



WINTER ACTIVITIES:

CHRISTMAS

TODDLER & PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL SUBJECT AREAS

info@littlehandsbusyminds.org

www.LittleHandsBusyMinds.org

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Thanks for Downloading!

We hope you find this activity packet useful for your children. Our Little Hands, Busy Minds (LHBM) team has created numerous activities for all subject areas; each one is aligned with Connecticut's Early Learning and Development Standards. All activities are age-appropriate and designed for young learners in home school settings, day care programs, family day care, and group day care homes.

In addition to digital downloads like this, we offer units in weekly, monthly and quarterly formats. In order to meet the needs of all classrooms, we also offer mini-units covering holiday themes and other important occasions. Moreover, we have three seasonal hardcover books (Fall, Winter and Spring) with a buffet of project ideas to help teachers and caregivers plan fun daily activities for toddlers and preschoolers. Every activity proposed in our books has been created and tested in a preschool classroom, which makes our curriculum practical and teacher-friendly.

The LHBM team is aware of the importance of helping children enjoy and learn from their community. For this reason, we have patented our very own walking rope with safety belts—the Tot Trotter. Our rope is perfect for field trips and other group outings. It is customized to meet the needs of your class size and age group.

Please feel free to email us at info@littlehandsbusyminds.org if you have any questions about our products. For more information, you may also visit our website at www.littlehandsbusyminds.org.

Thank you,

Jackie

Jacqueline Salazar De Lopez
LHBM Team - Educator and Author
www.LittleHandsBusyMinds.org

PLANNING WEB

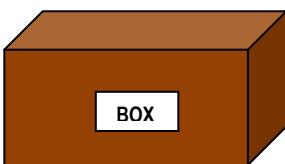
Learning Center: SOCIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss family holiday traditions with the children 	Learning Center: MATH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Bow sorting and counting:</u> Provide children with bows of different colors and sizes for sorting and counting 	Learning Center: LANGUAGE/BOOKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>The Gingerbread Man</u> by Catherine McCafferty ▪ <u>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed...</u> by Lucille Colandro 	Group Time <p><u>Small Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide white paper and green and red markers for children to draw and color <p><u>Large Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play “Holiday Hopscotch” game
Learning Center: DRAMATIC PLAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a “Gift Wrapping Center.” Supply this area with wrapping paper, colored tissue paper, bows, ribbons, glue, empty boxes, etc. 	<p>Standards Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify differences between objects across multiple characteristics (e.g., texture, color, shape, size) (Cognition) ▪ Jump with two feet (Physical Development and Health) <p>Story/Theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>A Wish To Be a Christmas Tree</u> by Michael G. Monroe <p>Diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listen to holiday songs from abroad. ▪ Display pictures of children and their families during the holidays, eating traditional food, home decorations, etc. 	<p>Routines/Transitions</p> <p>Gathering Game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laminate photos of each child and place them inside a box with a lid. Pick a child to lift up the lid and take out a picture of another child, who will then pick the activity of his or her choice. 	
Learning Center: ART/MUSIC/MOVEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Holiday collage ▪ Easel painting with green and red ▪ Singing Holiday Songs ▪ “Freeze” dance movement 	<p>INDOORS OUTDOORS</p> <p>Indoors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sorting holiday cards <p>Outdoors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play “Ring Around the Presents....” 	<p>Health/Nutrition/Cooking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wash hands before eating snacks and meals <p>Snack Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make green and red Jell-O 	<p>Learning Center: SCIENCE/SENSORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a “Mystery Box” with holiday items inside ▪ Add scents and glitter to play-dough

CLASS GOAL

HELP THE CHILDREN
IDENTIFY THE COLORS AND SYMBOLS
OF CHRISTMAS

Day #1

Art Activity



Holiday Marble Painting: Set up the art table with white paper, a large empty box or large coffee can, red and green paint, marbles (use golf balls for younger children), gold and silver glitter, and plastic spoons and cups. Pour paint into separate cups and place spoons and marbles in each cup. Lay paper on the bottom of the box and use a spoon to take a marble from the paint and drop it on the paper. Shake the box or the can back and forth. Continue for as long as the child would like. Take the paper out and sprinkle glitter over the wet paint.



Circle Time

Establish a Circle Time routine. Read The Gingerbread Man by Catherine McCafferty. Provide children with flannel pieces of all characters in the story or simply print out pictures. Laminate. After reading the book, start the discussion by asking children to retell the events of the story using the props. They can name the characters and recall events in the story or simply describe their favorite part of the story. Write their responses on chart paper.



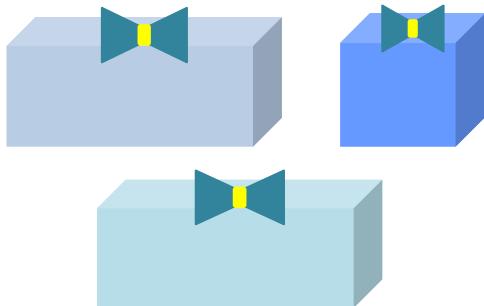
Science Activity

This activity can be done at Circle Time. Find the shape of a gingerbread man. Trace and cut out several gingerbread men silhouettes from sandpaper. Provide children with cinnamon sticks, cloves, vanilla scent, etc. and encourage the children to rub the sticks or drop the scent on the gingerbread silhouettes. Let children sniff the scent. Write down their responses.



Dramatic Play

Create a "Gift Wrapping Center." Supply this area with wrapping paper, colored tissue paper, bows, ribbons, glue (use tape for older children), empty boxes, etc. Help the children wrap the boxes and decorate with bows or ribbons.



Writing Center

Provide markers, crayons, pom-poms, glue, stamps, stickers, and sandpaper cutouts of the gingerbread man. Encourage the children to draw on and decorate their cutouts.



Movement

Freeze Dance: Play holiday songs on a CD player or a computer. Instruct the children to dance or sing along until the music stops. Then they should freeze and move when music starts again.



Snack Idea

Holiday Wreath Jell-O Mold: Use a Jell-O or baking mold for this activity.

Make green and red Jell-O separately following the box instructions and pour one mix into the mold. Place the mold in the refrigerator for fifteen minutes or until it becomes hard. Add the second Jell-O mix on top and refrigerate until it sets. Place cherries or pineapple chunks around the Jell-O wreath. Serve this colorful edible wreath as a snack.