

## Christmas Home Learning Challenge

### Crafty Christmas

Christmas decorations made by little ones are treasured family memories, many of which come out each year, long after our little ones have flown the nest. My own angel that I made when I was in Infant School regularly finds its way onto the tree at my childhood home, no matter how many times my embarrassed teenage self tried to hide it! For this holiday home learning challenge, we have given ideas of simple and effective crafts that you may wish to do with your little ones at home.

#### Spiral Christmas Trees

If you want to create a simple Christmas decoration with your children, spiral trees could be a good option. Paper plates are a great resource to use for these—simply grab a plate, draw a spiral shape on it and encourage your child to snip along the line. The spiral can then be painted green and decorated with glitter and sequins. You may wish to extend this even further by encouraging your child to punch holes at regular intervals in the spiral and then thread baubles through them. This activity is best for older children with some scissor control and plenty of perseverance! For some children, maybe the shape could be pre-cut and they can enjoy painting and decorating!



#### Salt Dough Decorations

Salt dough is a fantastic resource if you want decorations that can last more than one season.

Combine two cups of flour, one cup of salt and one cup of water to a smooth dough, then roll out

and use cookie cutters to cut shapes. Alternatively, as a keepsake, you can roll the dough out into a circle and create a hand/footprint to be decorated. Poke a hole in them and then cook at the lowest temperature setting of your oven for about three hours. Once they have cooled down they are ready to be decorated with paints, glitter and sparkles. Just make sure that your little one understands that they are not baking cookies—they may be in for a nasty surprise if they try to bite into one of their decorations!





### Cupcake Case Craft

Cupcake cases are a deceptively versatile resource! By cutting or folding them into triangle shapes, you are able to make some very simple and very effective crafts. Three of these triangles can be arranged one on top of the other to create a Christmas tree which can then be painted and decorated, whilst a single triangle can be used to create an angel's dress-all that needs to be added is a face, some hair and some wings (an additional cupcake case folded in half). They can either be glued onto paper or glued onto lollipop sticks to create cute Christmas puppets.



Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

