

Tie bells to your child's shoes or string a couple of bells on a pipe cleaner or ribbon to tie around one of your child's wrists. Encourage your child to make music with his bells as you sing "Jingle All the Way"

## Jingle All the Way

*(sung to "Jingle Bells")*

Jingle Bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.

Oh, what fun it is to play my jingle bells today-oh!

Shake them fast, shake them slow, shake them loud and clear.

Oh, what fun it is to shake when Christmas time is near.



## Sparkly Peppermint Playdough

- 2 cups water
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 4 tablespoons oil
- 4 tablespoons peppermint extract
- glitter

Mix all ingredients in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and pulls away from the sides of the pan. Form dough into a ball, sprinkle with glitter, place on waxed paper, and cool completely. Store in an airtight container.



## Gingerbread Playdough

- 1 Cup flour
- 1/2 Cup salt
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- Spices--Cinnamon, Allspice, Ginger, Nutmeg
- \*Green and red food coloring to make brown (optional--the spices usually give the dough a good brown color.)

Mix the dry ingredients. Experiment with the spices until you get a scent and color that you like.

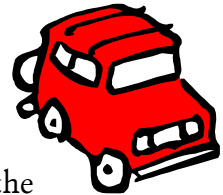
Mix water and oil together first and then add them to the dry ingredients and stir. In a pot, cook the mixture for three to five minutes on low/medium, stirring constantly until it starts to pull away from the sides of the pot. Take the dough out of the pan and knead the dough until it becomes soft and smooth. Allow the dough to cool and store in an airtight container.

## Bell Stories

Give your child a jar with a couple of jingle bells inside, or a jingle bell bracelet made of bells and pipe cleaners. Make up a story about bells or read a story with the word bells in it often and have your child shake the jar or bracelet whenever she hears the word "bell". Type "bells" in the subject search area of the library catalog to find books about bells.

## Tunnel of Fun

Select a long, wide cardboard tube- an empty wrapping paper roll will work great. Prop up one end of the tube. Choose the largest size car that will fit inside the tube. Your child will enjoy putting the car in the in the top of the tube and watching it come out of the other end.



## Color Games

The Holidays are a great way to help children learn their colors. For Christmas, red and green are everywhere, at Hanukkah, blue and silver prevail. For Kwanzaa you will see black, red and green. Pick a color for the day and spend time naming objects that are that color. Ask your child to help you find objects that color. You may want to have your preschoolers count the number of red (or other color) objects in one room.