



# CHRISTMAS LITERACY



## Peppermint Play Dough Recipe



- 5 cups flour
- 2 1/2 cups salt
- 3 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 10 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Red food coloring
- Peppermint Extract (2 tsps.)
- Glitter, if desired



Combine the water, salt, cream of tartar, and the peppermint extract. Next, add the oil and the flour. Stir well. If desired, add the glitter. The mixture will be stiff and a bit crumbly. Turn the dough out onto a table lined with waxed paper and knead until the dough is smooth (if still crumbly, add a few drops of water while kneading). Separate the dough in half. Add 15 drops of red food coloring to one half of the dough (if they dough still looks pink, add more food coloring until the desired color appears. You can also use red Koolaid with good results.) Keep the play dough separated in two plastic bags.

## Let's All Do a Little Clapping

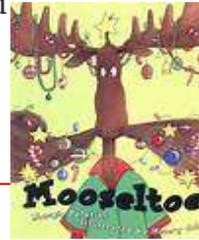
Tune: We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Let's all do a little clapping,  
let's all do a little clapping,  
let's all do a  
little clapping, & spread  
Christmas cheer.

Other Actions: Jumping,  
Snapping, Twirling, Stomping,  
Stretching, Bending

## Holiday Books

- Mooseltoe
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- T'was the Night Before Christmas
- Rudolph
- Franklin's Christmas Gift
- Clifford's First Christmas
- Llama Llama Holiday Drama



## Reindeer Poky

Tune: "The Hokey Poky"



- You put your antlers in.
- You put your antlers out.
- You put you antlers in and you shake them all about.
- You do the Reindeer Poky and you turn yourself around.
- That's what it's all about!

- You put your hooves in....
- You put your red nose in....
- You put your fluffy tail in...
- You put your reindeer body in...

## Holiday I Spy

- 1 plastic water bottle
- 1 bag plastic pellets/beads
- Christmas buttons, items or pictures
- Glue or tape

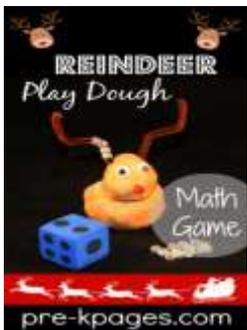
Fill a clean, dry plastic water bottle halfway with the pellets. Next, I add half of Christmas items followed by more pellets and the rest of the items. It's better not to fill the bottle all the way to the top or the objects won't move around when you shake it. Finally, seal the lid closed with glue or tape to seal it.



## Activity Websites

- <http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/ChristmasLiteracyIdeas.htm>
- <http://www.pre-kpages.com/reindeer-play-dough-game/>
- <http://www.1plus1plus1equals1.com/Christmas.html>
- <http://www.theclassroomcreative.com/2012/12/preschool-christmas-math-activities/>

## Christmas Tree Shape Match



# Family Literacy Activities for the Holidays

- ✿ Make a holiday journal, write/draw about what they have been doing daily.
- ✿ Write holiday cards and get everyone to sign their own names and help write addresses.
- ✿ Research holiday traditions from around the world on the internet or at the library.
- ✿ Having guests for dinner? Make place cards for the table.
- ✿ Let it snow! Have fun building a snowman together!
- ✿ Write thank you cards for gifts they are given.
- ✿ Lists! Write lists for everything -groceries, party supplies, gifts, cards and chores!
- ✿ Go on a winter nature walk! Talk about what you see, hear and smell.
- ✿ Write letters or e-mails to loved ones.
- ✿ Curl up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate!
- ✿ Get involved in holiday baking. Following a recipe is a great way to practice reading and math skills.
- ✿ Get together with friends and go door-to-door singing carols. Singing encourages learning patterns of words, rhymes, and is strongly connected to language skills.
- ✿ Put on your pajamas and have a family game night.
- ✿ Read a classic holiday story together then watch the movie.
- ✿ Act out a familiar holiday story using toys and props.
- ✿ Give books or magazine subscriptions as gifts. Research shows that one of the most important factors for creating lifelong readers is having lots of books and reading materials in the home.
- ✿ Box up old books and donate them to your local library.
- ✿ Watch a holiday movie together and write a review or draw a picture about it.
- ✿ Have a holiday scavenger hunt: Write a list of holiday and winter related items around your home. Give the list to your family and have them find all the items on the list.

