

December Infant Activities for

(Birth to 12 Months)

Kissing Under the Mistletoe



**Social Emotional
Support**

Snuggling & kissing your infant provides security & builds connections in the emotional center of your infant's brain. This leads to secure attachment with others. Place mistletoe decorations around your home as a reminder to snuggle and kiss your infant every time you're under it. Diaper changing is another great time to give loving touches and kisses to your infant. Love and affection from a parent can have positive influences on an infant's brain development, so snuggle & kiss away.

Tinsel Time



**Cognitive
Development**

Lay your infant on his/her back and hold a string of brightly colored tinsel over his/her chest within arm's reach. As your infant reaches for the tinsel, bring the tinsel closer for exploration. Cheer your infant by saying, "Oh, you see the red, shiny tinsel", and "Yay! You got it". Your positive words of encouragement & using sensory stimulating materials help your infant reach his/her physical & cognitive milestones.

Through the Chimney I go!



**Playful
Parenting**

Create an obstacle course to represent a "chimney." Start by placing large pillows and ends of large boxes together to make a tunnel for your infant to crawl or creep over and through. You can encourage your infant to crawl or creep over & through the chimney by joining in and playing together. While playing say, "Where are you going?" or "Mama is following you". Through playful movements and exploration, infants begin to learn spatial concepts such as over and through.

December Toddler Activities for (12-24 Months)

Camping Under the Holiday Tree



**Social Emotional
Support**

Camp with your keiki under the holiday tree. Lay pillows, blankets and stuffed animals out. Turn off the room lights and let your holiday tree lights brighten up the room. Play “I Spy” and talk about the decorations, colors or shapes that you see. Take pictures to create memories from year-to-year for you and your keiki look back at. Remember to practice and model holiday safety by turning off your holiday tree lights before you go to sleep!

Parachute Bows



**Cognitive
Development**

Teach your keiki the Hawaiian value “le’ale’a” which means to have fun, by creating a bow parachute. Use a round table cloth for your “parachute”. Toss different color bows onto the center of your parachute. Hold one end of the parachute while your keiki holds the opposite end and shake it trying to keep your bows from bouncing off. Experiment with your keiki different shakes (slow, or fast) to see what works. Repeat for more fun. This is a le`ale`a or a fun way to teach problem-solving.

Personalized Wrapping Paper



**Playful
Parenting**

Include your keiki in gift wrapping this holiday season. Cut several feet of craft paper and lay it down in a large area such as your driveway or garage. Paint keiki’s hands and feet with different colored paint. Let keiki go wild printing his/her painted hand and foot prints all over the paper. Have baby wipes or a bucket of soapy water ready for an easy clean up. Once the paper dries completely, you and keiki can begin wrapping gifts together!

December Preschooler Activities for (24-48 Months)

Kindness Teddy Bear



Social Emotional
Support

Use a teddy bear or another favorite stuffed animal to teach keiki kindness and gratitude throughout the holiday season. Place a teddy bear around your home with little notes each day, either praising keiki for their kind acts that they have done or suggesting more ways they can help others at home, school or in their community. You can write notes that say, “Thank you for picking up your toys”, or “Let’s bake cookies for our neighbor”.

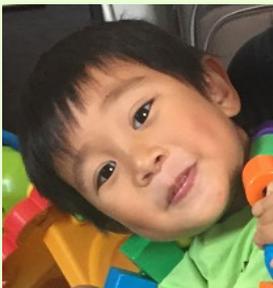
Holiday Busy Bag



Cognitive
Development

Holiday busy bags help to keep keiki engaged when traveling whether it’s a long car or plane ride. Use a Ziploc bag or pencil pouch to create your holiday busy bag. Cut 5 holiday gingerbread man figures out of cardboard (*Cookie cutters make great templates*). Number each holiday gingerbread man from 1-5 and draw the number of corresponding dots on each one. Keiki can use large pom-poms or cotton balls to count each dot. This activity helps keiki to practice counting using one-to-one correspondence.

Hū (Kukui Nut Tops)



Playful
Parenting

Hū is an ancient Hawaiian game similar to a spinning top played during the Makahiki season using kukui nuts and bamboo sticks. Play a fun game of hū with your keiki and family. The more players that you have adds to the fun! Start by collecting a few kukui nuts, one for each person. Drill a small hole in each top of a kukui nut. Use a toothpick for a stem and place it into the hole. To play, twirl the stick between your finger and thumb to spin the kukui on it’s tip. The person whose kukui nut spins the longest wins the game.