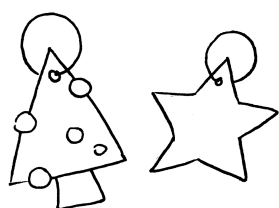


# Ornaments

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Social-Emotional

## What You Need:



- Thick paper, a cereal box, cardboard, or flat Styrofoam® trays such as those used in packaging food
- Marking pens (washable markers for use with paper; permanent markers for use with Styrofoam®)
- Blunt, child-sized scissors
- Pencil
- Ribbon, yarn, or string
- White glue (such as Elmer's Glue®\*\*) or glue stick
- Glitter (optional)
- Cookie cutters (optional)

## What To Do:

1. Help your child draw different shapes such as an angel, star, tree, or menorah on the cardboard or Styrofoam® tray. (If using food trays, wash them thoroughly with soap and hot water first and let them dry.) Or help your child trace shapes from cookie cutters.
2. Show your child how to carefully cut out a shape and encourage her to do the cutting; help as needed. (If using Styrofoam®, ask her what it feels and sounds like when she cuts it.)
3. Have your child decorate each shape with markers, or with glue and glitter. As she completes each ornament, have her describe it to you. Discuss similarities and differences among the different ornaments she has made, for example, color, shape, size, shiny with glitter or not shiny.
4. When the decorations are dry, poke a hole in the ornament with a pencil and



Learning to Grow

University of Hawai'i Center on the Family (CTAHR)

[www.learningtogrowhawaii.org](http://www.learningtogrowhawaii.org)

*Learning to Grow*  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

thread a piece of ribbon, yarn, or string through the hole, and tie a knot at the end, making a loop.

5. Hang the ornament in a place where everyone can admire it.

#### VARIATIONS:

1. Instead of drawing your own pictures, use holiday pictures from greeting cards, magazines, or catalogs. Glue the pictures to the cardboard or Styrofoam® tray, cut around the picture, and continue from #4 above.

2. Make different ornaments for different occasions such as birthdays, or holidays like the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa. Talk about the meaning of each occasion. When you have a collection, have your child sort the ornaments by occasion.

! Safety Alert: Adult-size scissors are not safe for young preschoolers. Let your child practice cutting with blunt, child-sized scissors. Monitor your child as she uses the scissors. If you do not have appropriate scissors or the paper is too thick for your child to cut, do the cutting yourself. Discuss the dangers of moving around with a pair of scissors in hand.

\*\* Use of brand names is for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Learning to Grow Project.

