



# Gifts for Giving & Celebrations

WTG At Home, Winter Quarter Weeks 3 & 4

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Materials in Purple provided at December 10<sup>th</sup> Art Pickup

## Art & Fine Motor Activity: Votive Candle Gift

**Materials:** votive holder, candle, tissue paper squares, white paper bag, Modge Podge or watered-down liquid glue, small paint brush, markers or crayons

### Directions for votive holder:

- Use a paint brush to “paint” glue onto the outside of the votive holder. Have your toddler add tissue paper squares. If your child is older, allow them to paint the glue. Remember, it is all washable!
- Keep adding more glue and tissue paper until the entire outside of the votive is covered. Encourage your toddler to overlap the tissue paper or layers. Ask them if they can make different colors with different layers of paper.
- Add one final coat of glue and allow to dry completely.



### Directions for white paper bag:

- Let your toddler decorate the bag using markers, crayons, or whatever you would like! Encourage creativity by asking them to add lots of colors and shapes. This is a perfect opportunity to work on color and shape recognition!
- When done decorating, place candle in the dried votive holder and add to the bag. Seal shut with a stapler or tie a ribbon at the top.
- Help your toddler figure out who they would like to give their special gift to. They will feel very proud and excited to share their gift with someone they love!

**Extension:** Create extra sparkle by adding glitter before the glue dries.

## Art Activity: Present Peaker

**Materials:** Two toilet paper tubes (or a paper towel tube cut in half), tape, glue, **yarn**, **stickers**, **cotton balls**

### Directions:

- Attach two toilet paper tubes together to create “binoculars”.
- Decorate the outside with stickers, cotton balls, whatever you would like!
- Attach yarn if you would like your toddler to be able to hang it around their neck as they go on a present hunt.



**Extension:** Make a fun game of looking for presents! Try hiding the presents in different places. Ask them to look for the “red box” or the one with “green wrapping.” Ask them to look for other items such as books, toys, or pets. Be as creative as you would like!



## Fine Motor & Sensory Activity: Bow Sticky Wall

**Materials:** **piece of contact paper**, masking/painter’s tape, variety of gift bows

**Directions:** Use masking/painter’s tape to attach the piece of contact paper to a wall, sticky side out. Give your toddler a variety of gift bows and let them practice attaching and taking the bows off the contact paper.

### Extension:

- Ask them to stick on a specific color
- Use spatial terms such as “top, middle, and bottom” or “above and below.”
- Sort the bows by size or make a row of bows from smallest to biggest.
- Try attaching other light weight items from around your house, such as magnets or photographs.

# Gross Motor, & Imaginative Play: Holiday Balancing Act

**Materials:** masking/painter's tape, **ornament shape printout**, markers or crayons, scissors

## **Directions for ornament shape printout:**

Have your toddler use markers or crayons to color and decorate the ornament shape printout. Once done, cut out the shapes.

## **Directions for floor tree:**

Use masking/painter's tape to create the shape of a tree on the floor. Try to add as many branches as you can! Give your toddler the ornament shapes and have them "decorate" the tree. Encourage them to walk along the masking tape to get to each part of the tree.

**Extensions:** Punch a hole in each of the ornament shapes, add some string, and hang the ornaments around your house. Your little ones will be so excited to see their art displayed for everyone to see!



## Gross Motor: Texture Walk

**Materials:** masking/painter's tape, large pieces of different textured paper such as aluminum foil, wax paper, gift wrap, felt or fabric pieces

**Directions:** Attach a variety of textured paper to the floor using masking/painter's tape. Take your toddlers socks off and have them feel the different textures with their feet – they will love it! Help them to describe the differences between the textures. Use words like soft, smooth, bumpy, shiny, slippery, fuzzy.

## Imaginative Play: Present Wrapping Time!

**Materials:** Variety of small containers or items, aluminum foil sheets

**Directions:** Toddlers just LOVE giving presents to the ones they love! Have your child “wrap” presents by using sheets of aluminum foil. The great thing is that they can wrap and unwrap gifts over and over!

**Alternative:** Let them add bows to the gifts. You can also provide sheets of actual wrapping paper or give them old gift bags and tissue paper. They will have so much fun wrapping presents for everyone!



## Sensory Bin: Jolly Jell-o

**Materials:** Jell-o mixes (red and green), cooking dish with sides

**Directions:** Make red and green Jell-o (see directions on box). Cut into squares and put the two different colors into a cooking dish with sides. Have your toddler squeeze and squish it around. Don't forget to build that vocabulary by using words like squishy, jiggy, gooey, and sticky. The best part... it is completely safe to eat!

**Alternative:** Add edible items such as cut up grapes or raisins. Or try adding items such as plastic toys or kitchen utensils.



**Extensions:** Place the Jell-O in a large plastic bin, take off your little one's socks, and allow them to squish it with their feet! They will LOVE the experience, and think it is super silly to feel Jell-o with their toes!

## Sensory Bin: Frozen Pom Poms

**Materials:** large supply of pom poms, plastic tub, squirt bottles, kitchen utensils such as spoons or spatulas

**Directions:** Put pom poms in a plastic tub, add water, and place in freezer for a few hours. Once everything is frozen together, have your toddler free the pom poms using kitchen utensils and squirt bottles of warm water.



## Science: Hidden Colors Surprise!



**Materials:** food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, squirt bottle, cupcake tin, storage tub to keep things “clean”

**Directions:** Without your kids watching, place a cupcake tin in a large storage tub. Add a couple drops of food coloring to each cupcake tin cup and sprinkle baking soda on top to hide the color. Don't let your little ones see what colors you chose! Place the tub in front of your

child and have them squirt a small amount of vinegar on top of the baking soda. (If your toddler is too young to handle the vinegar bottle, let them watch instead.) See their faces light up as the colors magically appear before their eyes!

### Extensions:

- Have your child guess what color may come next.
- Once the baking soda has been dissolved, pour the liquid into the plastic tub and watch as the colors mix together.
- Try the activity again but this time allow your toddler to choose what colors to use.

## Math: Ornament Sorting

**Materials:** cupcake tins, variety of ornaments (kid friendly)

**Directions:** Let your little one explore the different types of ornaments your family has (kid friendly ones of course!). Use the cupcake tins to help sort the ornaments into different groups. Some ideas for groupings include color, size, shape, or material. Allow them to lead the activity. You might be surprised at the types of groups your toddler can make!



## Songs/Fingerplays:

[Jingle Bells](#)

[Frozen Penguin](#)

[Winter Hokey Pokey](#)

[Snowflake, Snowflake in the Sky](#)

[Jingle Bell Rock](#)

[All You Need is Love](#)

## Read Alouds:

[‘Let’s Celebrate’ by Kate DePalma](#)

[‘I Love You Book’ by Todd Parr](#)

[‘The Kindness Book’ by Todd Parr](#)

[‘Llama Llama Holiday Drama’ by Anna Dewdney](#)

[‘I’ve Loved You Since Forever’ by Suzie Mason](#)

[‘Corduroy’ by Don Freeman](#)

