated with oil and the mixture begins to form a texture. Add a pinch of cinnamon and a pinch of ginger and mix thoroughly. It's play time!



Math: The Cup-Tapping Song

Materials: 4 plastic cups (7 or 9 oz)

Directions: Give your child the two cups and ask them to tap the cups together while you sing the song below. Use your own cups to model. This activity helps your child practice keeping a beat, which is patterning!

These cups are made for tapping.

It's a funny game I play!

I tap them here (tap to one side), I tap them there (tap to the other side).

Come play the game this way.

Tap in and out and in and out.

Tap down and down and down.

Tap over, under, on your head.

Tap all your body 'round!

Adaptations: If your child has trouble holding or tapping the cups, you sing and tap. Tap on different parts of their body as you sing to engage them in the song.

Extension: Create a tapping pattern and ask your child to copy it. Can you tap quietly? Can you tap loudly? Tap the cups to other favorite songs.

Songs/Fingerplays:

[Five Little Gingerbread Men in a Row](#)

[Five Gingerbread Men](#)

[Stir a Bowl of Gingerbread](#)

[Gingerbread Man](#)

[Hot Chocolate](#)

Read Alouds:

[*The Gingerbread Man*, Books Alive](#)

[*Gingerbread Friends*, by Jan Brett](#)

[*The Gingerbread Family*, by Gina Maccarone and Louise Gardner](#)

[*Why I Love Winter*, by Daniel Howarth](#)

[*I Love Chocolate*, by David Cali and Evelyn Daviddi](#)

[*Hot and Cold*, by Eric Carle](#)