

## Holiday Gift Projects for the Kids

Not all gifts have to be bought and often the best gifts are the ones made at home by our little ones. With the holidays upon us, here are some "make it yourself" gift ideas that you can help your children with.

### **Jar of Fortunes**

*Appropriate age group(s):*

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School & Beyond

*Estimated time to make this gift:*

- 1 hour

*Materials:*

- You will need a clear glass jar and paper slips big enough to write on. If you want to decorate, get paints or stickers.

*Instructions:*

- Make about one hundred paper slips with fortunes or quotes written on them. Stuff them all in a jar. Then decorate the jar with paints or stickers. Tell the person receiving it to take one out and read it each day.

### **Christmas Ornament**

*Appropriate age group(s):*

- Preschool and Younger
- Elementary School
- Middle School

*Estimated time to make this gift:*

- Not counting drying time about an hour

*Materials:*

- 4 oz cinnamon1 C applesauce
- 1 TBSP nutmeg
- 1 TBSP ground cloves
- 1 TBSP white glue

*Instructions:*

- Mix applesauce with ground cinnamon, nutmeg, ground cloves, and glue to form a stiff dough. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters. Make hole for ribbon hanger. Carefully put on rack to dry. Let air dry for several days, turning occasionally. Makes 12 sweet smelling ornaments.

*Other comments or suggestions to consider:*

- Cookie cutters of all kinds can be used to vary the shapes and characters. The younger child can help with the mixing and the cutting of the shapes.

### **Bird Feeder**

*Appropriate age group(s):*

- Preschool and Younger
- Elementary School

*Estimated time to make this gift:*

- About 15 Minutes

*Materials:*

- Large Pinecones (Can be found at craft stores or in the yard)
- Peanut Butter
- Butter Knife
- Bird Seed

- String Or Ribbon If Desired
- Box And Wrapping Paper To Wrap Them In

*Instructions:*

- On an open area, lay newspaper or just put down a cookie sheet. Have your child take the butter knife and dip it into the peanut butter and apply the peanut butter all over the pine cone (inside and out). Sprinkle the bird seed over the peanut butter pine cone until well coated. Tie a string or ribbon onto the top of the pine cone for hanging or if this doesn't work well, the pine cone can be placed on a fence or can be wedged into a chain-link fence.

**Grandma's Apron**

*Appropriate age group(s):*

- Preschool and Younger
- Elementary School

*Estimated time to make this gift:*

- 20 minutes

*Materials:*

- Plain white apron and red, green, yellow, & blue paint.

*Instructions:*

- This is a simple gift for the grandma that doesn't really need anything. Have each of her grandchildren put a handprint on the apron in paint. Write the child's name under each handprint.

*Other comments or suggestions to consider:*

If the children aren't all in the same place very often, this is a nice gift that can be made while the adults are making Christmas dinner.