



FUN & EASY TO MAKE

TOP DIY PROJECTS


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First Birthday Party Idea: Highchair Tutu

Milestone birthdays deserve an extra special celebration and what mom doesn't want to make her child's first birthday memorable? We have an adorable idea for you to try out: the highchair tutu! There's no better way to make those first birthday pictures stand out. Below you will find the simple instructions that require NO sewing!



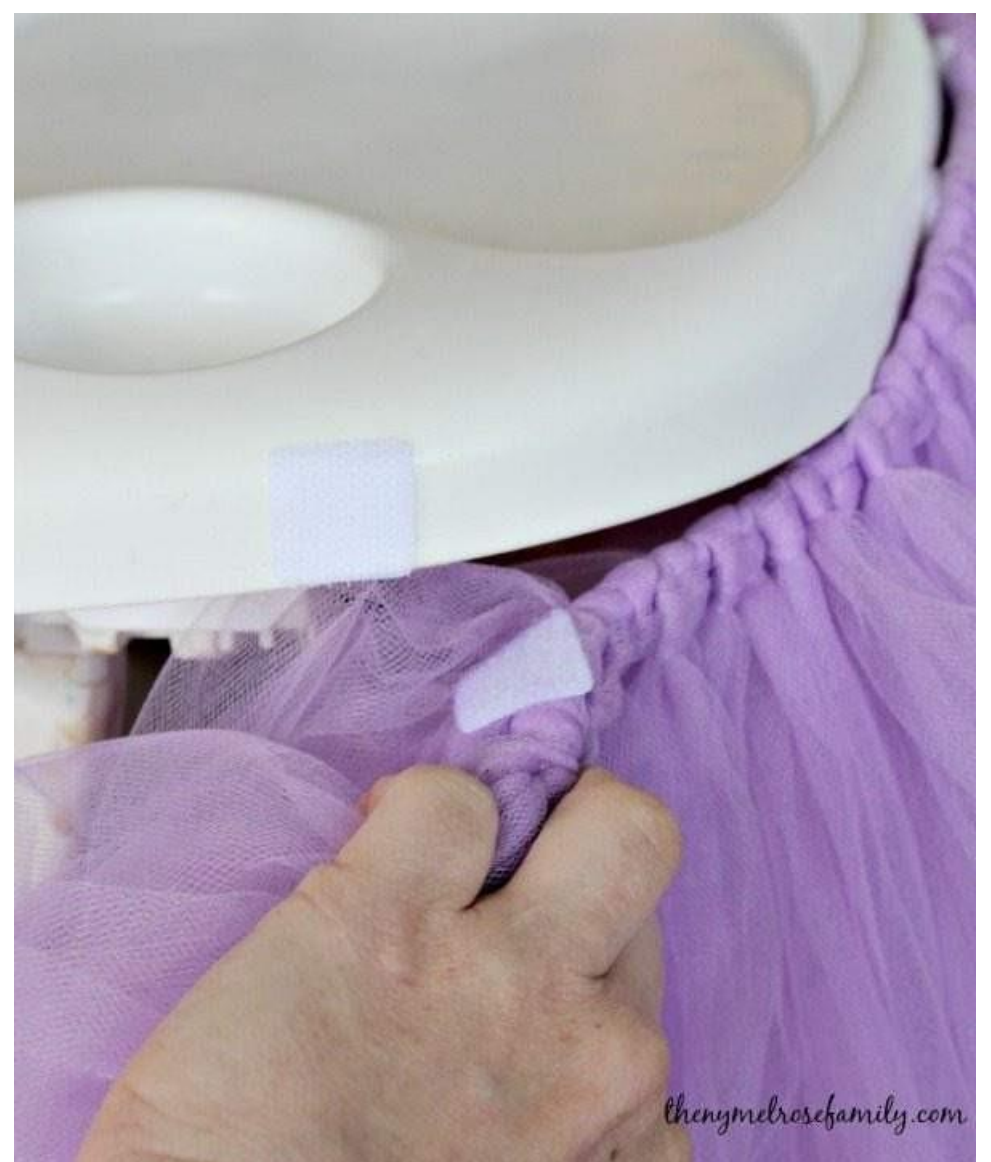
First Birthday Party Highchair Tutu Supplies you will need

1. An elastic band 1/2" to 1" thick (you'll need it long enough for it to fit around the highchair)
2. Two Rolls of Tulle, about 4-6" wide
3. Sticky Velcro Squares to stick on the highchair, right on the outside of the tray
4. Decorative Ribbon for the outside of the tutu (optional)

First Birthday Party Highchair Tutu Detailed Steps:

- Take a piece of tulle and fold it in half - you'll need to make sure that the tulle is the length that you want it when it's folded.
- Hold the fold of the tulle above the elastic with the elastic over the tulle.

- Loop the longer piece of tulle over the elastic and through the fold of the tulle.
- Pull the longer piece tightly through the loop.
- The loop should be pulled tight to the elastic and to what is seen around the outside of the highchair tray once it is attached.
- Place the sticky Velcro squares around the outside of the highchair and match them up with the inside of the tutu so that it will fit properly against the highchair.
- The tutu will need to be tied in the back once the birthday girl or boy is placed in the seat
- Take as many pics as you can!



Adorable and Easy DIY Phone Stand

Irrespective of the weather outside, we have a fun, colorful and easy project for you that will boost your productivity! Do you ever sit at your desk and wish your phone was upright so you could see your notifications at a single glance?



We have an adorably cute and highly practical phone stand for you. Rest assured that this project can be carried out using supplies you already have around the house.

MATERIALS FOR 1 DIY PHONE STAND:

- 1 toilet paper roll
- washi tape
- 4 push pins
- marker
- cutter or Exacto knife
- craft scissors

While this particular crafter used Washi tape, you could also use thick wrapping paper to create your own design.

The steps are super easy to follow:

- Take a toilet paper roll and place your phone on top of it.
- Draw a rectangular outline that will fit the phone comfortably. Cut out the toilet paper roll.
- Wrap washi tape around the toilet paper roll in a design that you love.
- Cut the tape or wrapping paper where the rectangular hole is. Wrap and tape it under.
- Push the thumbtacks underneath to form the “legs” of the holder.

You could use wider washi tape but you have to admit that this DIY phone holder design does look more fun and interesting with regular ones.



Paper Bag Scrapbooking: How to Make A Mini Album

We LOVE this paper bag mini album! It's fun to make, easy to put together and it looks great too.



Supplies Needed:

- 3 white paper lunch sacks
- scissors
- white card stock
- ruler
- pencil
- hole punch
- double stick adhesive
- ribbon
- paper kit

Steps to follow:

1. Begin by folding your paper bag in half. You will want the end with the folded bottom on the interior. At the creased half, make a mark one inch from the top and another mark one inch from the bottom. Then make a mark one-quarter of an inch into the bag. This will be the bottom of your hole. Punch one hole at each mark. Use this paper bag as a template for the other two bags.
2. Using your white card stock, create a 4 3/4" x 4 3/4" square. This will serve as a template for the picture base for your album pages. Using this template, cut out 9 additional squares for your album (this will include the front and back covers, as well as several pages in the middle).
3. For a page that has the folded bottom, you can either use a 4 3/4" square to cover the whole page (if you do this, you will need 3 more squares), or you can use double sided adhesive to create an interior pocket (see the 2nd photo below).

When attaching it to the bag, be sure to glue closer to the edge without the holes.

4. Once you have all of your base squares attached, decorate your album with pictures and stickers!
5. To complete your project, take a long piece of ribbon (leave a bit of room in case you want to add more bags in the future) and tie the bags together.

BONUS:

But wait, do you have more photos than pages in your album?

If so, the top portion of your bag can also hold pictures!

- Create a tag template by drawing a rectangle 4 3/4" W x 5 1/4" L on cardstock
- Draw a line one inch from the left and the right on the top, and one inch down on both sides, connect the two lines and cut at the diagonal.
- Create several more tags using this template that can hold pictures on both sides.
- Leave the tags as they are or punch a hole in the top and add a ribbon for easier removal.



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How To Make A Box Out of Paper: A Step-by-Step Guide

Planning to make a special gift but you have no idea how to wrap them? Ensure that your gift-wrapping skills skyrocket with these DIY boxes made out of cardboard or leftover scrapbook paper!

Hand-folded gift boxes are a beautiful way to wrap your presents, definitely a unique and thoughtful gift-wrapping method. You can choose to use lightweight, decorative paper or colored cardstock, whichever you have at your disposal. These boxes are not only nice to look at, but they make good DIY projects and are easy enough to keep children busy and amused. All you need is a pair of scissors and some adhesive tape (but there are ways to even bypass the tape).

In this two-part guide, we will teach you how to make a box out of paper in two shapes: square and rectangle!

How to Make a Rectangular Paper Box



1. A rectangular piece of paper would be the best choice. Choose any color or pattern. If you are doing this for the very first time, opt to use scrap paper.
2. Make a crease at the center of the paper by folding it vertically in half. Crease the fold using a hard object, such as a coin or your fingernail. Unfold the paper. Note: Make sure the pattern is on the outside.

3. Taking the edge of the paper, fold each side of your material to the center crease, making sure the pattern is on the outside. The paper is now sectioned widthwise in quarters. Unfold the paper.
4. Making sure the pattern is on the outside, make a fold lengthwise, giving the paper eight equal sections. Unfold the paper.
5. Find the center crease of the paper. Fold each short side to that mark, repeating Step (3), but this time, the folds are lengthwise. You will now have 16 sections in total. Do not unfold the paper and keep the lengthwise section folded.
6. Fold each of the four corners to the nearest lengthwise crease. They should each form a right triangle-shaped flap with each base barely touching the lengthwise crease. The folded paper must now look like an uneven octagon.
7. From the middle, fold each flap down over the triangles you have made in Step Six, opening the center of the paper. You must be able to see the box's center crease. You will see this flap from the box's outside. So, if you are using the box for a gift or making decorations, you may consider a double-sided patterned paper.
8. Pull the two flaps up. The box is now complete.

Note: If you think the box isn't strong enough, re-creasing some folds will make it more stable. You can also tape loose edges to make the box more durable.

How to Make a Square Paper Box



Pick your desired material. Depending on your preference, you may use a lightweight, decorative or colored paper or even heavy cardboard. A square paper, with four even and equal sides, is required for this method. You can use a ready-cut square paper, or you can cut the paper yourself.

When cutting the paper, make sure to have a perfect square. You may use a set square or triangle to create the right angles. Then, cut along the rule with a rotary cutter or X-Acto knife.

1. Fold the paper diagonally in half and unfold. Turn it 90 degrees and then fold again diagonally in half. This will give you four equal, triangular sections.
2. With the patterned side down, carefully fold each corner of the paper into the center. You should now have a smaller square composed of four triangles.
3. Fold two parallel edges to the center. Fold down the newly folded parts on top of the folds that you just made in the third step. You now have a rectangle, which, when folded completely, shows two rectangular flaps meeting at the center.
4. Find the shorter edges and fold them to the center. Make the folds over the folds you made in Step Four. Now you will have a much smaller square with two visible rectangular flaps meeting at the center.
5. Partially unfold the paper. When you reached the square made of four triangles you created in Step three, stop unfolding. Then, fold back two parallel edges into the center of the already creased fold. You can choose from the two sets of identical edges as you are not creating a new fold. Let the edges sit vertically, creating a part of your box's sides.
6. Grab the paper from any of the width-wise triangles in the center, partially unfolding a shorter rectangle end. Be careful not to tear the part off. If you notice parts or edges that are not crisp or secure, re-crease the edges. When properly executed, you should have three triangles facing outward, with two of them having a crease at the center. You now have three square sides that will create another part of your box.
7. Push back the two creased triangles inward, pushing them down. Doing this will fold the paper and lift the new side up.
8. Repeat Steps Seven, Eight and Nine with the box's opposite side. Make sure that the four triangles fit the bottom of the box perfectly. Secure the box by taping the triangles flat. You now have a square box made out of paper.

Now that you know how to make a box out of paper, you can create dozens of these lovely boxes and keep them at hand. They can be nice carriers of gifts or even neat desktop organizers where you can store pushpins, erasers, paperclips, and other tiny items. You can even make an assortment of sizes and colors using various paper stock or cardboard.

Start making one now and impress someone with your hand-made gift-wrapping skills!

Bridal Shower Gift: Candle Poem Basket

The Candle Poem basket is a perfect gift for soon-to-be brides. You can download your own bridal shower candle poem for free.



Steps to follow for the Poem:

- Create the poem and surround it with a damask.
- Use a simple frame for the poem
- Spray painted the frame black and simply placed the poem inside. (Choose colors that would match the wedding's theme)

Steps to follow to make the Basket:

- Include a washcloth, hand towel and bath towel or anything from the bride's registry.
- Place the washcloth and hand towel on the bottom of the pretty white basket.
- Wrap a purple ribbon around the handle of the basket.
- Tie the pair of candles with the same purple ribbon.
- For the white candles, glue some white lace ribbon around the center.
- Customize it as you please. Choose colors and items in accordance to the wedding's theme and, of course, the couple's registry.



Scrapbook Paper Picture Frames

As scrapbookers well know, you can create almost anything out of beautiful scrapbooking pages. We have here an easy scrapbook DIY picture frame for you! This project uses colorful paper to create square picture frames, and it's the perfect match for the paper you may have in your craft room right now.



Steps to follow:

- To create this picture frame, use a basic cardboard square for the base
- Cut out square frames layered with scrapbook paper on top.
- Behind all three of the picture frames, tie two separate ribbon strips together into a bow, and dangled them down
- Glue the ribbon behind each picture frame.
- Put flower embellishments and put buttons in the middle of the flower embellishments
- Add more embellishments using punches, buttons, paper quilling, butterflies, die cuts and customize as you please.

Block Letter Washi Tape Canvas Art

Washi tape canvas art is a great and easy way to freshen up the look of any space, whether it's your home or your office. Dallas blogger Amy Locurto who shares with us how to make creative, fun washi tape canvas art using our favorite supplies!

First of all, this project is really fun to start and can even make for the perfect gift for a special family member or friend. It's also a really beautiful, personal handmade gift for any occasion including birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, graduation, new home celebration, the birth of a child, and so many other milestones. In addition to that, there are endless colors, patterns, and combinations you can use so this project is truly personal and entirely customizable.

Washi Tape Wall Art Craft



Living Locurto



So here's what you'll need:

- Canvas
- Paint
- Wooden Letter
- Washi Tape
- Paintbrush/sponge
- Hot Glue
- Modge Podge

What we love most about this inspiration is the placement of the washi tape on the letters. It's very, very creative and catches one's eye.

Steps to follow:

- Chose to create a pattern in a diagonal fashion using different patterns and size washi tapes.
- Use colors and patterns that complement each other and bring out the acrylic paint color on the canvas.
- Consequently, you can either place the washi tape as you see it here or you can try it straight across and even up and down. There are so many different ways to create a look that best suits your style.
- You may paint the background in a soft gray and use fun colors of pinks, teals, and orange washi tape to cover the letter.

Mason Jar Candle Holder

This seasonal mason jar candle holder inspiration comes from SugarBeeCrafts & CreateCraftLove. It immediately jumped out as a Fall inspiration since the weather is slightly getting cooler and pumpkin spice flavors are popping up again.

First of all, we just love the use of the color, the straw and pebble rocks inside the jar. It's sure to be a quick project for fall with the beautiful maple leaf pattern, or can be created for any other occasion and season using your favorite designs.



Here are the supplies you'll need:

- Wide-mouth mason jars (Mandy suggests Kerr brand)
- Adhesive vinyl
- Cricut (or used pre-cut adhesive vinyl, can also trace and cut your own pattern directly onto vinyl)
- Craft paint or spray paint
- Sponge brush
- Kernels, Rocks, or anything else to fill the jar to hold the candle
- Ribbon or Twine

Best of all, the steps are easy to follow and take no time at all to re-create. This is a great project to take on with family, as a school project for teachers, or as decor for your home. Hence we think it's beautiful and a perfect project to share.

Almost any patterns, colors, and creative touch makes this project really personal and artistic. So grab those extra mason jars you may have and get ready to change their look for the upcoming season as you see here.

Last but not least, here's another look at this same inspiration that Mandy created for school. Seems like you can use this idea for almost any type of event.



Tulle Pom Poms

We had a Fairy First Birthday that was complete with a highchair tutu and some gorgeous Tulle Pom Poms. These Pom Poms are SO easy to make and they work great as favor toppers or even strung in a garland. Let us show you just how simple they truly are.



Steps to follow:

- Start out by cutting off a stand of tulle that is about ten (10) inches long and set that aside. You can also use a book depending upon the size of the pom pom that you're looking for.
- Wrap the tulle around your hand twenty times. This is made much easier if you let the spool of tulle dropped to the ground so that you can just quickly wrap it around your hand.
- Cut the tulle so that it is no longer connected to the spool and slip your hand out of the wrapping. Be sure to keep the tulle as if your hand is still inside of it though.

- Take the ten (10) inch piece of tulle and tie it around the center of the looped tulle. You want to tie this tight because it'll be the center of the pom pom. It should look like a bow. Don't worry about making the strip the length of the rest of the pieces because you'll give your pom poms a "hair cut" as the final step of the process.



- Cut each end of the tied tulle so that the ends are no longer folded or attached. It's easiest to cut them all at once and then go back through if you missed any loops.
- Once you've cut both sides, you'll end up with an uneven ball of tulle. In order to make them into the perfect pom poms, poof them out and then give each pom pom a "hair cut".

DIY Wire Baskets

We'd like to share with you a quick, easy and VERY inexpensive DIY project that won't break the bank because we are going to show you how to make your own wire baskets!



Supplies needed:

- Hardware Cloth
- **Optional Supplies:**
- Pipe Strap 1/2", 1" or 1 1/2" (I used 1 1/2")
- 2 Brads
- Silver Spray Paint
- **Tools:**
- Wire Cutters
- Long Nose Pliers

For the Basket:

- you need some hardware cloth. You can pick up a roll at your local hardware store.

Steps to follow:

- First, determine the size and shape you'd like your basket to be.
- Make some small baskets to corral those little crafting supplies like washi tape & sketch pens. The finished dimensions would be 1.5" x 1.5" x .75".
- First, cut a square of hardware cloth that is 3.75" x 3.75" or 11 squares (the hardware cloth has square that are .25").
- Remove a .75" square from each corner. NOTE: leave the "cross pieces" on one edge that will be used to secure the basket sides together.
- Next, fold the sides up to form the basket shape. Notice the extra wires on each corner.
- Using long nose pliers, fold the excess wire over the opposite sides to secure your basket sides together.

These baskets would also be a great way to organize a desk or junk drawer. Now, if you decide that you'd like to embellish your basket with a "drawer pull" it's super easy. All you need is a pipe strap in the size you like. You will also need two brads (found in the office supply section of your local discount store) but they usually are gold so you will need to spray paint them silver.

Steps to follow:

- Place your pipe strap onto your basket and push the painted brad through the holes. Then, bend the brad "strips" and weave them into the hardware cloth to secure.

Wouldn't your linen closet look amazingly organized with wire baskets like this one? You could have a basket for each fabric color. I think it would look pretty sweet!



Bumble Bee Tutu

This Bumble Bee Tutu is perfect for a Halloween Costume. It's very easy to make and doesn't cost a fortune.



Steps to follow:

- Use gold and black tulle for the tutu (make sure it has tiny sparkles in it) Measure from the waist down to where you want it to end. Double that measurement, then cut the tulle accordingly. Use up the entire spool of tulle and keep the cut of tulle pieces in a small pile.
- Cut a piece of ribbon long enough to tie around the waist in a bow. Measure the waist first, then add 48 inches (120 cm) to your measurement. Cut a piece of 1/2-inch (1.3-cm) ribbon to this new measurement. Be sure to match the color of the ribbon to the tulle that you are using. Satin or grosgrain ribbon will work the best.
- Cut the ribbon at an angle, then heat-seal the ends with a flame for a nicer finish.
- You can use a wider ribbon if you prefer. Anything up to 1-inch (2.5-cm) will work just fine. Tie a knot in the ribbon.
- Tie the ribbon around a cylindrical base. Roll some poster paper into a tube that matches the waist measurement. Secure it with tape, then wrap and tie the ribbon around it. You don't have to do this, but many people find it easier to tie the tulle strips to the ribbon if it's on a cylindrical base.
- Fold a strip of tulle in half and slide it down behind the ribbon. Bring the narrow ends of the tulle together to fold it in half. Slip the folded part behind the ribbon so that it is sticking out of the bottom edge by about 1 inch (2.5 cm).
- For a fluffier tutu, you can stack 2 to 3 strips of tulle.
- Pull the long ends of the tulle strip through the loop. Gather both of the long tails of the tulle strip. Thread them through the loop, then tug down on them to tighten the knot. Make sure that the knot is tight enough so that it scrunches together and folds the ribbon. When you are done, the tulle should be sticking out from the bottom edge of the ribbon.
- Slide the tulle over to the left knot, and add another strip. Once you have the first strip of tulle secure, slide it along the ribbon until it bumps up against the knot on the left side. Fold the second strip of tulle in half, slip it behind the ribbon, and pull the ends through the loop. Slide it over until it bumps up against the first piece of tulle.
- Continue adding strips of tulle until you reach the other knot. Take the tutu off of the cylinder base and trim it, if needed. Wrap it around your waist and tie the ends into a big bow.
- Hot glue the sunflowers onto the outside of the tutu.
- The wings were an 8 dollar find from Target in the Adult Costume section. They work perfectly over the top!

Thankful Handprint Pumpkin

We just have to share this project with you! It will adorn our kitchen table every Fall and it will never fail to be admired.

Isn't there just something about those itty bitty handprints that just do you in? We absolutely love decorating pumpkins. This Thankful Handprint Pumpkin can definitely become a yearly family tradition.

This project is so fun to precisely because you can get the whole family involved.



Steps to follow:

- Start out using Daddy's handprints, which is the biggest one.
- Then Mommy's and the children. Remember that the hand sizes always start from the largest to the smallest one.
- Use a permanent marker to write thankful on the front of the pumpkin and remember to add your last name on the back along with the date.
- The pumpkin is made out of plastic and is extremely similar to this one. We found ours at a local craft store and it even weathered through sitting on our front porch last Fall.

We love simple ideas like these! They're not just easy to pull off but they also involve the family.

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SPOOKY GLOWING MASON JARS

The night can bring magic and wonder to the Halloween season. Give in to this enchanting season and create haunting luminaries that look great both in the dark and in daylight! Start saving used jars that you can recycle for this budget-friendly craft! Even if you're not an artist, you can create creepy custom designs using our free printable templates full of spooky characters!



Supplies needed:

- Jars
- Broad and Fine Tip Paint Pens
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Candles (real wicked candles or battery operated)
- Optional: printable Template 1 and Template 2

Steps to follow:

- Thoroughly clean the inside and outside of your jars. Apply thin coats of paint on the inside of the jars and allow drying between each coat.
- Cut the printable template in a height that will fit inside your jar. Curl it and insert it and you should see it through the glass. Use a fine tip paint pen and trace the template seen.
- Use the broad tip paint pen to fill in the larger spaces.
- You can use recycled jars or store bought but a flat face without bumping designs is best
- Acrylic paint or spray paint can be used to tint the jars, but make sure you cover your workspace if you opt for spray paint.
- Remember, this template is just a GUIDE so feel free to free form draw or edit the design.
- Go slow when filling in large spaces with the broad pen. If you go too fast, the paint doesn't flow out as well and the coverage is much thinner.
- Allow to dry, insert a candle inside and put on display for some spooky nights!
- When using this technique to fill in the dark bottom edge of the jar, the bottom actually lights up with a cool effect in the dark!



DIY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FOR KIDS: EASY AND CREATIVE CRAFTS

Christmas is a yearly celebration that everyone looks forward to, and it's that time of the year when we get out all our decorations. But it's also a time for the creative bunch, especially if you have kids. From Styrofoam to popsicle sticks, and even old CDs, there are so many possibilities for DIY Christmas ornaments for kids! This is why we will list some easy DIY projects that you and your kid can truly enjoy doing to make your Christmas merrier.

All the DIY Christmas ornaments that we have listed below are inexpensive to make. Most of these supplies are something you would typically find at home, or you can easily pick up at the nearest dollar store.

What's more, all of them are easy and fun for your kids to make. Some may not even require any assistance from you. We are certain that at the end of it, your kid is going to be so proud when they put up their decorations, and you can treasure these keepsakes for years to follow.

1. Salt Dough Hand Print Ornament

Make a dough, and then let your child put his or her handprint in it, then after which, bake it and put it on the tree. This beautiful DIY Christmas ornament is not just easy to make with a little help from you, but it's also a fantastic keepsake. How heartwarming is it to have your little kid's handprint decades later?

The goal is to make a handprint on one ornament. The supplies listed below will allow you to make up to three ornaments, depending on the size you desire.



Steps to follow:

- In a large bowl, begin by gradually mixing in the flour and salt with water.
- Once it has formed into a dough, take your cookie sheet and lightly grease it with oil. With the rolling pin, roll out the dough on the sheet.
- Ensure that after rolling it, it is thick enough to form your child's fingerprint. If you have rolled it out too much, this won't work.
- Once your child has formed a fingerprint in the dough, take the drinking straw to make a hole.
- Put it in a pre-heated oven at 150 degrees Celsius for about an hour. Alternatively, you can also air dry it overnight.
- Once ready, tie the ribbon through the hole to make it into a Christmas ornament.

Supplies needed:

- One cup of salt
- Four cups of flour
- A large mixing bowl
- A bit of water
- A little oil
- Food coloring of your choice
- A cookie sheet
- A rolling pin
- A ribbon
- A drinking straw
- A plate for a guide

2. Snow Filled Monogram Ornaments

Snow filled monogram ornaments are quite possibly the easiest Christmas decorations your kids can make. This is a great last-minute gift idea since it takes no more than five minutes to pull it off.



Supplies needed:

- A clear glass ball ornament
- Epsom salt
- Ribbon
- A vinyl initial

Steps to follow:

- Remove the hanger from the ornament.
- Fill the ornament halfway with the Epsom salt. This looks a lot like snow.
- Replace the hanger.
- Stick the vinyl letter on the ornament. You can easily find this at a supply store, or you can cut one from a craft cutter.
- Make a bow with the ribbon and add it around the hanger.

3. Craft Stick Christmas Tree

If you are looking for yet another simple DIY Christmas decoration for your kid to make, then we highly recommend you try out the craft stick Christmas tree.

Supplies needed:

- One long brown craft stick
- Five green craft sticks
- Scissors
- Glue
- Thread
- Some jewels to decorate the tree (optional)



Steps to follow:

- Begin by cutting four of the five green craft sticks. The way you do this is by cutting every stick an inch lesser than the previous stick. This will give it that tapering down effect like a Christmas tree.
- Stick each of them horizontally on the vertical brown craft stick, starting from the longest. Leave an inch away from the bottom and leave about less than a centimeter between each of the green craft sticks.
- Make a loop with a thread and either tie or stick it on the topmost part of the stick.
- Now you can glue all sorts of decorations such as jewels all over it.

4. Glittery Pinecone Ornaments

You know it's Christmas time when you see pinecones and glitter shining everywhere. So, for this DIY Christmas ornament, we will tell you how you can make a quick and easy glittery pinecone ornament.



Supplies needed:

- Pinecones
- Glitter
- Paintbrush
- Brown paint
- Ribbon
- Glue

Steps to follow:

- Begin by painting the pinecones with brown paint and before it fully dries, throw glitter all over it.
- Take some glue and lightly brush it all over the pinecone so that the glitter stays in place.
- Make a loop using the ribbon and stick it on top of the pinecone to put it as a decoration on your Christmas tree.

5. Time Capsule Ornament

It's always great to look at the good old days when we were kids. Our books, our art, our baby pictures, they all bring an instant smile on our faces. So, for this DIY ornament, we will be making a time capsule ornament which we are certain you will treasure for years to come.

Steps to follow:

- Cut small strips of paper and make your child write anything eventful that happened to him or her that year. This can include vacations, play time, names of best friends, favorite teachers, and soon.
- Carefully take off the top of the plastic ornament using metal prongs.
- Roll the strips of paper and slip them inside the ornament and shut it by fitting the top again.
- Now take your child's photo that will fit on the outside of the ornament and apply some Mod Podge behind it.
- Stick it on the ornament and smooth it out with your fingers.
- Write the year on the picture, so you are well aware of it years later too.
- Once it dries, apply a coat of Mod Podge on the photo and let it dry.



Supplies needed:

- Plastic clear ornament
- Mod Podge craft glue
- Metal prongs
- Pen and paper
- Sponge brush
- Your child's picture

These five DIY Christmas ornaments for kids are not only easy but also very fun to make. Most of them require very little assistance from you. Push your child to make all of these ornaments and don't worry about them being perfect. It's the imperfections you will love to see years later!

8 PAPER CRAFTING IDEAS TO DO WITH KIDS THIS WINTER BREAK

Hibernation is upon us. It's cold outside, which means we are all inside. Visions of blankets, snuggles, and hot chocolate are dancing in my head. But let's be reasonable. What we're actually seeing is kids running amuck, messes everywhere, and cabin fever striking an all-time high. The antidote

— Crafting projects. Simple, interactive, and fun ones. Something to keep everyone busy.

We have compiled 8 paper crafting ideas that will keep everyone's sanity at bay and hopefully create some memories. For most of these, all you need is a cute kid or more, scrapbook paper, scissors, and glue. Embellishments such as pompoms, twine, glitter, and fun snacks to munch on (as paper crafting makes us all very hungry) are a pretty good idea, too.

1. Paper Snowflakes

This simple paper snowflake tutorial is the perfect basic and quintessential papercraft.

Supplies needed:

- Letter paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler

Steps to follow:

- Fold your paper diagonally and make a crease.
- Trim off the excess paper so you have a triangle.
- Fold your triangle in the middle, then turn it so that the point is facing down, like an inverted pyramid. Fold the right edge in.
- Then, flip it over and fold the other edge across it. You should end up with a shape looking like this:
- Trim off the top, then draw your pattern starting from the closed edge. Mark the areas that are going to be trimmed with x's and start cutting!
- Unfold and admire your handiwork.



2. Paper Flowers

Create your own indoor garden by making various shapes and sizes of these easy paper flowers.



The kids will love being creative by choosing different colors and patterns to create their flowers. Add them to a letter board, gift wrap, arrange in a vase—there are so many ways to use these little paper crafts. This is a bright and fun project for those long winter days. Bonus —no water needed!

Leaves:

- Punch a 2" circle out of green paper.
- Insert half of the circle in the punch and cut.
- Flip the circle around and punch out the other half. You now have two leaves.
- Score the leaves down the center to fold and add more depth.

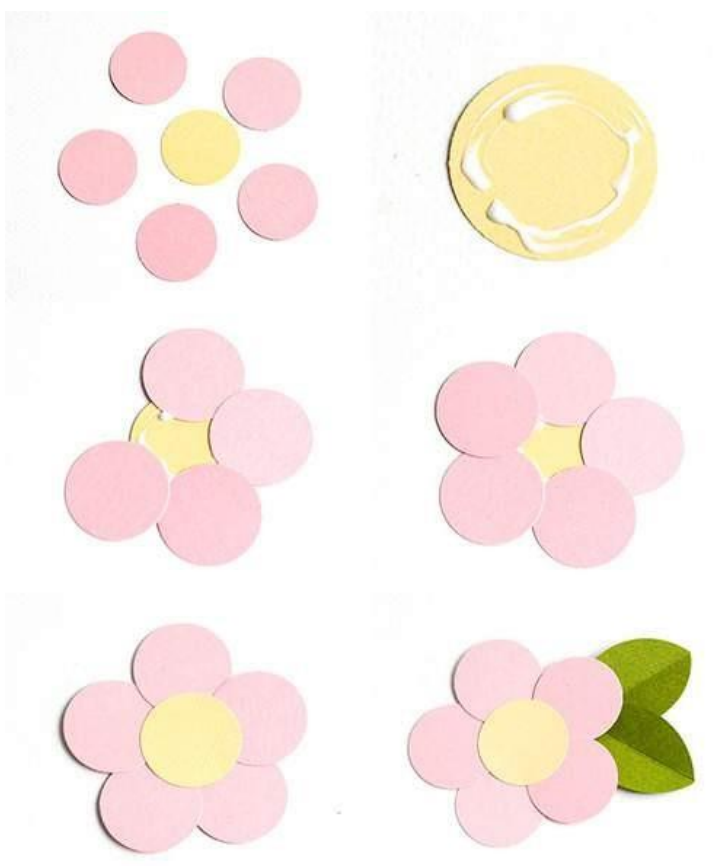


Rose:

- Punch a 2" circle out of card stock.
- Cut the circle into a spiral.
- Trim off the entry point of the spiral, making it round. Roll the spiral from the outside in.
- Put hot glue at the base of the flower (center of the spiral.) Stick rolled section onto the base. Quickly make any needed adjustments before the glue cools and hardens.
- Add any leaves or other embellishments to your flower.

Layered flower:

1. Cut four nesting circles.
2. Crumple them up in your hand, making sure to wrinkle the edges really well.
3. Spread the circles flat. Nest the circles on top of each other and punch a hole in the center.
4. Insert a brad through the hole and spread the clasp on the backside.
5. Complete the flower with leaves or any other embellishments.

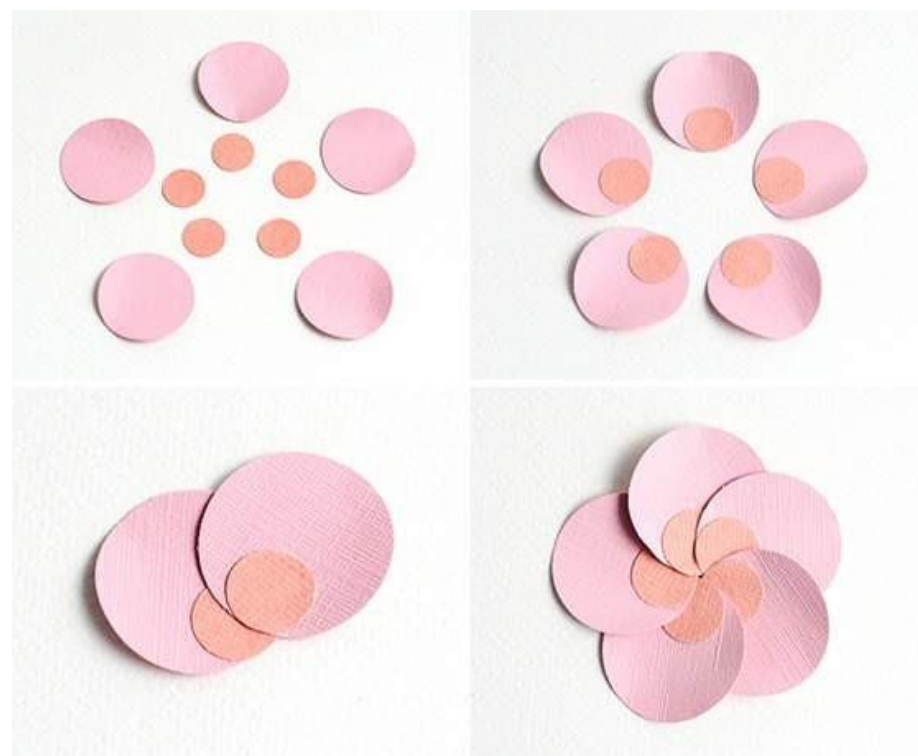


Five-point flower:

- Cut out 5 pink 1" circles and 1 yellow 1" circle.
- 2. Glue along the edge of the back of the yellow circle.
- 3. Place the pink petals around the yellow center. Space the pink circles evenly.
- 4. Flip over and embellish with leaves.

Plumeria flower:

- Punch out 5 pink 1" circles, and 5 peach 1/2" circles.
- Glue a 1/2" circle to the edge each 1" circle.
- Bend the edges of the petal to create a slight point at the opposite end of the 1/2" circle.
- Glue the petals together in a circle to create a flower.
- Leave half of each petal unattached to the next petal so that it flips upward.



3-D flower:

- Cut out 14 pink 1 1/2" circles, 1 pink 1" circle and 1 yellow strip measuring 1/4" x 8.5".
- Cut a slit to the center of each 1 1/2" circle.
- Glue 1/4" of either side of the slit on top of each other to add dimension to each petal.

- Using the 1" circle as a base, begin gluing petals around the edges with the slits toward the base.
- Note: For this flower, I glued 5 flowers on the base and 5 on the second layer. The third layer has three petals. The remaining petal is used on top for the center of the flower.



- Curl the yellow strip by wrapping it around a pencil. Glue the two ends together. Adjust the curls until it looks the way you want it.
- Glue the yellow, curled strip to the center of the flower.

3. Paper Banner

Do you have leftover scraps laying around from your last project? This simple idea is perfect for putting those to good use. Another idea: use coordinating patterns/colors for an easy and adorable decoration for an upcoming holiday. The kids will love seeing their handiwork displayed on the mantle or in their rooms. This could be adorable in any pattern and color combination!



Steps to follow:

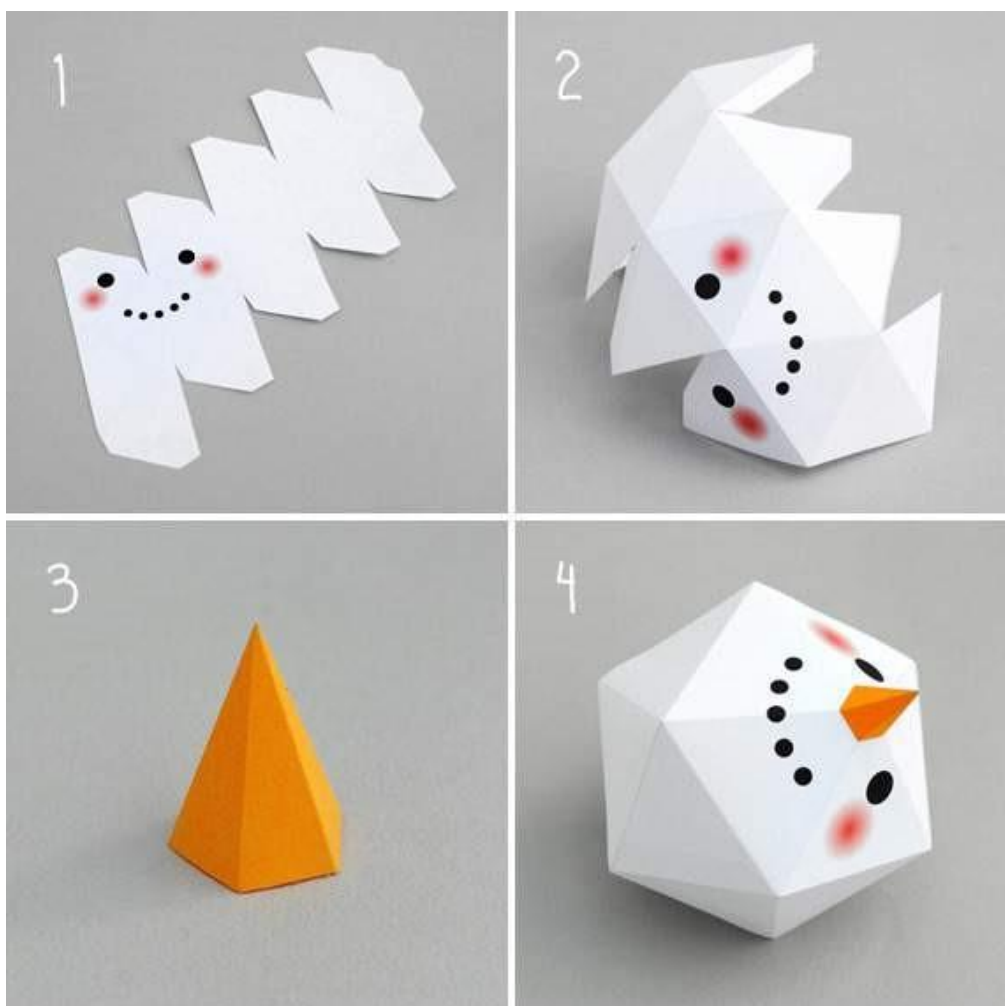
- Take your leftover paper scraps and glue them on to a piece of baker's twine to create this fun and whimsical banner.
- Use hot glue to attach the strips to the twine. Just make sure that you only put a little drop of hot glue inside the fold of the paper. That way it will not glue both sides of the paper together. This method is what makes the paper strips stick out allcute-like.

4. Paper Melting Snowman

Your kids are going to love this one! It's cute, hilarious, and simple. A melting snowman! Caution: side effects may include laugh-crying and memories. Turn on that little movie that features an adorable snowman or listen to the soundtrack, grab your supplies, and make this hilarious little guy. The only supplies you need are paper, scissors, a ruler, glue, and something pointy.

Supplies needed:

- Good quality A4 paper
- + Scissors
- + Ruler
- + Something pointy (to score your paper with)
- + Glue



Steps to follow:

- Print out the snowman pdf. Make sure you set your printing preferences to 'photo' and 'best photo'. Cut around the outside of the body, head, and nose.
- 2. Take the head and score along the light grey lines using a ruler and pointy object (such as compass or needle). Fold along each of these lines. Glue together
- 3. Cut and fold the nose.
- 4. Glue the nose onto the head and the head onto the body.

5. Paper Peacock

Funny—peacocks are loud, both in noise and in color. Maybe that’s why kids are so fascinated with these creatures. This papercraft could be part of a fun research project! Look up fun facts about peacocks—such as their habitat, diet, etc. and then make this adorable little paper craft. Make this project from the comfort of your own warm home with as little (or as much) noise as you desire.

Supplies needed:

- white construction paper as a base
- blue construction paper
- green construction paper
- yellow construction paper
- scissors and/or paper trimmer
- wiggle eye stickers
- glue



Steps to follow:



- Start by cutting a whole bunch of green paper strips.
- We used a regular letter-sized (A4) sheet and have cut it across the width.
- The width of the strips was about a “finger” wide.
- No need to be precise here, just make them as wide as you want – you can always change the size as you go.
- If you want now is the perfect time to draw some feathery elements on the paper strips (we think regular “feather marks” or zendoodle patterns will work out pretty great).

- Glue the ends of the strips together to make a loop/teardrop shape.
- You will need a whole lot, well you can only have a few too, whichever number works for you as long as the project is fun.
- Younger kids might get a bit bored or lost the focus if there are too many loops to make. Older kids will be able to make more loops, the more loops the richer the peacock tail will look.
- In our opinion stick glue works out best when working with paper as it dries quickly and it does not wet the paper.
- The looping process might take a while. But it can be fun :). You can also glue yellow paper shapes on the loops to make it more peacock-feather-like.

Now Let’s Make the Peacock!:

- Take the white background and start gluing the loops onto the paper.
- Make a half circle. We started at the outer edge and worked our way to the center.
- Once you are happy with how your tail is starting to look it’s time to move to the (happy) feet.
- Cut two feet out of yellow construction paper and glue them on the base (at the center of the circle, a bit under). Younger kids can just cut the rectangle shape while older kids can get a bit curvier.
- Cut the peacock body shape out of the blue construction paper (make an 8 shape).
- Cut a small triangle out of yellow construction paper and glue it to the head part.
- Stick on two wiggle eye stickers.
- Glue the body on the white paper, nicely push it on top of the tail. You’ve made yourself a nice looking paper peacock!

6. Paper Geode Banner

These paper geodes are gorgeous! This is a project to keep in your back pocket to decorate for holidays, showers, and other events. The simplicity in the design allows for creativity—mixing and matching colors and patterns to your heart’s content. It will be fun to see what designs the kids come up with for this one.



Steps to follow:

- Gather your materials.
- Cut out paper geode shapes from the template
- Using your ruler and bone folder. score along the dotted lines.
- Fold the paper into a prism with the dotted lines on the inside. You will need two prisms to create one geode.
- Using the needle twine, gently thread through the top of one prism and pull enough twine through to make the garland the length you want. Knot the twine on the inside of the prism to keep it in place.
- Thread through the second prism from the inside, fit the two pieces together, and glue the tabs on each side.

7. Paper Llama Puppet

Everyone loves a good llama. They just do. Does anyone know why llamas are so trendy right now? You can pretty much llama anything. They’re adorable, so we fully understand why they’re so trendy. Get your paper, markers, scissors, and fun extras like poms and yarn to create this adorable little llama.

Bonus: this project makes for two activities—the project itself also doubles as a puppet!

Supplies needed:

- Llama Craft Template
- heavy white cardstock (110lb.)
- colored cardstock or construction paper
- 3/4-inch circle punch
- markers
- small pom-poms*
- scissors
- glue stick
- Tacky Glue

Steps to follow:

- Begin by downloading the llama craft template and printing it on your heavy white cardstock. Cut out each of the pieces from the template. Use the half circle piece in the template and cut out the shape from a colored piece of cardstock or construction paper.



- Glue the pieces of the template together. Start by gluing the llama head and neck onto the body. Then glue the tail onto the end of the body. Next glue the ears at the top of the llama head. Last glue the colored half circle on the llama's back.
- Use a 3/4-inch circle punch to cut out the circles at the bottom of the llama body.
- Choose several different colored markers to decorate your llama. Color an eye, nose and mouth on your llama face. Next, fill in a small section on the ears with a pink marker. Then draw the harness around the muzzle and neck.
- Add circle tassels along the harness strings on the neck of the llama. You can also add lines, squiggles or dots inside the colored cardstock on the llama's back.
- To finish your llama, add several dots of Tacky Glue along the bottom of the colored cardstock half circle. Add a small pom-pom on each dot of glue. Let the glue dry completely before playing with your llama finger puppets.



8. Paper Heart Banner

Let's wrap this list up with a sweet garland of hearts. A fun and easy paper project. There are no right or wrong way to combine patterns and colors. It would also be a fun idea to make a paper chain to count down to something fun coming up! Hearts are cool all year, but this is a great project to celebrate Valentine's Day.



Supplies needed:

- 12 x 12 Scrapbook Paper
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue
- Hole Punch
- Twine

Steps to follow:

- Cut two strips of scrapbook paper for each heart. My paper strips measured 12 x 1 inch each.
- Glue two strips of different colored/patterned paper together with the patterns out (visible). Or use paper that is two-sided.
- Fold the strip of paper in half.
- Measure from the top of the folded strip down 3.5 inches and punch a hole through both sides.
- Curve in the tops so that it forms a heart shape and staple the two ends together to form a heart.
- String one heart with twine and leave enough room on the end heart so you can hang your garland. Then tie a knot on one side of the heart. Tie another knot on the other side of the heart.
- String another heart onto the twine and then secure it in place with a knot on each side of the second heart.
- Continue along with each heart until you have all of the hearts on the garland.

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