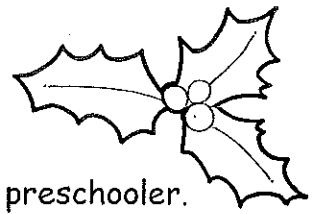


## December Activity Ideas



Here are some fun "C" activities you can do at home with your cute and cool preschooler.

### Science - Cooking with Cotton Balls

I know most of you bake cookies during the holidays, but have you ever heard of baking cotton balls! I saw this experiment in The Mailbox teaching magazine and thought I would pass it on. Sounds like fun and I can't wait to try it myself. You will need flour, water, food coloring, small bowls, spoons, a baking sheet, and of course, cotton balls. Follow these steps with your child:

- Step 1: Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Add equal parts of flour and water to several small bowls. Then add a few drops of food coloring and stir.
- Step 2: Ask your child what they think will happen if they put the cotton balls in the oven. Write down their prediction on a piece of paper.
- Step 3: Have your child dip the cotton balls into the mixtures and put them on a baking sheet. Bake the cotton balls for 30-45 minutes. Let the cotton balls cool before exploring them.
- Step 4: Before exploring the cooled cotton balls, review what your child thought would happen to the cotton balls. They should notice that the outside is very hard. Ask them if they think the inside will be hard too. Then they break one open to investigate the texture.

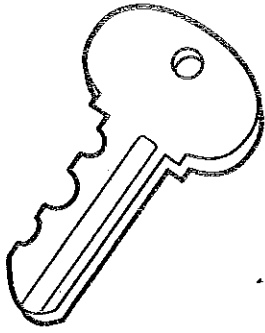
They could use the rest of the cotton balls to make an art project.

### If You Give a Cat a Cupcake

This is another classic by Laura Numeroff, author of If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, If You Give a Pig a Pancake, and If You Give a Moose a Muffin. She also wrote the Christmas tale, If You Take a Mouse to the Movies.

**Gross Motor Activity** - After reading the story, go back and take a picture walk through the story. A picture walk is when you just look at the pictures. Have your child reenact all the cat's movements, such as putting sprinkles on the cupcake, building a sand castle, and lifting weights as you take your picture walk.

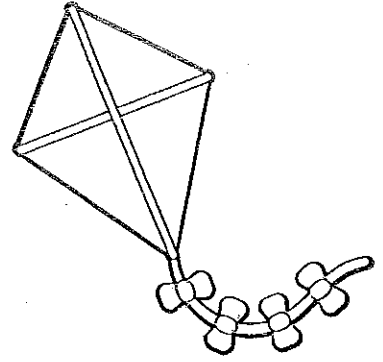
**Language Activity**- Your child will work on recognizing the beginning /k/ sound in this activity. The /k/ sound is one that some young children have trouble with. They often make the /t/ sound instead of the /k/ sound. You will need a cupcake/muffin pan for this activity. Your child can color and cut out the copy of picture cards. Place them face down next to the cupcake pan. To start, reinforce that cat and cupcake start with the /k/ sound. Let your child flip over a card and name the picture. If the picture starts with the /k/ sound, have them put it in the cupcake pan. Continue on until your child has done all the cards. There should be 2 spots left in the cupcake pan when the activity is finished. Help your child think of 2 more words that begin with the /k/ sound. You could have them look around their bedroom or in the kitchen to help them come up with more words that start with the /k/ sound.



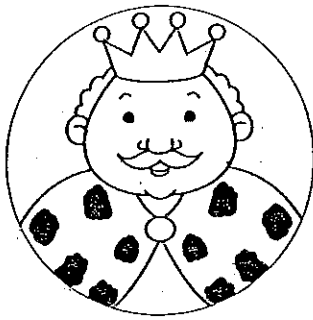
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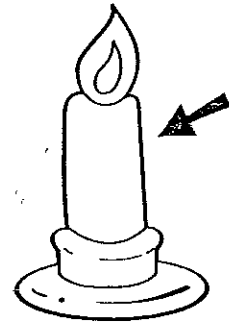
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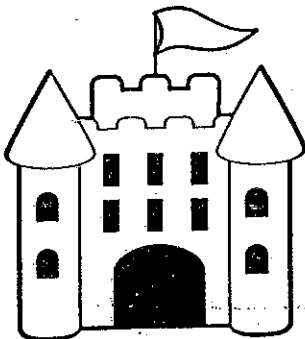
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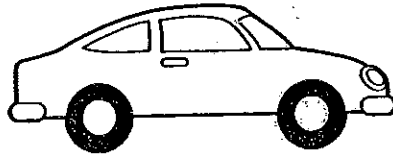
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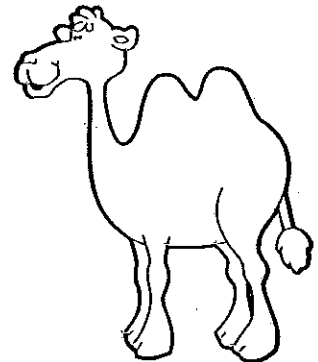
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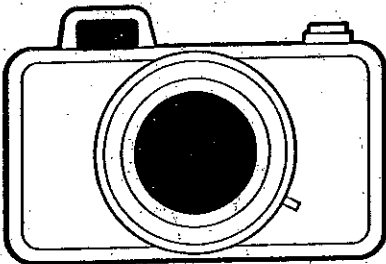
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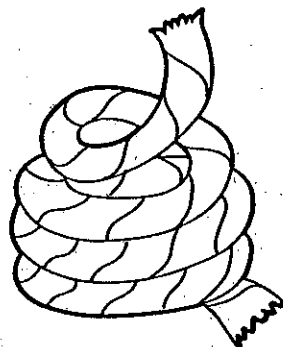
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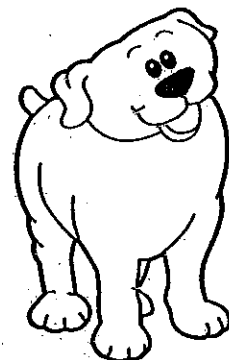
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