

## Holiday Art with your Child

At this time of year, there is a multitude of wonderful craft projects coming home from school every week - some are probably your holiday gift! December is definitely a time of imagination and creativity. Before the "big day" or after you have stored the decorations for the season, take about 30 minutes to slow down and create "Santa's Closet" with your child.

In this lesson plan you will be either taking Santa's suit from the closet or putting it back in for the season until next year. If you don't want to use Santa's suit, design your own snow or ski outfit. We have fashioned Santa a hanger out of left over ornament hangers or you can use small gauge wire. Younger children will need help with cutting.

You will need (use what you have already at home):

- Colored construction paper (red, black, brown and black)
- Wallpaper scrap or leftover wrapping paper
- Ornament hanger or other small gauge wire
- Cotton balls
- Scissors, Glue
- Brown marker

1. Use a 12"x18" piece of black construction paper for the back.

Layer an (optional) 11"x17" green piece on top. Using a piece of wallpaper or leftover wrapping paper (10 1/2"x16 1/2") cover the green paper for Santa's (or your) closet.

2. Use a small piece of brown construction paper to make a clothes rack. Use a colored marker to add small dots to simulate wooden pegs.

3. Cut Santa's suit or your own snow or ski outfit from colored pieces of construction paper. Think of how you want your design to be. Will it be a classic Santa suit or something more contemporary? Add laces to his boots (optional) using small string or thin yarn and use gold and black paper (or whatever paper you have available) for his belt. Add cotton balls for trimming the suit and boots.

4. Once you have glued Santa's suit, cut an arm out of paper. This is the hardest part of this project! See our photo with Santa's arm reaching in to take his suit out of the closet for the holidays OR put his suit away until next year. Think about the size of the suit and determine what scale his arm should be cut. Take your time with the fingers. Younger children may want to draw the arm and hand first and then cut it.

5. Fashion a wire clothes hanger from a leftover ornament hanger or other wire. Once the glue has dried, you can turn the suit over and add the wire hanger to the back. Make sure it is sticking out in the appropriate place and that it is long enough to "hang" on the wooden peg. Glue it to the back of the suit. Let it dry and glue the suit to the closet in the right spot.

For additional lesson plans or to register for an art workshop or art camp visit the Arts for All Nevada website at [artsforallnevada.org](http://artsforallnevada.org) or call 826-6100.

