



# THE CHILD CARE EXTENSION

## CHRISTMAS

### Easy Christmas Tree

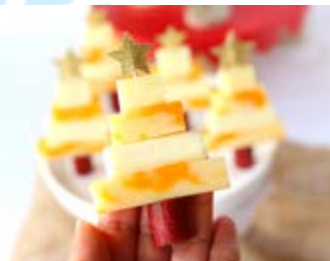
**Ingredients:**

- Frigo cheese snacking combos (or string cheese and beef jerky)
- Toothpicks (BONUS if they come with stars!)

**Directions:**

1. Cut meat stick into 3/4 inch - 1 inch thick bites. These will be your Christmas tree bases.
2. Using the cheese snacking combos, alternate cutting cheese into pieces like the picture, so you create a small staircase effect.
3. Stack cheese on top of your meat stick base, so it looks like a festive tree.
4. Thread your toothpick down the center of the tree, making sure to catch all pieces from the top cheese to the base.
5. Serve immediately or refrigerate!

Recipe & photos: Found on [RaisingWhasains.com](http://RaisingWhasains.com)



### Candy Cane Craft

**Supplies needed:**

- 1 Pipe cleaner cut in half
- 10 red pony beads
- 10 white or clear pony beads

**Instructions:**

1. Thread one pony bead onto pipe cleaner.
2. Bend pipe up to prevent beads from falling off.
3. Alternate between red and white pony beads until all are on the pipe cleaner.
4. Bend the other end to match the bottom.
5. Shape pipe cleaner into a candy cane shape.

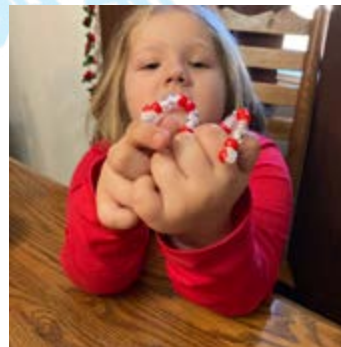


Photo taken by Ashley Henderson



## HANUKKAH

Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day "festival of lights". It is celebrated with special prayers, foods, and nightly lighting the menorah. The word Chanukah (typically spelled Hanukkah) means "dedication" in Hebrew and is in celebration of the rededication of the Holy Temple.

There are a few symbolic elements of Hanukkah. One of them is the dreidel. The dreidel is a special toy top that has four sides with the Hebrew symbols for the words meaning "A great miracle happened there." The image to the right is an example of what a dreidel looks like.



### Dreidel Garland



#### Supplies needed:

- Card stock
- Blue paint
- Scissors
- Pen/Pencils
- Dish for paint
- Items to print with such as blocks and buttons.



#### Directions:

- 1.) On cardstock, cut out the shape of a dreidel.
- 2.) Set out paint on a shallow dish.
- 3.) Dip each item (that was gathered for printing) into the paint and then press it carefully onto your dreidel card to make a print.
- 4.) Once the stamped dreidels are dry you can string them up together to make a decorative garland!

Craft & pictures: [NurtureStore.com](http://NurtureStore.com)

## NEW YEARS

### New Year's Wand



#### Supplies needed:

- Card stock
- Crayons/Markers
- Paper straws
- Small crafts bells
- String to put the bells on (gold is very festive)
- Glue stick
- Scissors

#### Directions:

1. Each wand uses 2 stars. Draw star outlines and a "2021" inside the star that can be colored (or have the kids write "2021" inside the star). Have the kids color, write, and draw in those stars.
2. Once kids are finished with their stars, cut them out. Depending on the age of the kids this might need to be done by an adult.
3. Using a glue stick, glue the back of one star, put a straw in the middle and the other star on top, pressing down firmly.
4. Thread 3 jingle bells onto your string and tie them onto the straw towards the top.
5. For the final touch, you can add a gold or silver ribbon bow.

Craft & pictures: [ProjectsWithKids.com](http://ProjectsWithKids.com)

## VALENTINE'S DAY

### Valentine Strawberry & Waffle Skewer Snack



#### Ingredients:

- Frozen waffles (you can also make waffles if you so choose!)
- 1 small carton of strawberries washed and halved
- Whipped cream

#### Instructions:

1. Heat/toast the waffles then cut them into small bits.
2. Place the waffle pieces and strawberry halves carefully on the skewers (please don't poke yourself) and place flat on a platter.
3. Place tablespoons full of whipped cream between the waffle and strawberry pieces.
4. Enjoy!

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Suggestions



Ella Fitzgerald Board Book by Little People, BIG DREAMS  
**Ages: 2-5**



Jazz For Kids: Sing, Clap, Wiggle, And Shake CD



### "A Jazzy Craft"

#### Supplies needed:

- Click [here for trumpet print out](#) from coloring.ws
- Glue
- Brush for blue
- Glitter
- Water color paper
- Watercolors

#### Directions:

1. Print the trumpet coloring page from above.
2. Have the children paint a thin layer of glue over the trumpet.
3. After the glue is painted on, let the children shake glitter over it to make it nice and sparkly.
4. Next, have children paint on the watercolor sheets. Feel free to play kid jazz music as they complete this! Craft found & pictures: [www.paperandglue.com](http://www.paperandglue.com)

February is Black History Month. When children are taught to love and appreciate other cultures and people who do not look the same as them, that carries over into adulthood. It is important to show children that we see and value all aspects of them—including attributes related to race and culture. As childcare providers, it is your job to have a welcoming classroom, as well as a classroom that promotes cultural diversity. One way to do so is to remember past visionary's and their accomplishments. Let's talk about Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

Ella Fitzgerald was recognized as the best female jazz vocalist of the century (she lived from 1917-1996). At the age of 15 Ella stood on a stage ready to dance, but shortly had stage fright and could not move; she then decided to sing instead. The audience began to cheer and so began her singing career.



Louis Armstrong (also called "Satchmo") was born on August 4, 1901 in the town of New Orleans. At the young age of 11 he began to develop an interest in music. Through the many trial and being in and out of the New Orleans Colored Waif's Home for Boys, he was finally under the wing of Peter Davis, who taught music at the home for boys. From Davis, Armstrong joined a band and that is where his talent grew and has been the leading trumpeter and one of the most influential artists in jazz history.

Photo found on: [udiscovermusic.com](http://udiscovermusic.com)



# WINTER

## Polar Bear Craft:



### Supplies needed:

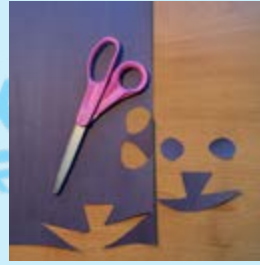
- Cotton balls
- Glue
- White and Black paper
- Scissors



Cut out bear-shaped ears from the white paper. Glue them to the plate.



Then, spread glue all over the plate. Have the kids pull the cotton balls in half and stick them to the glued plate.



While that is drying, cut out circular shapes for the eyes and a mouth and nose shape (out of the black paper).



Glue the eyes and mouth/nose onto the cotton balls! Voila, a cute little polar

Photos by Sophie Spann

## Snowman Snack Cups:



**Serves:** 4 people  
**Total time:** 15 minutes

### Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup popcorn kernels
- handful mini marshmallows
- handful dried coconut flakes
- handful white chocolate buttons
- strawberry laces

### Equipment:

- Clear or white plastic cups
- Black and orange sharpie markers

### Instructions:

- Pop the popcorn then pour into a large bowl
- Once the popcorn is cool, add the mini marshmallows, coconut flakes and white chocolate buttons. Mix.
- Take your cups and draw a snowman design on them with the sharpies
- Tie a strawberry lace around each cup for a scarf, trimming the ends to the correct length.
- Fill the cups with the snack mix and serve!

[Recipe & craft: Eatsamazing.co.uk](http://Eatsamazing.co.uk)

The Child Care Extension Newsletter is provided by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Family Life Team:

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Best Care: [www.uaex.edu/bestcare](http://www.uaex.edu/bestcare)

Best Care Connected: [www.uaex.edu/bestcareconnected](http://www.uaex.edu/bestcareconnected)

Guiding Children Successfully: [www.uaex.edu/guidingchildren](http://www.uaex.edu/guidingchildren)

Best Care Out of School Time: [www.uaex.edu/bestcareschool](http://www.uaex.edu/bestcareschool)

Personal and Family Life Resources: [www.arfamilies.org](http://www.arfamilies.org)

Childcare Resources page: [www.uaex.edu/childcareresources](http://www.uaex.edu/childcareresources)

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