



Festival Crafts with Kids

Making something with your hands before a festival builds excitement and gives you the perfect moment to tell the story behind it. Each craft takes 30 to 60 minutes.

Diwali: paint your own diyas

You need: plain clay diyas, poster or acrylic paints, brushes, glitter glue, battery tea-lights

- 1 Wipe the diyas with a damp cloth and let them dry.
- 2 Paint the outside in one bright base colour and leave for 20 minutes.
- 3 Add dots, stripes or little flowers with a cotton bud. Dots are easiest for small hands.
- 4 Finish with glitter glue and leave overnight.
- 5 Pop a battery tea-light inside and tell the story of Ayodhya welcoming Rama home.

Janmashtami: decorate a makhan matki

You need: a small clay pot or a paper cup, paint, ribbons, sticky gems, a little cotton wool

- 1 Paint the pot orange, yellow or blue (Krishna's colour) and let it dry.
- 2 Wrap ribbons around the neck and stick on gems.
- 3 Fill the top with cotton wool as pretend makhan (butter).
- 4 Hang it up high and let your child "reach" for it, like Krishna and his friends, while you share the Govardhan or makhan story.

Ganesh Chaturthi: an eco Ganesha

You need: natural clay or air-dry clay, a toothpick, water, a small leaf for the base

- 1 Roll a big ball for the tummy and a smaller ball for the head.
- 2 Roll a sausage for the trunk and curl it to one side. Press on two flat circles for big ears.
- 3 Add four small sausage arms and two legs, and a tiny ball in one hand for a modak.
- 4 Use the toothpick to draw eyes and a little crown.
- 5 After the festival, place your Ganesha in a bucket of water to dissolve, then pour the water onto plants, giving the clay back to nature.

Navratri: newspaper dandiya sticks

You need: newspaper, sticky tape, coloured paper or washi tape, ribbons

- 1 Roll two sheets of newspaper tightly from one corner into a stick, about 30 cm long.
- 2 Tape the end firmly and fold over both tips for strength.
- 3 Wrap with coloured paper or washi tape in a spiral.
- 4 Tie ribbons at one end.
- 5 Practise the simple garba clap: tap, tap, turn. Then dance to celebrate Durga Maa!



Grown-ups: please handle any cutting and keep paints and small gems away from toddlers.