

Salt Dough Christmas Wreath



Christmas

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Preschoolers
2.5 - 4 years

Children will love to create their own wreath to hang and display. This activity is a good balance of creativity with decorating the wreath and mess with creating the salt dough. Invite children to pick up natural elements they find on a neighborhood walk or on the playground to add to their wreath!

Learning Outcomes

Domain:

Physical

Indicator:

Using all senses in the exploration of properties and functions of objects and materials

Skills:

Sensory Exploration



Materials

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water
- Large bowl for mixing
- Green food coloring/paint
- Elmer's glue
- Pinecones, sticks and twigs
- Cinnamon, star anise, cloves etc.
- Red and green beads, sequins, and glitter
- String or hook to hang



Instructions

Step 1: Start by making your salt dough wreath by mixing the salt, flour and water together. Once a dough is formed, roll into a long snake and wrap it in a circle. Next, push the dough flat to create about a 2" flat surface for your wreath.

Step 2: Bake your salt dough in an oven at 350°F for 20 minutes or until firm. Let it cool completely.

Step 3: Once cooled, invite your child to decorate the wreath how they see fit using Elmer's glue to make them stick.

Step 4: Once they're happy with the layout hang it on your door or in a window!



Age Adjustments

For older preschoolers: Hang the wreath in a place they can see; this will help create a sense of autonomy with seeing their artwork on display for the season.

For younger toddlers: Have younger children help to count how much flour, water, and salt you measure out and build a bit of math into this activity.



Playful Questions

- What would happen to the dough if we added more green food coloring?
- Does the smell of the cinnamon remind you of anything?
- How does the texture of the pine needles feel compared to the salt dough?
- What shape is the anise?