December is a Special Month!

Holidays, shortest day of the year, 1st day of winter, days begin to get longer, snow, ice, wind, cold. SO, what to do with the kiddos during this busy and coldest time of the year?

**Waxed paper art**

**Materials:**
- Iron (for adults)
- Wax paper
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Scissors
- Crayons
- String

All children love to color, whether it be on paper, books, or even on walls! Rarely are kids presented with opportunities to draw on alternative sources such as wax paper that offers impressively different results from coloring on regular paper.

Thanks: [https://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/](https://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/)

**Directions:**

Have your toddler-aged children cut out shapes and give them markers and crayons to decorate the shapes to their heart’s content. As they watch nearby, you or another adult can carefully iron the art to create a seamless melding of bright cheery colors that you can hang up in your child’s room or elsewhere.
Salt Dough Initials

Have you ever played with salt dough? The recipe is very easy (3 ingredients) and provides the children with sensory, fine motor and creativity skills.

Salt dough recipe:

- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup plain flour (all purpose)
- Up to half a cup of water (add bit by bit until the right consistency)

Mix together until smooth. Knead into a stretchy dough. If it is too sticky then add more flour. Use it to make just about anything!

When the models are finished, lay them on some baking parchment (greaseproof paper) and cook on a very low heat for about 2 hours. About 100 degrees C (210 F) is enough. If the models are thick then they will need to be turned half way through and may need an extra hour.

Thanks [https://theimaginationtree.com/](https://theimaginationtree.com/)

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Playing outside in the Winter!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ice Maker</th>
<th>Snow Graffiti</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When the temperature drops below 32 degrees, blow bubbles and watch them freeze on the wand.</td>
<td>Give kids spray bottles full of water that's tinted with food coloring to decorate the white canvas in your backyard.</td>
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</tbody>
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Thanks [https://www.parents.com/](https://www.parents.com/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Office Extension or Cell Phone</th>
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</table>

**Are you open for business on a federal holiday?** Please keep in mind that KidKare defaults all providers to being closed on all federal holidays. If you are open and providing care, online providers must go into Kid Kare and change your schedule. Paper menu providers must note it on the CIF.

Catholic Charities Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

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Physical Address - 270 Minot Ave # B, Auburn, ME 04210  
Office Hours – 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon & 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM  
Phone Numbers – 1-800-784-0157, 786-0925, fax – 784-2453  
Web Site – [www.ccmaine.org/cacfp](http://www.ccmaine.org/cacfp)  
Program Email – [CACFP@ccmaine.org](mailto:CACFP@ccmaine.org)