

holidays

6. Staple the cardstock handles to the sides of the milk cartons (adult only).
7. Have the children lightly water the seeds and place them in a sunny spot.
8. Encourage them to watch the baskets daily and water when needed.
9. The children can use the baskets for Easter eggs and take them home to share.

More to do

Science: Place one extra basket in a closet and don't water it. After one week, observe and talk about what is different about these seeds.

Related books

Easter Egg Artists by Adrienne Adams

Max's Chocolate Bunny by Charlotte Zolotow

When Spring Comes by Robert Maas

Barbara Saul, Eureka, CA

Christmas Lights

3+

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Materials

Green construction paper
Hole punch
Glue
Colored cellophane
Crayons

What to do

1. In advance, cut out Christmas trees from construction paper and the same size shape from colored cellophane.
2. Have the children punch holes in the trees.
3. Give the children glue to stick colored cellophane to the back of the trees, which will resemble Christmas lights on the front of the trees.
4. Encourage the children to turn the trees over and decorate them with the crayons.

Related books

Christmas Tree by Alma Ada

The Christmas Tree Tangle by Margaret Mahy

Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree by Robert Barry

holidays

Star Tree by Gisela Colle

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Jan Brett

Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect by Dick Schneider

Original song

I'm a Little Pine Tree (sing to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

*I'm a little pine tree—as you can see,
All the other pine trees are bigger than me.
Maybe when I grow up, then I'll be
A great big merry Christmas tree.*

Elizabeth Thomas, Hobart, IN

Handpainted Gift Wrap

3+

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Materials

Bingo bottles

Liquid watercolor paint

White tissue wrap

What to do

1. Ahead of time, fill bingo bottles with liquid watercolor paint. The mixture should be roughly half paint and half water.
2. Show the children how to fold their sheet of tissue paper until it is about 6" (15 cm) square.
3. Have the children press the bingo bottles to the paper until the paint soaks through all the layers of paper.
4. Set the paper aside to dry, leaving it folded.
5. When the paint dries, unfold the paper and use it as gift wrap.

More to do

More art: Ask the children to make handprints or fingerprints on the paper with paint. Paint broad strokes across the paper with large paintbrushes for an abstract appearance. Wrap the children's handmade gifts in the paper.