

# TODDLER

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Week

# 35

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Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

## Kids Talk About Holidays

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/0sjC13dFRS8>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Watch the video with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What do we celebrate?" "What holidays did you see other children celebrating?"



## CELEBRATE! The Holidays

by Sophia Day

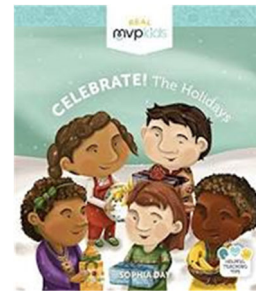
**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/Mgg1rGI1fVE>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What happened after Thanksgiving was over?" "What types of yummy food did you see in the story?" "Did you see families together celebrating?"



## Chain in the Holidays

**Materials:** construction paper (colors for your family holidays), glue, scissors

**Preparation:** Cut into even strips (# of days left until the holiday you celebrate). Take 1 strip and curl around to meet the other end and glue. Feed the next strip through the middle of your first chain link. Continue until you are lacking 3 days.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "Do you see the chain I made? What colors do you see? We are going to add some chain links to it so we can count the days until... ex: Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, etc."
2. Help your child connect the pieces. Then, count together and pull to help him/her break one chain piece.



## Sign Language "Happy"

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "Let us learn to say 'happy' using our hands."
2. Demonstrate and then have your child make the sign.

Move both flat hands in forward circling movements with palms touching the chest alternating.



## My Playdough Menorah

**Materials:** playdough, 9 craft sticks

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Show your child the materials and encourage him/her to mold the playdough into a long strip.
2. Give your child 9 craft sticks and encourage him/her to push them into the playdough.
3. Count the sticks and tell your child that this is like a menorah that is used as a symbol of celebrating Hanukkah.



## Biscuits Hanukkah

by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

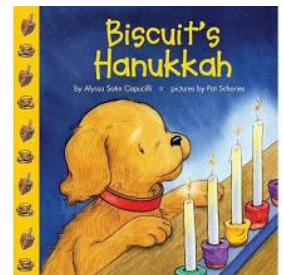
**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/5IEI-Yel2xY>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What was the wonderful holiday?" "What did Biscuit help make?"
3. Help your child sign "happy" when he/she hears the word.



## Marshmallow Dreidel

**Materials:** marshmallow, pretzel stick, chocolate kiss, icing

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Show your child the ingredients and talk about Hanukkah and a game played during this holiday using a dreidel.
2. Help your child make a dreidel by pushing the pretzel stick through the marshmallow and add the chocolate kiss on top.
3. Help her squeeze icing on each side of the marshmallow for decoration.



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## Red, Green, & Black Flag

**Materials:** crayons (red, green, black), paper

**Preparation:** Draw a large rectangle on the paper and 3 even vertical lines.

**Instructions:**

1. Show your child the 3 crayons and have him name the colors.
2. Give your child the paper and encourage him/her to use all the colors to make the Kwanza flag by coloring each section one color.
3. Have your child color the top red, the middle black, and the bottom green.



## My First Kwanzaa

by Karen Katz

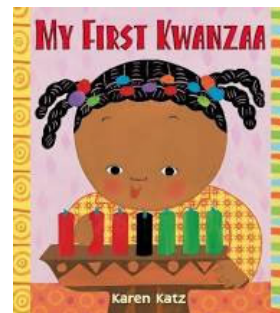
**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/Tx1OqdX4McE>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What color are the candles?" "How many candles are there?"



## Red, Black, & Green Hops

**Materials:** construction paper (red, black, green), scissors, tape

**Preparation:** Locate an open area. Cut out 4 squares of each color. Tape on the floor where your child can hop easily from one color to the next color.

**Instructions:**

1. Tell your child we are going play "Hop on that Color!"
2. Have your child stand next to a color. Then say, "Hop to green." Once he/she hops on the green, then pick another color.
3. Your child is getting his/her wiggles out, building gross motor skills, and learning colors.



## Sign Language "Happy"

**Instructions:**

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## Colorful Christmas Water

**Materials:** funnel, bowl, water, large measuring cup, cups, food coloring

**Preparation:** Set the funnel in the measuring cup. Set up cups with water with red, blue, and yellow food coloring.

**Instructions:**

1. Show your child the materials. Say, "You are going to pour the colored water from 2 cups into the funnel."
2. Encourage your child to choose 2 cups and pour one at a time through the funnel. As he/she is pouring, ask him/her what color is being made.
3. Once complete, dump out the water and have your child try 2 different colors.



## Pete the Cat 12 Groovy Days of Christmas

by Kimberly and James Dean

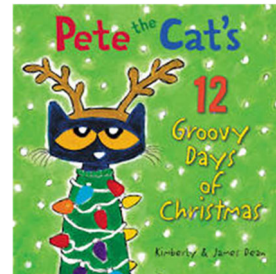
**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/m6pGRkE7rTE>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask questions, ex: "What presents did Pete give to his friends?" "What was Pete driving?" "Where did they go?"



## Triangle Christmas Tree

**Materials:** crayons, paper, glue, scissors

**Preparation:** Gather materials.

**Instructions:**

1. Give your child the green crayon and encourage him/her to color the whole paper.
2. Then, draw three triangles and cut them out.
3. Give your child another sheet of paper and help him/her glue the triangles to make a tree. Identify the shape.
4. Then have your child decorate his/her tree using crayons.



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## The Dancing Christmas Tree Song

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/rlr4uXAz-JM>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Say, "Let's watch the dancing Christmas Tree and follow its directions."
2. Have your child stand and move along with the Christmas tree.



## If Animals Celebrated Christmas!

by Ann Whitford Paul

**Materials:** internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/fJ6mCkymkFc>

**Preparation:** Preview video.

**Instructions:**

1. Listen to the read aloud story with your child.
2. Ask "What animals were in the story?" "How did they celebrate Christmas?"



## Christmas Tree Pom-Pom Push

**Materials:** shoe box with lid, construction paper, pom-pom balls, glue, markers, utility knife (**adults only**)

**Preparation:** Cover box top with white paper and draw a Christmas Tree on it. Cut holes (using utility knife) and color code each hole to match the colors of pom-poms.

**Instructions:**

1. Show your child the Christmas tree.
2. Have your child choose a pom-pom and match up the color. Have him/her push it through the hole.
3. Continue until all pom-poms are in the box.



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**Instructions:**

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