

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar



25 PLAY themed activities!

a daily idea counting down to Christmas!



extension ideas + adaptations

step by step instructions

**INSTANT FREE DOWNLOAD**

Includes: 25 x simple Christmas themed play ideas designed for use in an advent calendar.

SIMPLY PLAY TODAY



A collaboration with  
Simply Play Today and  
celebratePLAY

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

## BEFORE WE START

All activities in this resource are intended to be done with adult supervision. All activities are designed for children of all ages, however, you know your child best, so some activities may not be suited to your child.

The authors of this resource disclaims all liability for damage, mishap, or injury that may occur from engaging in activities and materials outlined in this book.



[www.SimplyPlayToday.com](http://www.SimplyPlayToday.com)

[www.celebratePLAY.com.au](http://www.celebratePLAY.com.au)

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## ABOUT LYCIE - SIMPLY PLAY TODAY

Hi I'm Lycie, I'm a mum of three beautiful cherubs and an Early Childhood Teacher, and I'm on a mission to help parents easily inject more play into every day!

I'm passionate about play and learning through play, particularly in the early years, so you'll find me sharing simple play ideas that you can do with your little ones using what you've already got at home (no fancy equipment required!)

*follow me on the socials*

Instagram - [www.instagram.com/simply.play.today](http://www.instagram.com/simply.play.today)

Website - [www.SimplePlayToday.com](http://www.SimplePlayToday.com)

Simply Play Together (membership) <https://simplyplaytoday.com/simply-play-together/>



## ABOUT ERIN - celebratePLAY

Hi there!! I'm Erin, a Mum of two, teacher (EC and Primary) and a PLAY biz owner. I am on a mission! A mission to build a lifelong legacy of PLAY for the children of today (including my own) and for the children of tomorrow – the future generations of children yet to come.

In a world where PLAY is disappearing in the early years, I want nothing more than to bring it back in full swing by starting at home – with daily PLAY ideas and organisation from the simple to the epic!

*follow me on the socials*



Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/celebrateplay](http://www.facebook.com/groups/celebrateplay)

Instagram - [www.instagram.com/celebrate\\_play](http://www.instagram.com/celebrate_play)

Website - [www.celebrateplay.com.au](http://www.celebrateplay.com.au)

The Project PLAY Club (membership) – <https://celebrateplay.com.au/projectplaywaitlist/>

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

## ADVENT CALENDAR TOKENS

Print these tokens onto paper or cardboard and pop them into envelopes or containers as a countdown to the lead up to Christmas (advent calendar).

**1** Get into the Christmas spirit by putting up your crafty Christmas tree and let your little one help you hang the decorations!

**2** Embrace the messy play with a messy spaghetti activity.

**3** Get your crafty face on and jump into a cookie cutter activity.

**4** Take on the role of a toyshop owner and set up a toy shop dramatic play centre.

**5** Make a batch of peppermint oobleck.

**6** This is a crafty one – make a Christmas collage wreath.

**7** Embrace your creativity and create a Santa's Workshop.

**8** Bake a batch of Christmas cupcakes.

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

## ADVENT CALENDAR TOKENS

**9** Embrace messy play with a festive sensory tray.

**10** Enjoy a festive drawing prompt.

**11** Embrace messy play with a bauble painting.

**12** Embrace messy play with a cooking and art number.

**13** Complete a bauble matching activity.

**14** Step outside into nature and bring it inside to make a batch of floral playdough.

**15** Bake a batch of Gingerbread Cookies.

**16** Get creative and make a bouquet of tissue flowers.

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

## ADVENT CALENDAR TOKENS

**17** Make a batch of Christmas Jelly and play.

**18** Decorate biscuits and make reindeers.

**19** Join in the sticker matching activity

**20** Embrace the messy play and create a vehicle tracking painting.

**21** Get into the art studio and make a Christmas garland.

**22** Build a festive small world city.

**23** Enjoy a fine motor activity with playdough.

**24** Enjoy a fine motor activity and rescue the pom poms.

**25** Build a garden and grow a plant.

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## MATERIALS

The following is a suggested list of materials you can use to complete the activities in this resource with your little ones.

However, the activities have been designed to use materials that you hopefully already have in your home and/or backyard. And, if you don't, feel free to substitute with things that you do have, for example, if you don't have jumbo tweezers, use a pair of tongs from the kitchen instead.

### From the pantry

- White rice
- Vinegar
- Plain flour
- Cream of tartar
- Cooking oil
- Vegetable Oil
- Spaghetti
- Cornflour (also known as corn starch)
  - Liquid food colouring
  - Peppermint essence
- Red and green jelly or powered gelatine
- Gingerbread ingredients
  - Cupcake Ingredients
    - Pasta
  - Cherry Tomatoes
  - Food Colouring
- Marie or Milk Arrowroot Biscuits
  - Chocolate Frosting
    - Pretzels
    - Candy Eyes
- Strawberries and Cream lollies

### From the kitchen

- Plastic plates
- Christmas themed cookie cutters
  - Trays or platters
- Small boxes from the recycling (keep the empty jelly boxes)
- Large box or container to fit a4 paper.
  - Containers
  - Cupcake Tray
  - Cupcake Liners



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## Everything else

- Large plastic tub (we usually use a medium sized storage container)
- Tinsel
- Mini baubles
- Foil bows
- Coloured card or paper
- Washable paint
- Christmas stickers
- Cheap wrapping paper
- Pom Poms
- Jumbo Tweezers or tongs
- Small loose parts (sequins, buttons, gems etc)
- Table
- Printables
- Wet wipes
- Waterproof playmat or tablecloth
- Paper
- Paint dabbers (or stickers)
- Markers
- Loose natural pieces (garden)
- Playdough tools and accessories
- Essential Oil (optional)
- Three tissues
- Floral tape
- Floral wire
- Scissors
- Cardboard Circles or Bells (DIY)
- Green, gold and red tissue paper square
- Glue (PVA or Craft)
- Vehicles
- Large sheets of paper
- Christmas trees (DIY or store bought)
- Vehicles
- Road pieces
- Magnetic Tiles (optional)
- Loose Parts (store bought or natural)
- Egg carton
- Soil
- Gloves and masks
- Seeds
- Eggs/eggshells
- Paintbrushes
- Paint dabbers



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## PLAY RECIPES

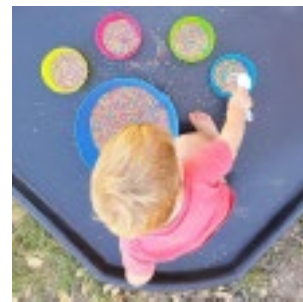
### Playdough

Add 2 cups plain flour, 1 cup salt, 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar and 2 tablespoons of oil into a bowl. Add 2 cups of boiling water and mix well. If making coloured playdough add  $\frac{1}{2}$  a teaspoon of food colouring to the water before mixing it with the other ingredients. Store in an airtight container.



### Rainbow Rice

For each colour, add 2 cups of white rice,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of liquid food colouring and 1 teaspoon of white vinegar into a ziplock bag and shake well. Spread rice onto a tray with baking paper and let dry for at least 1 hour.



### Oobleck

Mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon of food colouring and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water, then combine with 1 cup of cornflour (also known as cornstarch). If it's too runny add some more cornflour, or if it's too thick, add a little more water.



### Messy Spaghetti

Cook spaghetti al dente in a pot of boiling water and once drained, put into a ziplock bag with a few drops of food colouring (red and green) and shake until desired colour is reached. Then, add some cooking oil to help spaghetti not become sticky. Place spaghetti into a tray/tub with some tongs and containers.



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## GINGERBREAD RECIPE

### INGREDIENTS

#### Gingerbread Dough

125g butter, softened  
½ cup brown sugar  
½ cup treacle  
1 egg yolk

2 ½ cups plain flour  
1tbs ground ginger  
1 tsp mixed spice  
1tsp bicarb soda

#### Icing

2 egg whites  
3 ¼ cups sifted icing sugar  
½ tsp lemon juice

### METHOD

1. Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until combined.
2. Beat treacle and egg yolks, then stir in the sifted dry ingredients.
3. Knead dough on lightly floured surface until smooth. Cover with cling wrap and then refrigerate for 30 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 160 degrees Celsius (140 fan forced) or 320 degrees Fahrenheit (285 fan forced), and cover a tray with baking paper.
5. Roll dough on lightly floured surface to around 5mm (1/4 inch thick) then use cookie cutters to cut shapes. Carefully place them on baking tray.
6. Bake for around 10 minutes until golden. Stand for 10 minutes then transfer to a wire rack.
7. To make the icing, beat the egg whites in a small bowl with an electric mixer until just frothy, then gradually beat in icing sugar until mixture forms soft peaks. Stir in lemon juice.
8. Pour icing into a piping bag or a ziplock bag (if using a ziplock bag, cut the very edge of a corner off) then pipe your design on the cookies. Leave to dry.

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## CUPCAKE RECIPE

### INGREDIENTS

#### Cupcake Mixture

2 eggs  
125mls of milk  
60g of soft butter  
Cupcake Tray

Cupcake liners  
Cupcake Packet Mix  
Food Colouring  
Edible cupcake toppers

#### Icing

60g soft butter  
Cupcake Packet Mix  
Splash of milk

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven at 160 degrees Celsius or (140 degrees Celsius if fan forced)
2. Line the cupcake tray with liners.
3. Place cupcake mix in a bowl, with milk, eggs and butter. Using an electric mixer, mix until ingredients are combined.
4. Divide mixture across the cupcake tray and liners.
5. Place in the oven to bake for 20-25minutes or until golden brown on top.
6. Allow to cool before icing.
7. Combine icing ingredients in a bowl and with an electric mixer, mix until mixture is combined thoroughly.
8. Spread icing on the cupcakes and decorate with decorations.

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## TISSUE FLOWERS

### INGREDIENTS

3 x tissues  
Floral Tape  
Floral wire  
Scissors

Coloured Markers (red and green)

### METHOD

1. Lay three tissues on top of each other with the fold facing the same orientation.
  2. Concertina the tissues to the end so they make a long rectangle shape.
  3. Secure the tissues in the middle tightly and lengthwise using floral wire. The floral wire will make the stem. Wrap excess wire from around the tissues around the wire stem. Don't worry if the wire is not in the centre.
  4. Cut each end of the tissues to ensure the wire is in the centre.
  5. Flick the edges so the layers separate slightly.
  6. Colour the edges of each end of the tissues with a marker.
  7. Wrap floral tape tightly around the wire with a few extra layers around the upper stem to cover the excess wire.
  8. Separate each layer of tissue on both sides of wire. You may need to mould them into a round ball shape to replicate a flower.
- If you notice the tissues haven't quite met in the centre to cover the wire/stem join, it maybe be due to the wire not wrapped tight enough around the tissue in step 3.
- If you notice the flower is fuller on one side than the other, it may be due to orientation not the same direction for each tissue or the wire not centred around tissue after cutting the ends.

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## DAY I. DECORATING THE TREE



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Clear contact paper
- Coloured card
- Green paper or paint

### WHAT TO DO

Get into the Christmas spirit by putting up your Christmas tree and let your little one help you hang the decorations!

But if you're feeling a bit nervous about letting your little one touch your tree (I totally get it!!) try a contact paper version instead – use paper or paint to create a tree shape on the non-sticky side of a large sheet of contact paper. Once dry, attach it to the wall or a window with the sticky note facing out. Using card, cut out circles for baubles plus a star, then show your little one how to stick the decorations onto the tree. The decorations can be peeled off and used to decorate the tree again and again!

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## DAY 2. MESSY SPAGHETTI



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Spaghetti – see recipe
  - Food Colouring
  - Cooking Oil
  - Ziplock bag

### WHAT TO DO

Embrace the messy play with this messy spaghetti activity. If messy play makes you feel nervous, try our Exit strategy (Plan B) when setting up. This means a full proof way to stop what isn't working in the messy play and the necessary idea/resources ready to begin a new activity to avoid disaster with messy play.

Reasons why you may need an exit strategy:

- The wrong kind of mess
- Damage
- Sudden change of weather

The exit strategy/Plan B could be as simple as:

- A familiar on the spot go-to play activity eg. Simon says or Follow the Leader
- A Back up play experience set up ready to begin when the messy play doesn't quite turn out.

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## WHAT TO DO

- A Tuff tray or Waterproof Play Mat (we recommend Rudie Nudie Playmats), or paint drop sheet, tablecloth, wet wipes, paper towel nearby.
- A Plan B tub filled with another ready to go fun activity that your little one enjoys, can play independently and is familiar with.



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## DAY 3. COOKIE CUTTER STAMPING



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas cookie cutters
  - Washable Paint
- Plate or small tray
  - Paper

### WHAT TO DO

Prepare, pour the paint onto the plate and add one cookie cutter to each colour. Show your little one how to stamp the cookie cutters onto the paper to leave prints. Remember, this activity is all about the process, not how 'perfect' the final product looks, although, I'm sure it will look fabulous, regardless!!

### ADAPTATIONS

Create some personalised wrapping paper by using a roll of brown paper. Just cut along lengths from the roll and use white paint to stamp your design.





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## DAY 4. CHRISTMAS DRAMATIC PLAY



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Toy Shop Banner
- Table and chairs
- Toys (your own choice)
- Empty boxes wrapped for pretend presents
- Shop front on a table

### WHAT TO DO

1. Design a Toy Shop front on paper using the suggested materials above.
2. Print the wrapping papers below and wrap empty cardboard boxes.
3. Set up a Toy Shop following the design.
4. Engage in pretend play to pretend sell toys at a shop front.

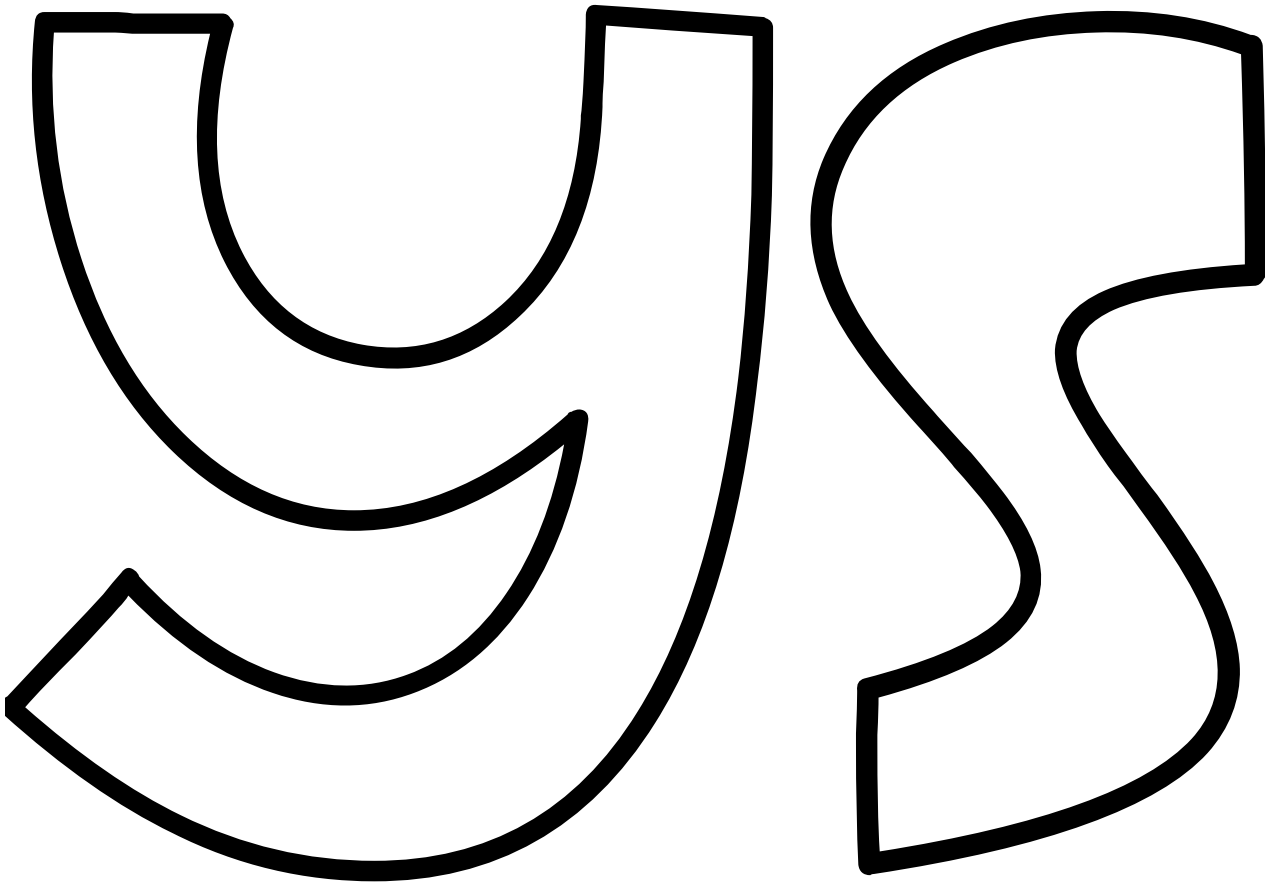
### EXTENSION IDEA

Add a cash register and money for increased authenticity and an element of numeracy.

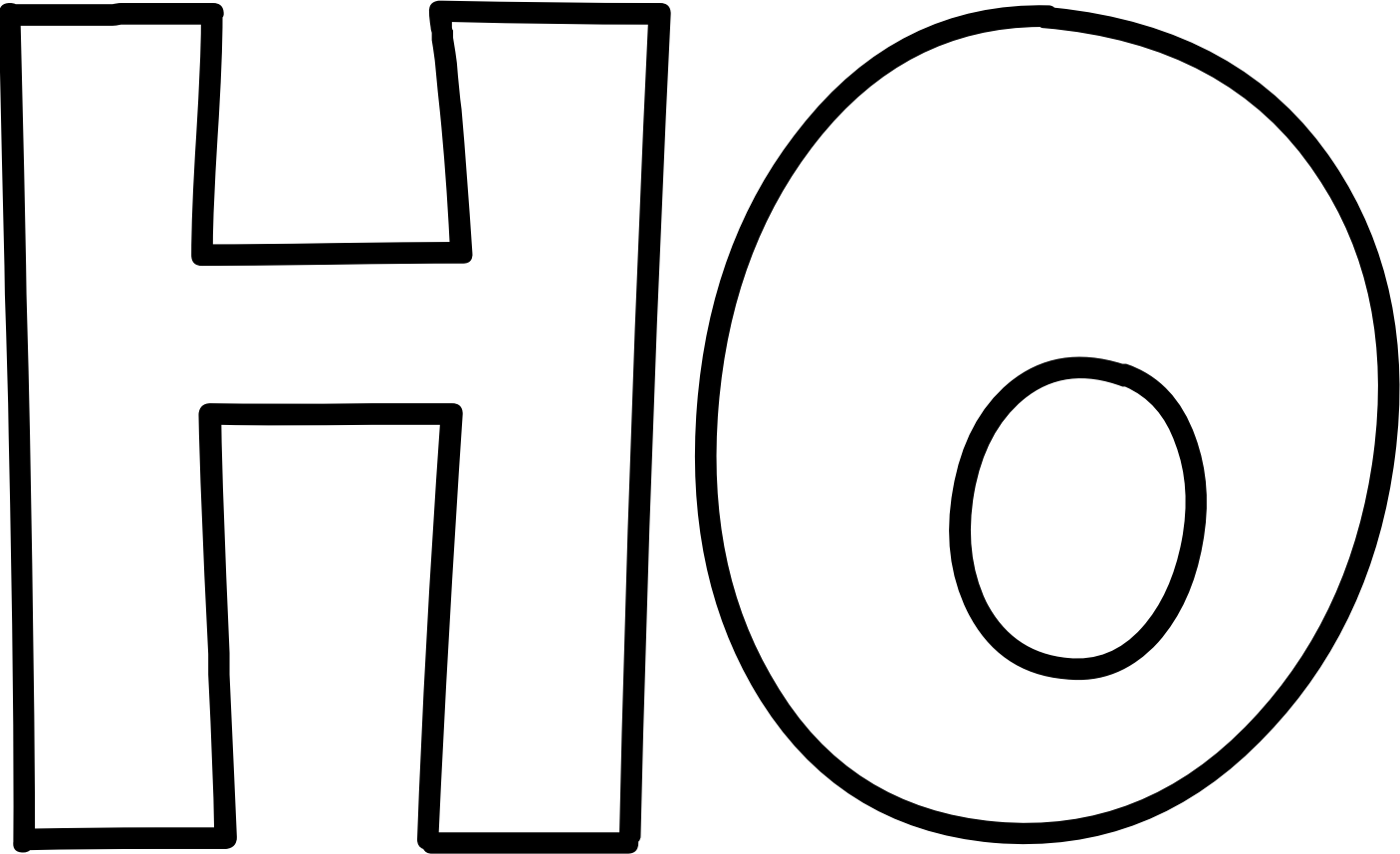
**DRAMATIC PLAY SHOP TOY BANNER PRINTABLE**



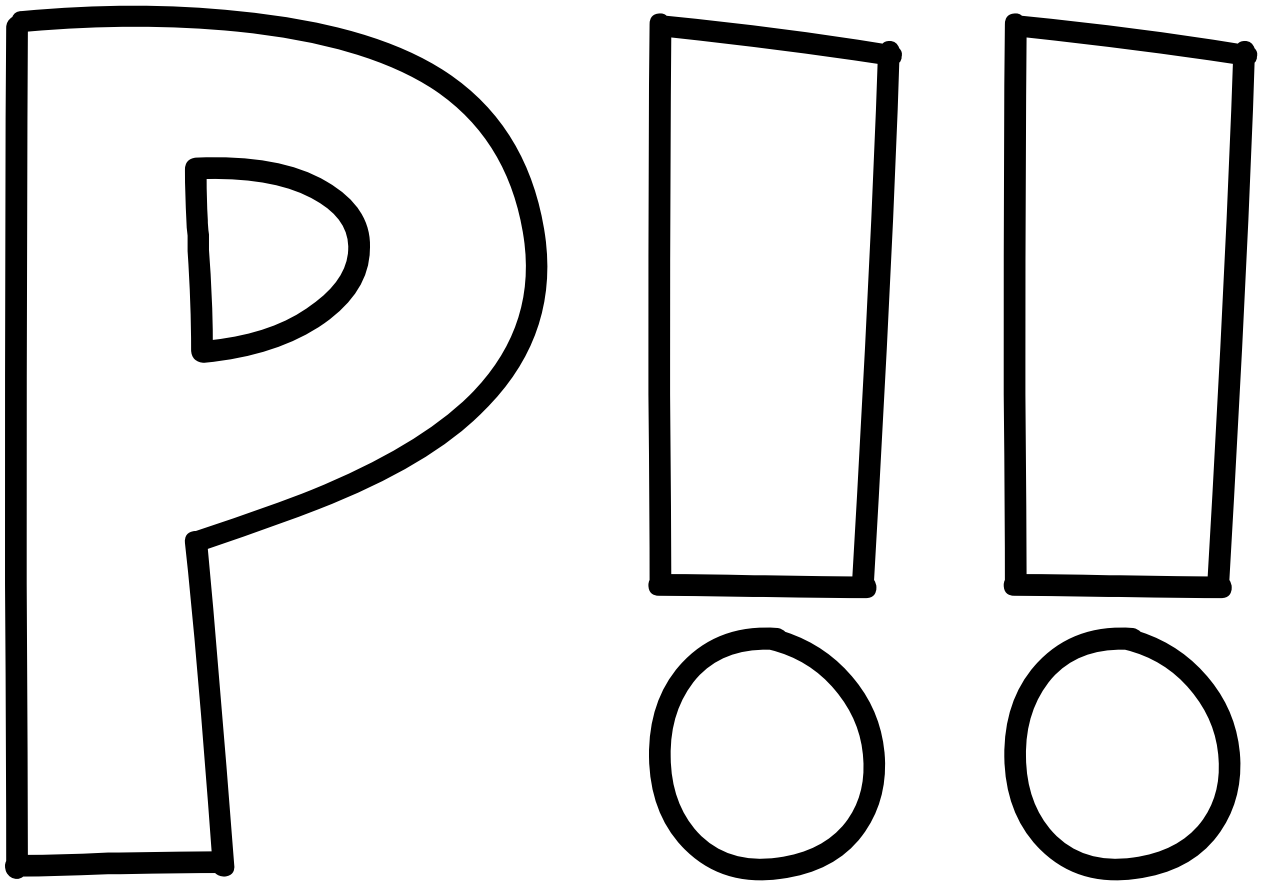
**DRAMATIC PLAY SHOP TOY BANNER PRINTABLE**



**DRAMATIC PLAY SHOP TOY BANNER PRINTABLE**



**DRAMATIC PLAY SHOP TOY BANNER PRINTABLE**



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## DAY 5. PEPPERMINT OOBLECK



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Oobleck – see recipe
- Green food colouring
- Large tray or shallow container
- Christmas decorations
- Peppermint essence (optional)

### WHAT TO DO

In a bowl, make oobleck according to the recipe on page 6, then add 2-3 drops of green food colouring and  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of peppermint essence (optional).

Pour onto a tray and add various Christmas decorations – we use tinsel, bows and baubles.

Let your little one explore the oobleck with their hands – the added decorations gives them something to pick up and move around if they are unsure of the texture and hesitant about touching the oobleck.

### ADAPTATIONS

Fill a bowl with water and encourage your little one to wash the decorations. They also may like to clean their hands in the water too!

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## DAY 6. CHRISTMAS COLLAGE WREATHS



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Cardboard Circles or bells (DIY)
- Green, gold and red tissue paper squares
- Glue (PVA or craft glue)
- Bows (any festive colour)

### WHAT TO DO

Preparation - Cut out the cardboard into circle shapes with a hollow centre or bells. Ensure the tissue paper is cut into squares and pulled apart into a singular layered square ahead of time. This makes it easier for your little one to manipulate in the activity and reduces the time spent setting up during play.

Scrunch up the tissue paper squares either one at a time or in batches. Then, squirt some glue onto the cardboard circle and stick the tissue paper ball onto it. Repeat this step until a small portion of the wreath is covered. Then, glue on a bow. Continue this process until the wreath is covered.

### ADAPTATIONS

Squirt glue onto a small tray or pot and use cotton wool buds as a tool to brush glue onto the cardboard circle/bell.

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## DAY 7. SANTA'S WORKSHOP



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Wrapping paper
- Sticky tape
- Small boxes (jelly boxes are great)
- Ribbons and bows (optional)

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, cut the wrapping paper into smaller pieces (I cut paper approximately 30cms x 30cms, but it will depend on the sizes of the boxes your little one will be wrapping!) Show your little one how to wrap the paper around the boxes and use the sticky tape to stick the paper down, then decorate with ribbon and/or a bow!

### ADAPTATIONS

If your little one is too young to wrap the presents independently, try wrapping different toys and let your little one unwrap the presents to discover what is inside! You could also do this with puzzle pieces too!



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## DAY 8. CHRISTMAS CUPCAKES



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Cupcake Ingredients
- Cupcake Tray
- Cupcake Liners
- Oven

### WHAT TO DO

In a bowl mix all the ingredients until the mixture is combined -see page 8 for the recipe. Place mixture into mini cupcake cake liners and into a tray. Place into the oven at 160 degrees Celsius until cooked (approximately 15mins). Let them cool down.

Prepare icing following the recipe on page 8 and with your little one, ice the cupcakes together. Then decorate with the decorations. We love using sprinkles and edible Christmas decorations. Enjoy!

### EXTENSION IDEA

Pack up some of the cakes into a takeaway tray and share them with family, friends or the neighbours.

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## DAY 9. BAUBLES AND BOW SENSORY TUB



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas decorations (we use bows and baubles)
- Large container
- Jumbo tweezers, tongs or scoop
- Food Colouring
- Plate

### WHAT TO DO

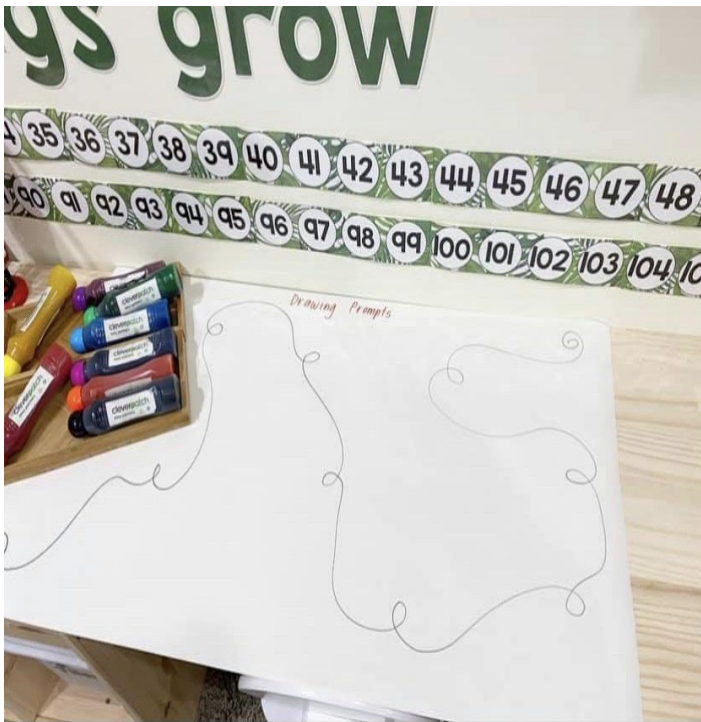
Fill a container with water, add 2 or 3 drops of food colouring then add the Christmas decorations (any water resistant decorations would work eg. tinsel, jingle bells etc). Encourage your little one to 'catch' the decorations with the jumbo tweezers and transfer them to the plate. You could use different coloured plates to encourage colour sorting.

### ADAPTATIONS

Too cold for outdoor play where you live? Try this in the bath instead! Just add some food colouring (approx. 1 teaspoon) and add the decorations for a fun Christmas bath!

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## DAY 10. CHRISTMAS PAINT DRAWING PROMPT



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper
- Paint dabbers (or stickers)
- Marker

### WHAT TO DO

Draw a series of lines with loops dangling from the lines. Using paint dabbers to cover the line with a mark making a beautiful crafty artwork for display in the home art gallery.

### ADAPTATIONS

Don't have paint dabbers, swap them, and use stickers instead.

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## DAY II. BAUBLE ART



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Washable paint
- Paper
- Box or container
- Baubles
- Tinsel
- plate

### WHAT TO DO

Put the paper at the bottom of the box and add a few dollops of paint onto the paper. Put the baubles into the box and show your little one how to move the box so the baubles roll around and leave tracks, and how to dip the tinsel into the paint on the plate and stamp it onto the paper. Remember, this activity is all about the process, not how 'perfect' the final products look, although I'm sure it will look regardless!

### ADAPTATIONS

Use the paintings to make cards for loved ones! Once the paint is dry, cut out Christmas trees or other Christmas shapes and stick them onto the front of a folded piece of card or paper.

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## DAY 12. CHRISTMAS PASTA HOLLY + IVY



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Pasta
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Food Colouring
- Plate
- Tray

### WHAT TO DO

Cook the pasta (we recommend using Penne) until it is al dente. Add the pasta with a few drops of green food colouring into a Ziploc bag and shake until the desired colour is reached.

Arrange the pasta onto the plate to represent ivy and add the tomatoes to make the holly.

### ADAPTATIONS

Make a Christmas wreath using the same items.

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## DAY 13. BAUBLE MATCH



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Pom poms
- Jumbo tweezers
- Printable – (next page)

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, print the Christmas tree on the next page and place a handful of pom poms into a bowl. Encourage your little one to use the jumbo tweezers or tongs to transfer each pom pom from the bowl to the white spaces on the tree. If tweezers are a bit tricky for your little one to use, let them place the pom poms on the tree with their little fingers – this will still support their fine motor development!

### ADAPTATIONS

Try challenging your little one by colouring the dots different colours, then encourage them to match the pom poms to the corresponding colours.

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## DAY 14. FLORAL PLAYDOUGH



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Tray
- Loose natural pieces
- White Playdough – see recipe
- Playdough tools and accessories
- Essential Oil (optional)

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, pull apart a bouquet of flowers or head into the yard for a nature hunt to collect the natural pieces. Categorise them, in the tray and set up with a range of playdough tools and accessories eg cookie cutters, rolling pins, tongs.

Watch your little one mix all the ingredients together to make a floral playdough.

### ADAPTATIONS

Try this activity with the addition of Add a few drops of an essential oil (optional).



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## DAY 15. GINGERBREAD COOKIES



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Gingerbread Recipe – see recipe
- Baking paper and baking tray
- Rolling pin
- Cookie Cutters
- Piping Bag or ziplock bag

### WHAT TO DO

Follow the gingerbread recipe to bake biscuits with your little one. Let them help pour the ingredients into the bowl, then let them stamp out the cookies using the cookie cutters. Once the biscuits are baked and cooled, make the icing, and pour into a piping bag or ziplock bag with the corner cut off. Let your little ones decorate their biscuits, then eat and enjoy! These would make gorgeous presents for family and friends.

### ADAPTATIONS

If you're not feeling brave enough to let the kids loose in the kitchen, try making the biscuits without them and get them to help decorate them instead.

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## DAY 16. TISSUE FLOWERS



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Three tissues
- Floral tape
- Floral wire
- Scissors
- Coloured marker – red and green.

### WHAT TO DO

Make the tissue flower according to the instruction sheet above in this resource.

After making a few different flowers, fluff them up, and pop them in a vase to display them in your home.

### ADAPTATIONS

Instead of putting these flowers in a vase, tie them up with some ribbon and gift them to a loved one.

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## DAY 17. CHRISTMAS JELLY



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Red and green jelly or powdered gelatine and food colouring
- Large container or tray
- Christmas decorations

### WHAT TO DO

Make the jelly according to the pack instructions and pour into a large bowls to set in the fridge.

Alternatively, use gelatine to create your mixture (following instructions on pack the add a few drops of food colouring). Once set up, scoop the jelly from the bowls and place it onto the tray. Add the decorations, then let your little one explore!

### ADAPTATIONS

Make your little ones a sensory Decoration Hunt by making two packs of the same colour jelly, pour into a large container and add the decorations into the mixture. Set in the fridge overnight, then let your little ones dig around the squishy jelly to find all the decorations!

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## DAY 18. REINDEER BISCUITS



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Marie or Milk Arrowroot Biscuits
- Chocolate Frosting
- Pretzels
- Candy Eyes
- Strawberries and Cream lollies
- Tray with baking paper

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, place biscuits on a tray lined with baking paper. Spread the chocolate frosting over the biscuit until it is covered with a single layer. Pop on the pretzel for ears, the candy eyes for eyes and the strawberries and cream lolly for the nose. Voila – you have a reindeer biscuit.

### ADAPTATIONS

Try Nutella or chocolate icing if you do not have any chocolate frosting.

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## DAY 19. STICKER MATCH



### WHAT YOU NEED

- sheet of Christmas-themed stickers
- rainbow rice (see recipe)
- large bowl or container

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, photocopy a sheet of stickers onto white paper. If you don't have access to a photocopier, buy two of the same sticker sheets, and stick the stickers from one sheet onto the paper. Cut the sticker sheet into individual stickers (keep the backing on) and place them into the rice. Encourage your little one to find the stickers in the rice, peel the sticker from the backing and stick it on top of the matching picture.

### ADAPTATIONS

If matching the stickers is too difficult for your little one, let them experiment with peeling the stickers from the backing and sticking them to a piece of paper. This is great for developing fine motor skills!

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## DAY 20. CHRISTMAS VEHICLE PAINTING



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Large sheets of paper
- Washable Paints (festive colours of choice)
- Vehicles

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, place a large sheet or several taped together on a flat surface.

Squirt dollops of paint over the paper in random spots.

Place the vehicles on the paper and watch your little ones run them through the paint making track marks. Talk about the markings using descriptive language.

### EXTENSION IDEA

Record the words that are used to describe the markings and write them next to the track marks.

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## DAY 21. CHRISTMAS GARLAND



### WHAT YOU NEED

- green paper or card
- paint
- damp cloth or baby wipes
- string
- dot stampers (optional)

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, cut triangles out of the paper or card then add a few dollops of different coloured paint onto a plate or tray. Show your little one how to dip their finger into the paint and dot it on the paper to create the baubles on the Christmas tree! Try to wipe their fingers clean between each colour to avoid the paint mixing and turning brown. Once dry, punch a hole at the top of each tree, thread through some string and hang!

### ADAPTATIONS

For a non-messy alternative, use dot markers to decorate your trees!

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## DAY 22. CHRISTMAS SMALL WORLD CITY



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Christmas trees (DIY or store bought)
- Vehicles
- Road pieces
- Magnetic Tiles (optional)
- Loose Parts

### WHAT TO DO

Create a festive small world with the addition of Christmas trees, roads, people and vehicles. Pop on your creative hat and think of the different ways resources can be used to add a splash of Christmas.

### ADAPTATIONS

Don't have store bought Christmas trees or loose parts, substitute with DIY cardboard cylinder Christmas trees (DIY) and natural loose parts from the yard.



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## DAY 23. CHRISTMAS PLAYDOUGH TREE



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Green playdough (see recipe)
- Loose parts eg. sequins, buttons, counters, glass gems
- Plate or small bowls

### WHAT TO DO

Place the loose parts onto a plate or in small bowls (a segmented plate would work great too!). Help your little one roll the playdough into a cone shape to create the Christmas tree, then encourage your them to push the loose parts into the playdough to decorate the tree.

### ADAPTATIONS

Roll out the playdough using a rolling pin, then help your little one use a tree-shaped cookie cutter to make little Christmas trees. Decorate the trees using loose parts.

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## DAY 24. POM POM RESCUE TRAY



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Basket
- Tape/ribbon
- Pom Poms
- Jumbo Tweezers/tongs

### WHAT TO DO

To prepare, place the ribbon/tape across the basket in random patterns. The larger the gaps, the easier it is for your little one to reach the pom poms, the smaller the gaps, the harder it will be for your little one to reach the pom poms.

Place a set of jumbo tweezers and tongs next to the basket for use. Pull the pom poms out using the tweezers and tongs.

### ADAPTATIONS

Place a plate or another basket for the pom poms to be transferred into.

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

## DAY 25. CHRISTMAS MINI GARDEN



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Egg carton
- Washable paint (festive colours of choice)
- Soil
- Gloves and masks
- Seeds
- Eggs/eggshells
- Paintbrushes

### WHAT TO DO

Ahead of time, prepare the eggs – drain the liquid through a small purpose made hole.

Wash the eggshells so they are clean and leave to dry. Paint the eggshells in your chosen colours.

Once dry, crack the top of the shell and remove the top half. Fill the eggshells up with soil (ensuring your and your little ones are wearing gloves and masks).

Place a hole in the soil and drop in some seeds of your choice. We love using basil. Watch the plants grow!

### ADAPTATIONS

Instead of painting the eggs, you can take your hand at naturally dying them.

# Christmas Advent PLAY Calendar

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