



Holiday Helps

Ideas for Early Childhood Classrooms

Children will enjoy using this special craft to retell the story of Jesus' birth.

A Baby in a Manger

What You'll Need

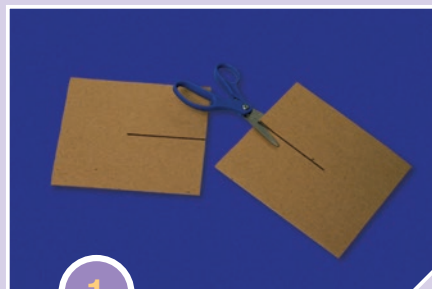
- 2 - 5" x 6" pieces of cardboard
- 1- 1½" x 3" piece of cardboard
- scissors
- ruler
- pencil and markers
- 2" Styrofoam ball cut in half
- 2 small wiggle eyes
- cotton balls
- felt (7" x 7")
- 16" length of yarn or twine
- yellow construction paper
- glue

What to Do

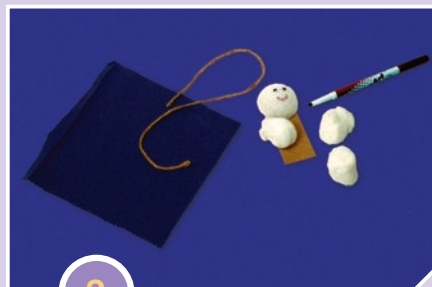
1. Use a ruler to mark a 3½" line in the center of each piece of cardboard, as shown. Cut on the lines to create slits. Slide the two pieces of cardboard together at the slits and push opposite sides of the cardboard downward to create a standing manger.
2. Glue eyes to the rounded side of a half Styrofoam ball. Use a marker to draw a mouth below the eyes. Glue the flat side of the foam ball head to one end of a 1½" x 3½" piece of cardboard. Glue cotton balls below the head. Then use a piece of felt to wrap a "blanket" around the baby you have made. Secure the felt with a length of yarn or twine.
3. Cut yellow construction paper into narrow strips to represent pieces of hay. Glue the paper hay inside the manger. Lay the baby on the bed of hay.

Another Idea!

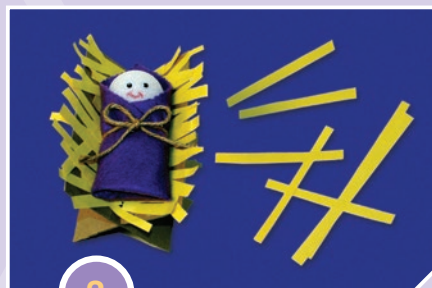
Have kids gather in a circle. Pass a "Baby Jesus" around the circle as you play a song. When the song stops, the child holding the baby can tell something about the night when Jesus was born.



1



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