



# **50**

# **Nature Crafts**

## **for Little Kids**

**Georgina Bomer**



## **50 Nature Crafts for Little Kids**

by Georgina Bomer

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Please read the instructions for each activity thoroughly before deciding whether it is appropriate for your child(ren). The author is not responsible for any injury or damage while replicating activities from this book.

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**Other books by this author:**

[50 Animal Crafts for Little Kids](#)

[50 Christmas Crafts for Little Kids](#)

[50 Halloween Crafts for Little Kids](#)

[50 Art Techniques for Little Kids](#)

[50 Transportation Crafts for Little Kids](#)

[Art, Craft and Cooking with Toddlers](#)

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## Introduction

This book is the third in the “50 Crafts” series, following the popular *50 Animal Crafts for Little Kids* and *50 Christmas Crafts for Little Kids*.

Last year my family and I moved to a new house which is next to a forest preserve. Nature was all around us right from day one, with new bird life, animal life, trees, flowers, and plants to enjoy. Each season brings changes and new delights, and so it felt obvious that the next book in the series should celebrate our new surroundings.



The book is ordered by season, to provide you with year-round crafts that will match what is happening outside your window. I have featured crafts that use natural materials and also crafts that replicate something from the natural world.



You may notice that this book is very light on insect, bird and animal crafts. Many of my favorite crafts with these themes have already been included in the *Animal Crafts* book and I didn't want to duplicate them for this book for those of you who have it already!



So whether you are indoors or outdoors, celebrate nature with your kids and try some of these super cute crafts!



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# **Spring Nature Crafts**

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# Cardboard Tube Bird Feeder

## Materials:

- Empty cardboard tube
- Peanut butter
- Kid-friendly knife
- Bird seed
- Tray or any shallow container
- Ribbon



Show your child how to spread the peanut butter all over the outside of the tube. Things can get a little sticky!

Pour some bird seed into a tray, then roll the tube around in it, making sure all the bird seed has stuck to the butter.

Thread a ribbon through the tube and then tie it to a tree – preferably near to your house so that you can enjoy watching the birds feast on their new snack!

Feeding the birds is so important when they are starting to nest and food might still be scarce.





# Cloud Mobile

## Materials:

- White card
- Pen
- Cotton wool
- Glue
- Blue crepe paper or tissue paper
- Scissors
- Thread, string or yarn
- Wooden chopstick or dowel



Draw cloud shapes on the card and provide your child with the cotton wool and the glue.

Invite them to glue the cotton wool to the inside of the cloud shapes.

When the glue has dried, cut out the clouds. Cut long strips of the blue paper and glue them to the back of the clouds.

Use the thread to tie the finished clouds to the chopstick, making them hang at different heights.



# Coffee Filter Flowers

## Materials:

- Coffee filter paper
- Watercolor paints and/or washable markers
- Tape
- Water spray bottle or eye dropper
- Card
- Glue



Coffee filter papers are perfect for experimenting with chromatography and producing some beautiful artwork.

Tape the filter papers to the table and invite your child to paint them with watercolors. Alternatively, use washable markers instead of the paint. This will give brighter and stronger results.

Use the water bottle to spray the filter papers so that the colors start to merge and blend into one another.

After the paper has dried, cut the circles into flower shapes and glue them to a piece of card, adding extra detail with the markers.



# Egg Carton Tree

Materials:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Strong scissors
- Green paint
- Blue card
- Brown paint
- Glue



Cut the lid and the longer inner lid supports off the egg carton. If you have more than one child painting, divide the egg carton between them by cutting it into sections.

Invite your child to paint the carton green. It doesn't matter if they don't completely cover it! Paint a brown tree trunk onto a piece of card.

Once all the paint has dried, cut the egg carton into individual cups. Spread a generous amount of glue around the branches of the tree, then ask your child to glue the cups to the card.



*The cardboard is very absorbent so depending on the type of paint used the final color may be paler than expected.*

# Flower Play Dough

Basic recipe:

- 1/2 cup AP flour (plain flour)
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar

Extra items:

- Pink food dye
- Essential oil (optional)
- Real flower petals



Add the ingredients for the basic recipe to a saucepan. Stir well and add pink food dye until the desired color has been achieved. Add a few drops of essential oil (if using).

Place the saucepan over a low heat. Keep stirring and the mixture will start to thicken, forming into one large ball.

Place it on parchment or wax paper and leave to cool for a few minutes. When it is cool enough to handle, knead it for thirty seconds or so until the play dough is smooth.

Break up the petals into small pieces and work them into the cooled dough. Your new play dough will look and smell so pretty!

*Lilac, jasmine, rose or  
geranium essential oils  
would be lovely!*



# Marble Painted Flowers

Materials:

- White card
- Tape
- Paints in spring colors
- Large baking tray or container
- Marbles
- Scissors
- Yellow card or felt
- Glue
- Colored card



Tape the card loosely to the base of the tray. Add some splashes of paint and the marbles. Then invite your child to get painting! This is a fairly noisy activity that they will love! The marbles will run through the paint and will make lines all over the card. Try to keep the marbles inside the tray, though!

Remove the card and leave to dry. The paint will wash right off the marbles and tray.

When the painted card is dry, cut out flower shapes. Glue a yellow circle to the center and glue the flower to some background card.



# Paint Chip Flowers

## Materials:

- Paint chips in a variety of colors
- Scissors
- Circle punch (optional)
- Glue
- Card



This is a really fun way of turning leftover paint chips into an art project!

Invite your child to cut petal shapes from the paint chips. Depending on their age and ability, they may need to have the shape drawn for them on the back, or they may prefer to cut them freehand.

Use the circle punch on any yellow paint chips to form the middle of the flower, and cut stems and leaves from any green paint chips.

Glue all the pieces onto a piece of card and leave to dry.

*These would make lovely  
Mother's Day or Easter  
cards!*



# Petal Suncatchers

Materials:

- Real petals
- Clear Contact paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Yellow card
- 2" circle punch (optional)
- Glue and/or tape



Cut two large pieces of Contact paper, peel the backing off one and put the other piece aside. Tape the Contact paper to the table (sticky side up) to keep it in place. Provide a bowl of the petals and invite your child to get creating!

Once they have used up all the petals, peel the backing off the other piece of Contact paper and carefully place it over the top of the petals, sticky sides together. Try and avoid air bubbles!

Cut as many petal shapes as you can from the collage. Use a paper punch (or freehand cut) a circle from the yellow card. Glue or tape the petals to the yellow circle. Let dry and tape the pretty petal suncatcher up at the window to catch some of that spring sunshine!!





# Potato Print Leaves

## Materials:

- Small potatoes
- Knife and chopping board
- Paper or card
- Green paint
- Paper plates or palette



Prepare the potatoes by cutting them in half lengthways and then cutting a leaf vein shape into the cut side. To make a handle, cut little notches in the rounded side. This is a job for an adult.

Spread some paint onto a paper plate and invite your child to dip the potato into the paint and make prints on the paper.

Depending on their age and ability they may need to practice before they can get perfect leaf pictures – the trick is not to twist it while they are stamping the potato on the paper! This would make lovely gift wrap if the prints were made on a large sheet of paper!





# Rainbow Twirlers

Materials:

- Paper plate
- Dot markers/crayons/paint in rainbow colors
- Scissors
- String/thread
- Hole punch



Invite your child to decorate the paper plate however they would like, using the rainbow colors. Filling the entire plate with one rainbow works well!

Cut a spiral into the whole plate. If your child is happy using scissors then draw a spiral onto the plate so that they have a line to cut along.

Punch a hole in the center of the plate, and tie string or thread to the hole. Hang your new rainbow twirler outside and see it twist in the breeze! *Note: This craft is not rain-proof!*

*Decorate both sides of the plate if you have time!*



# Seed Collage

Materials:

- White card
- Glue
- Seeds and/or dried beans



Draw an outline onto white card or find a template online that you like. It could be a flower, geometric shape, tree, or anything!

Provide your child with small bowls of different seeds and beans. These could include bird seed, lentils, split peas, chia seeds, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds etc.

Depending on the age of your child, you might like to suggest a mosaic design, or just completely random! Apply the glue to the shape and invite your child to add the beans and seeds to the glue.

Apply the glue to one section at a time for neater piece of artwork.



# Soda Bottle Flowers

Materials:

- Empty plastic soda bottles - a variety is a nice idea
- Paper
- Paper plate or palette
- Paint



Show your child how to dip the base of the soda bottle into the paint and then make prints on the paper.

After the paint has dried you could add in extra details to complete the flowers - older children would be able to do this for themselves.

These make lovely pictures to celebrate the spring but you could also make them into cards! Cut some white cardstock in half then fold in half again. Make the prints on the right hand side of the folded card.



# Tree Blossom Craft

## Materials:

- Large paper
- Brown card
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pink paint
- Paper plate or palette
- Scrubbing brush



Cut some brown card into strips of all shapes and sizes. If you have kids old enough to sit and cut the strips for you – then even better!

Glue a trunk onto a large piece of paper, then invite your child to add the other pieces of brown card strips to form branches and twigs.

Once the glue has dried, pour some paint onto a paper plate, and use a scrubbing brush to print the blossom.

This is the perfect craft for recreating the blossom of a redbud or cherry tree!





# **Summer Nature Crafts**



# Coffee Filter Sun

## Materials:

- Round coffee filter papers
- Tray or wax paper
- Yellow and/or orange washable markers
- Water and spray bottle
- Child-safe scissors



Flatten out the coffee filters as much as possible and place them on the wax paper or tray, then invite your child to scribble all over them! If your children are very small then they might find it easier if you tape it to the wax paper/tray. It doesn't matter what they draw – random designs work well!

Pass them the spray bottle and ask them to lightly spritz the paper. Don't let the filter papers get too soggy! Watch as the colors blend into one another. Leave the coffee filter paper to dry. It will look so pretty!

Use a marker pen to draw on a face, then ask your child to make snips with scissors around the outside to resemble rays.



# Handprint Sun

Materials:

- Yellow and orange washable paint
- Large white paper
- Paintbrush
- Baby wipes or damp cloth



Paint your child's hand with yellow paint. You can do this for them or they can try and do it by themselves! Press the hand onto the paper several times in a circle, palms in the center. The fingers will look like rays. Turn the paper as you complete the circle.

Repeat with orange paint. Fill in any white spaces in the center of the sun with additional paint.

Wipe clean your child's hands as soon as they have finished!





# Maple Seed Art

Materials:

- Card
- Glue
- Maple seeds
- Marker pens (optional)



If the sky is filled with swirling maple seeds then go out and collect some of this free craft material!

Invite your child to glue the seeds onto some card – experiment with different color card for contrasting effects. They will have fun making an unusual collage!

Or why not try turning the seeds into creatures? The seeds could form the wings of a butterfly or a bird, the tail of a dog or the body of a snail. Draw a basic shape and let them add seeds as the extra details. Have fun and get creative!





# Nature Loom

Materials:

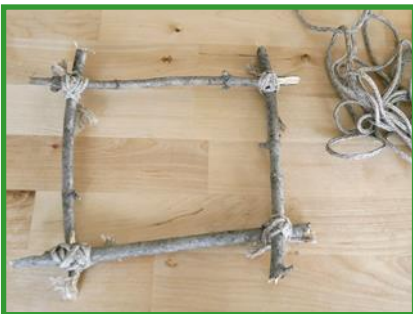
- Sticks
- Yarn or string
- Natural items (eg grass, leaves, herbs, petals, flowers, feathers)



Make a frame for the loom by lashing four sticks together in either a square or rectangle shape. Wind the yarn or string around each corner to secure the shape.

Wrap more yarn in a zig zag pattern across the center of the loom. Then go on a nature hunt! Collect some interesting items and thread them into the loom.

As well as producing a pretty craft, this activity works on fine motor skills, as it can be tricky to thread the items into the loom so that they stay in position!



# Orange & Lemon Play Dough

Basic recipe:

- 1/2 cup AP flour (plain flour)
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar

Extra items:

- Red and yellow food dye
- Orange and lemon extracts



Mix up two batches of the above recipe in different saucepans. To one batch add yellow food dye and a drop or two of lemon extract. To the other batch add a tiny bit of red food dye and then some yellow to make an orange color. Add some orange extract.

With each batch of play dough, stir well then place it over a low heat. Keep stirring and the mixture will start to thicken, forming into one large ball.

Place it on parchment or wax paper and leave to cool for a few minutes. When it is cool enough to handle, knead it for thirty seconds or so until the play dough is smooth.

***You could also use the juice and/or zest of real fruit to add the scent to the play dough!***



# Rock and Cork Toadstools

## Materials:

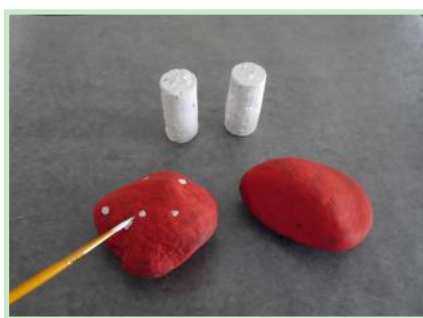
- Small rocks
- Corks
- Red and white acrylic paint
- Sealable bags
- Wax paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue



Place the rocks in one bag and the corks in another. Add red paint to the rock bag and white paint to the cork bag.

Seal the bags and ask your child to squish the paint around so that the items are covered. Tip them out onto wax paper and leave to dry.

Using a paintbrush, add white spots to the red rocks. Then glue the rock and cork together to form the toadstool. You may like to give your child craft glue for this project, but then go back and attach them more firmly with a hot glue gun.



# Shells and Play Dough

Materials:

- Play dough (homemade\* or store bought)
- Shells

\*Find a basic play dough recipe on page 26



If you've been on a summer family vacation, you may have ended up at the beach. And if your kids have played on the beach, there's a good chance that they have collected some shells!

Back at home, a super simple activity is to combine the shells with play dough.

Different shells will make different imprints. If a shell has a cavity, can it be filled with play dough? Can your child form play dough into a shape that looks like a certain shell?

There are so many ways to play and your kids will love revisiting their shell collection!



# Sparkly Flower Cards

Materials:

- White card
- Flower template or cookie cutter
- Glue
- Sequins
- Marker pens (optional)



Cut the card in half vertically, and then fold into two portrait cards.

Draw a flower outline (or use a flower cookie cutter as a template!) on the front of each card. Spread the glue inside the flower shape and invite your child to stick sequins onto the glue. It will look super shiny and sparkly!

Add extra details with marker pens, if desired.

***This technique can be used for any kind of cookie cutters that you have!***



# Sticky Wall Sun Art

## Materials:

- Clear Contact paper
- Tape
- Marker pen and circle template (like a plate!)
- Various yellow craft materials – eg tissue paper, straws, pom poms, feathers
- Glitter glue (optional)

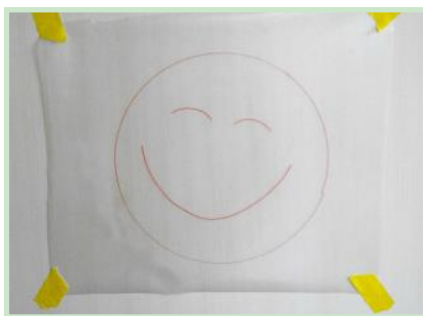


Cut a large square of Contact paper and tape it down to the table, shiny side up. Use a plate or similar round template to draw a large circle. Add facial features and rays if desired.

Remove the tape, and peel off the backing paper. Tape the Contact paper to a wall at child height, sticky side out. Invite your child to add the yellow items to the sun.

They can add glitter glue rays too, if they like! The finished artwork can be taped to a wall or window!

*Trying making some  
other weather themed  
pictures to go with  
the sun!*





# Sun Suncatcher

## Materials:

- Yellow paper plate (you can buy these cheaply from party stores)
- Yellow/orange/gold tissue paper
- Scissors
- Clear Contact paper
- Tape
- Marker pen (optional)



Prepare the tissue paper by cutting it into small shapes. Depending on the age of the child they could help with this stage! Tape a piece of contact paper (sticky side up) to a table and invite your child to decorate it with the tissue paper pieces. It doesn't really matter whether the pieces overlap or there are gaps.

When they have finished, seal the tissue paper by covering it with another piece of contact paper, sticky sides together. Cut a circle out of the middle of the plate slightly smaller than the decorated contact paper (this is a job for a grown up!). Cut the contact paper into a circle shape then tape it to the back of the paper plate. If you like, draw on a happy sunny face with a marker pen.

Tape it to the window for some sun-catching action!



# Sunflower Craft

Materials:

- Green and yellow tissue paper
- White card
- Pen
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brown felt

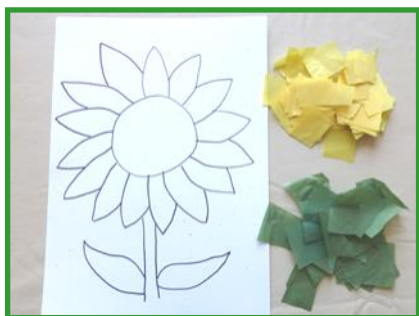


To prepare for this craft, draw an outline of a sunflower onto card, then cut up lots of tissue paper squares. Older children will be able to do this for themselves.

Work on one color at a time. Spread glue onto the relevant areas and show your child how to screw the tissue paper up into little balls then stick them on.

Glue on a circle of dark brown felt for the center of the sunflower.

The screwed up paper gives a lovely textural contrast to the finished sunflower craft.





# Vegetable Stamping

Materials:

- White paper or card
- Paint
- Paper plates
- Vegetables with an interesting cross section (eg bell pepper, carrot, celery heart, potato, cucumber, okra, fennel bulb, onion, corn cob)



Prepare the vegetables – often the part that would be otherwise discarded can be used, like a carrot top or celery base.

Spread out some paint onto paper plates (for easy clean up!), thinning any thicker paints with a little water.

Invite your kids to get stamping! Celery hearts and okra make the best prints as they look like flowers!

If the vegetables are difficult for little hands to hold try inserting a corn cob holder or fork in one end, or by carving a “handle” into the top of the vegetable.







# ***Fall Nature Crafts***



# Acorn Cap Stamping

## Materials:

- Acorn caps
- Fall-colored paint
- White card
- Paper plate (optional)



If you have collected acorns to make the acorn wreath, you might also have collected some acorn caps! Go through the caps and select the ones that have the longest “stem” – these make a great handle for little hands!

Pour out some paint (a paper plate is useful for this) and invite your child to dip the acorn caps into the paint, then make prints from them onto the white card.

Encourage them to try all the different colors and to fill the whole card!



# Acorn Wreath

## Materials:

- Acorns
- Thick cardboard
- Scissors
- White glue
- Mod Podge (optional, but recommended)
- Ribbon



Cut out a wreath shape from thick cardboard. Add a second layer of cardboard for stability as those acorns can get heavy!

Add a generous amount of glue to the wreath and invite your child to start attaching the acorns.

Let the wreath dry overnight, then cover it in a layer of Mod Podge. This stage is optional but it gives the acorns a glossy shine and helps the acorns stick together.

Once everything has dried, add a bow and hanging ribbon, then hang it on your front door!



# Apple Collage

Materials:

- White card
- Red and green paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick

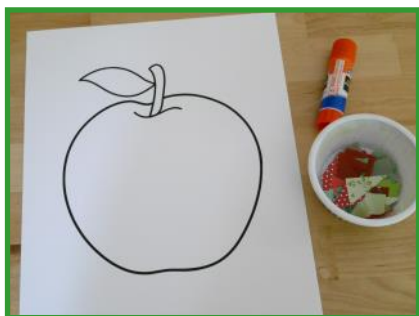


Draw an outline of an apple onto the white card or print out a template found online.

Source as many kinds of different red and green paper as possible: construction paper, tissue paper, card and even scraps cut from magazines and old calendars.

Cut the paper into small pieces – older kids will be able to help with this stage!

Invite your child to glue on the all the pieces of paper onto the apple outline. The mixture of green and red will create a lovely look!



# Crushed Leaf Collage

Materials:

- White card
- Leaf outlines
- Dried leaves in a bowl
- Glue
- Paintbrush
- Spray sealer (optional)



Draw some outlines of leaves onto the white card, or print them out from templates found online.

Crush up the leaves until they look like confetti! This is easier if the days are a few days old (you could always make Leaf People on page 45 with the fresh ones!).

Spread glue onto the leaf outlines (spread it around with a paintbrush for even coverage), then sprinkle on the crumbled leaves.

Leave them to dry and shake off the excess. So pretty! Spray with sealer to preserve.





# Dyed Pumpkin Seeds

## Materials:

- Washed and dried seeds from one large pumpkin
- 4 small bowls
- Water
- Vinegar
- Food dye



Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water and 1 tbs vinegar to each bowl. Add the food dye until desired color is reached. Add the pumpkin seeds and stir well.

Leave for an hour or two, stirring occasionally. Once the seeds have been dyed to a color that you like, drain the liquid and place the seeds on kitchen paper.

Transfer them to a baking sheet lined with wax paper (or similar), spread out and let them dry thoroughly overnight.

Ways to play: Counting, color sorting, sensory play, or simply as a pretty fall decoration!





# Fall Oobleck

## Materials:

- 2 cups cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- Bowls
- Liquid watercolor and/or food dye
- Ground cinnamon (optional)
- Large pan or container



Oobleck is a mixture of cornstarch and water that produces a very strange substance that is partly solid, partly liquid.

Add the cornstarch and water to a large bowl and mix well. Divide it into four bowls and start coloring them. Keep adding the coloring until you get a red, orange, green and yellow tone that you like. Ground cinnamon will add an extra sensory element.

Scoop all the oobleck into one large pan. Add cinnamon sticks and/or fake leaves for decoration!

*Do NOT pour oobleck down the sink after your kids have finished playing. Leave it uncovered and after a couple of hours it will have dried solid. Break it into chunks then put it in the garbage.*



# Handprint Corn Cob

## Materials:

- Straws
- Yellow paint
- Paper plate or palette
- White card
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Glue



The first part of this craft is to make some prints to resemble the corn. Bend the end of a straw to make an oval shape, dip it in yellow paint, and stamp with it onto white card. Paper plates work well as paint trays – and great for super quick clean-up!

When the paint has dried trace around your kid's hand in pencil, then cut it out. Older kids can trace their own hand.

Show the kids how to glue the handprint onto some construction paper, and then cut out corn husks from green paper.



# Inside Pumpkin Craft

Materials:

- Orange card
- Green card
- Scissors
- White or yellow card
- Cleaned and dried pumpkin seeds
- Orange yarn, cut into small strips
- Glue



Draw a large pumpkin shape onto the orange card and cut it out. Cut one green stalk and glue it onto the pumpkin.

Cut an “inside” shape from the white or yellow card, then glue it to the center of the pumpkin.

Provide your child with the yarn and seeds, and invite them to glue them to the center of the pumpkin.

***You could create a second pumpkin from card and attach it with a flap so that it can be opened to see inside!***



# Leaf Outline Art

## Materials:

- Leaves
- Tape
- White card
- Sponges
- Paint in fall colors
- Paper plate (optional)



Prepare the activity by rolling up some tape (sticky side out) and attaching the leaves to the card. You could also attach the card to your table if necessary.

Pour some paint onto the paper plate (or whatever you use for a palette) and invite your child to dip the sponge into the paint. Dab the sponge all around the outline of the leaf.

They can either use a different color paint for each leaf, or try a mixture!

When the paint has dried, carefully remove the leaves and the tape, and let your kids admire their artwork!



# Leaf People

## Materials:

- Fresh fall leaves in different colors and sizes
- Googly eyes
- Glue and card (optional)



To start this fun craft you'll need to go on a leaf hunt with the kids! Try and find "perfect" fresh leaves, with no tears or holes. Collect big ones for the faces and little ones for the nose and mouth. A range of colors is ideal and if you do this activity during the fall that should be easy!

Now it is time to create faces! Use one of the big leaves as the face, then add googly eyes and small leaves.

You could either glue them into place or just leave it as a mix and match activity.



# Paper Punch Leaf Collage

## Materials:

- White card
- Craft glue / glue stick
- Mini leaf-shaped paper punch
- Colored paper in a range of fall colors



Find an outline of a leaf online or draw one freehand onto white card. Invite your child to punch out leaves from the various different paper.

Apply the glue to the inside of the leaf outline and show your child how to carefully place all the punched leaves.

This collage activity works on three different fine motor skills: hand-eye coordination to get the paper in the slot of the punch, hand strength to operate the punch, and pincer grasp to pick up those fiddly little bits of paper!





# Pine Cone Mice

## Materials:

- Pine cones
- Pink and brown felt
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pink or brown pipe cleaners
- Wire cutters
- Googly eyes



Cut out ear shapes from the brown felt, and nose shapes from the pink felt. If you like, you can add an “inner ear” shape in pink felt to fit inside the brown. Older kids can cut these out for themselves.

Cut the pipe cleaners in half using the wire cutters (not scissors!). If you don’t have wire cutters then you could have an extra long tail! Attach it to the top of the pine cone by wrapping it around the scales.

Glue the ears, nose and eyes into position at the base of the cone. Squeak, squeak!





# Pumpkin Play Dough

## Materials:

- 1.5 cups AP flour
- 1.5 cups cold water
- 6 tbs salt
- 3 tsp cream of tartar
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- Red and yellow food dye



In a medium saucepan, mix everything apart from the dye together. Once it is all combined, add the food dye until you get to the desired color.

Over a low heat, cook the mixture until it starts clumping together. You'll need a firm spoon and a strong hand since this can be hard work! Once it clumps together in a ball, place it on some wax paper.

Let it cool slightly, then give it a quick knead. It only takes 30 seconds to become smooth.

A fun way to present this play dough is in a real pumpkin! While the play dough is cooling further, slice the top off the pumpkin, then scoop out the seeds. Rinse the pumpkin and pat it dry. Then push the play dough into the pumpkin!





# **Winter Nature Crafts**



# Christmas Tree Suncatcher

## Materials:

- Green card
- Tree template (or you could draw it freehand)
- Scissors
- Single hole punch
- Tissue paper in different colors
- Glue stick



Prepare the craft by cutting out a tree shape from the card. A long and thin-style tree works well for this because you'll still want to be able to reach the middle with the hole punch. Approximately 6" tall and 4.5" wide at the base works well.

Punch holes all over the tree and cut the tissue paper into small pieces – older children may like to help with this stage.

Invite your child to glue the paper over the holes. Once they have covered all the holes, leave to dry. Trim any overhanging edges of paper, and hold up against a light to see the fun effect!



# Cupcake Liner Snowflakes

Materials:

- White cupcake liners
- Scissors
- Double sided tape (optional)



These cupcake liner snowflakes are a fun, frugal and festive winter craft for kids of all ages.

Flatten out the cupcake liner and fold it in half. Fold one third into the center, then the last third on top.

Then it is time to for the kids to get cutting, keeping in mind where the main fold is along the edge.

The snowflakes look lovely up at the window (attach them with double-sided tape).



# Fir Cone Ornaments

## Materials:

- Fir cones (ones that are quite open are best)
- Glitter paint
- Sealable bag or paint brush
- Wax paper
- Pipe cleaners



Place a cone in a sealable bag, pour in some paint and seal the bag. Invite your child to move the paint around in the bag so it starts to cover the fir cone. Tip the cone out onto some wax paper and leave to dry. You can use the same bag for each cone that you are painting unless you want to change color. Alternatively, just use a paint brush!

Once the paint has dried, show your child how to weave some pipe cleaners around a fir cone. This is a good fine motor activity as the pipe cleaners will have to be carefully placed so that they do not unwrap themselves from the cone.

*Either place in a bowl as a festive decoration, or attach a ribbon and use them as tree ornaments!*



# Fir Tree Play Dough

## Materials:

- Sprigs of fir tree
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 tbs salt
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 2-3 drops green food dye (optional)
- Chopped fir tree needles (optional)



Place the fir tree sprig and water into a saucepan. Bring to the boil and then simmer for five minutes. Remove the sprigs but keep the water.

In another saucepan mix together the flour, salt, cream of tartar and ½ cup of the pine infused water so that the mixture is as smooth as possible. If desired, add food dye and fir tree needles. Cook slowly over a low heat, stirring regularly. As the mixture starts to thicken, stir constantly. Soon it will begin to pull away from the sides of the saucepan and form one lump. This takes about five minutes.

Remove from the heat and place the play dough on some wax paper. Let cool and then knead for a minute until smooth.

*This homemade play  
dough recipe has the very  
essence of a  
Christmas tree!*



# Ice Nature Suncatchers

## Materials:

- Shallow containers or plastic lids
- Water
- Natural items like leaves, berries and twigs
- String or yarn



Fill the container or lids with water and invite your children to place the items carefully in the water.

Place a loop of string into the water at one end and place them in the freezer – or outside if it is cold enough!

Carefully remove the frozen suncatchers from the containers and hang them from a tree branch or bird feeder hook. They will slowly melt (depending on the outside temperature) and the natural items will be revealed!





# Melted Snowman Art

## Materials:

- Equal parts white glue and shaving cream (about 1/4 cup of each per child)
- Bowl and spoon
- Iridescent fake snow
- Colored card
- Googly eyes
- Orange card or paper
- Black card or paper
- 1/2" circle punch



Mix together the glue and shaving cream in a bowl. Kids can help you with this part! Add in a little fake snow - beware this stuff can get everywhere - even worse than glitter sometimes!

Spoon out a large heap of the "puffy paint" onto the card and slightly flatten it into a large puddle using the back of the spoon. Children can add an orange triangle nose, googly eyes and black buttons made from circles of black card or paper.

You could even sprinkle on some more fake snow for extra sparkliness! Set aside to dry - the paint will remain puffed up!



# Natural Ornament

Materials:

- Small springs of fir tree
- Cinnamon sticks
- Glue
- String, ribbon or yarn
- Sequins and buttons (optional)



Spread glue over two thirds of the length of the cinnamon sticks. Invite your child to place the pieces of fir tree – arranging them in size order will make a nice tree shape but they might choose to do otherwise!

The activity will smell lovely: the combination of cinnamon and fir tree will get anyone in the mood for Christmas!

Leave the ornament to dry – you may like to add a weight on top of the twigs to keep them pressed against the cinnamon while they dry.

Glue a loop of string or ribbon to the back of the ornament.

Your kids might like to decorate their new ornament! Glue on sequins or buttons to make it look like a Christmas tree!



# Nature Salt Dough Ornaments

## Basic Recipe:

- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 cup AP (plain) flour
- 1/2 cup water

## Extra items:

- Baking tray with wax paper/silicone mat
- Natural items (see below)
- Straw
- Ribbon



Mix the salt, flour and water together in a large bowl. Add water if the mixture is a little too crumbly, or flour if it is too sticky. It is easiest to use your hands to mix the dough. Store in an airtight container until required.

Break off small pieces of dough and form into balls, then squash flat onto the lined baking tray. Place natural items like twigs, broken up cinnamon sticks, star anise, and/or fir tree needles. Push a straw into the top of the dough to form a hole.

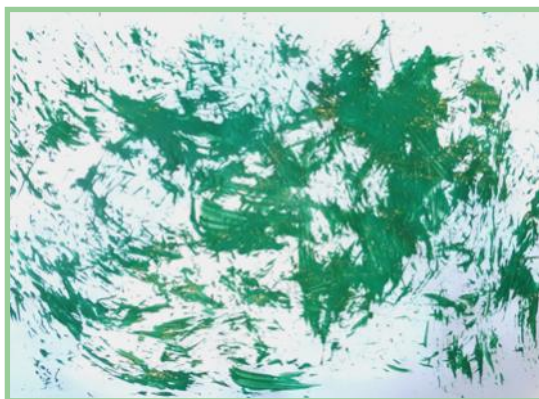
Bake in a preheated 200F oven for 2-3 hours or until the dough has fully hardened. Some items may get so brittle that they fall away from the ornaments, but they will leave a fun imprint!



# Painting with Fir Tree Twigs

## Materials:

- White card or paper
- Tape (optional)
- Green Paint
- Paper plate or palette
- Small branch from a Christmas tree (real or fake!)



Tape the card or paper to the table. This is particularly useful for younger children.

Pour some green paint onto the paper plate and invite your child to dip the branch into the paint and use it to make prints on the paper. The needles will create some lovely patterns across the paper!

Try doing this on a large piece of paper, then let it dry and use it for gift wrap! Or perhaps it would make a lovely background for another seasonal art project?

*You could add some essential oil to the paint for an extra sensory experience!*



# Q Tip Snow Art

Materials:

- Colored card
- Winter pictures (see below)
- Glue
- QTip (cotton swab)
- White paint



Collect the pictures from a range of sources – magazines, old calendars and Christmas cards are a great place to start looking. It could be a random collection of images or choose a theme like trees or animals.

Invite your child to glue them onto the card.

When the glue has dried, use a QTip to add “snow” in white paint over the whole collage.





# Snow Painting

## Materials:

- Snow
- Squirt bottles
- Food dye
- Water



You can do this painting activity inside or outside! It can be a great introduction to snow if you have little ones that are reluctant to play with it outside.

Fill some small squirt bottles with a few drops of food dye and some water. Fill a container with snow and invite your child to use the colored water to paint the snow! It looks so pretty!

## Ways to play:

- Use the snow to practice color blending and mixing
- Use a spoon to scoop and mix
- Make a colored snowball
- Make towers



# Winter Scene Box

## Materials:

- Empty Christmas card box with a clear plastic lid
- White tissue paper
- Snowflake paper punch
- Paint
- Cardstock
- Glue



To begin this craft, ask your child to paint the inside of the box with dark blue paint.

After it has dried, glue on some white cardstock cut to resemble snowy hills, and some trees. Make some snowflakes with your child from tissue paper using the punch. This is great fine motor practice!

Put the snowflakes into the box, put on the clear lid and then rub the lid to make some static electricity. The snowflakes jump up to the lid and it will look like a mini snowstorm!

*Note: If the static effect doesn't work, try taping the sides of the clear lid down to the box base.*





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## About the Author

Georgina is originally from the UK but is now living in the US with her husband and son. She started crafting with her son when he was just one year old, and created the blog [Craftulate](#) so that she could share their art, crafts and activities with others. She is also the author of the “50 Crafts” series.



