

Daily Baby Activities

Sunday	Go for a brisk walk with your baby outside and talk to them about what you see (i.e. snow, bare trees, etc.)	Let your baby touch something cold, like an ice cube, and say, "The ice cube is cold". Do the same with something warm, and say, "[Object] is warm."
Monday	Place a hat on your baby and tell them "hat on" then take the hat off and say "hat off".	Sing some winter-themed songs to your baby (See lyrics on last page of document).
Tuesday	Go for a drive around the neighbourhood at night and encourage your baby to look at the lights and decorations.	Crumple white paper into balls (so they look like snowballs) and throw them into a basket or box or into the air. Give some to your baby to try!
Wednesday	Talk to your baby through a paper towel tube and encourage your baby to listen to your voice and babble on the other end.	Look for a snowman outside or find a picture of one and tell your baby what it is. Tell them what is used for body parts (i.e. carrot for the nose).
Thursday	Take your baby on a sleigh ride around your home by placing them in a box or basket and support them with pillows. Then, gently drag the box around your home.	As you dress your baby in their winter gear, tell them what they are putting on and for which body part it is for (i.e. "These boots are for your feet.")
Friday	Pour some whipped cream or ice cream on a tray or your baby's highchair. Encourage your baby to explore it. Describe how it looks and feels like snow.	Look at pictures of winter animals (in a book or by printing them out). Tell your baby what each animal is and use some descriptive words (i.e. "The penguin is black and white").
Saturday	Play some upbeat holiday music and help your baby clap their hands or tap their feet to the beat of the music.	Pour some water and glitter glue in a bottle. Also include some winter-themed confetti. Seal the bottle and give to your baby to explore.

**If you'd like, do the daily activities repeatedly, and on other days too! Repetition is key for babies to learn and develop.*

Kwanzaa Bracelet

Your little one will get to improve their pattern skills in this fun holiday activity. Great for ages 3 year and up.

What You Need:

- Beads (red, black, green)
- String
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Put a string around the wrist of your little one and measure approximately how much string is needed to make a bracelet. With scissors, cut the appropriate length.
2. Tie the first bead around one end of the string.
3. Have your little one put on one bead at a time to make a pattern (i.e. black, green, red, or 3 green, 1 black, 3 red).
4. Once the string is filled with beads, have an adult tie the two ends together.

Talking Points:

Talk to your little one about the colours of Kwanzaa and what they symbolize. Ask them what colours they see on the bracelet and explain to them that the colours of Kwanzaa are black, red and green - black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from their struggle.

Borrow the book [*Celebrate Kwanzaa*](#) by Carolyn Otto from [Vaughan Public Libraries](#).



Kwanzaa Kinara

Your little one will practice their fine motor skills doing this fun activity.
Great for ages 3 years and up (younger children can do the activity if paper is pre-cut).

What You Need:

- Pencil or marker
- Ruler
- Construction paper (brown, black, green, red, yellow, white)
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

1. On a piece of brown construction paper use a ruler and pencil to draw a large triangle. Have your little one cut it out.
2. On a piece of black construction paper use a ruler and pencil to draw one small rectangle. Have your little one cut it out.
3. On a piece of green construction paper use a ruler and pencil to draw three small rectangles the same size as the black one. Have your little one cut it out.
4. Repeat step 3 using red construction paper.
5. On a piece of white paper have your little one glue down the base of the kinara (the triangle) and then add all the candles (3 green on the left, black on the top, and 3 red on the right).
6. On a piece of yellow construction paper use a pencil to draw 7 small ovals (to represent the candlelight). Have your little one cut it out and glue on top of each candle. You can even have your little one 'light' one candle on their kinara artwork each day during Kwanzaa.



Talking Points:

Talk to your little one about the kinara and how each day during the week of Kwanzaa a new candle is lit, starting with the black candle to celebrate unity. Talk to your little one about the shapes being used to create the kinara - such as the numbers of sides and the numbers of corners.

On VPL's database, [Kanopy Kids](#), watch the video, [Seven Candles for Kwanzaa](#) by Weston Woods.

Mkeka Place Mat

*Your little one will have fun creating their own place mat that they can use during Kwanzaa.
Great for ages 3 years and up (younger children can do the activity if paper is pre-cut).*

What You Need:

- Pencil or marker
- Construction paper (black, green, red)
- Laminating Paper Roll (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ruler

Directions:

1. On green and red construction paper use a ruler and pencil to make long strips about 1/2 inch thick.
2. Have your little one cut along the lines to make lots of green and red strips.
3. Have your little one glue the strips onto the black piece of paper. If they are able, have them do it in a pattern (green, black, red, green, black, red, etc.).
4. Laminate the page using laminating paper roll (optional).
5. Let your little one enjoy their festive meals on their homemade mkeka place mat.



Talking Points:

Encourage your little one to practice their cutting skills. If they get frustrated hold the piece of paper and tell them the scissors are like an alligator - they open their mouth, and then they do little chomps to cut the paper.

Talk to your little one about how the mkeka place mat is a straw mat that symbolizes the historical and traditional foundation for the people to stand on and build their lives.

Borrow the book [*Lil Rabbit's Kwanzaa*](#) by Donna L. Washington from [Vaughan Public Libraries](#).

Kwanzaa Tracing

Print out the page and have your little one use a pencil to trace the Chanukah words.



Mazao



Kinara



Mkeka



Muhindi



Zawadi

Here are a couple of songs to sing to your little one....



Ten Little Snowflakes

One little, two little, three little snowflakes.
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes.
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes.
Ten little snowflakes on my tongue! (*Stick out tongue*)

Snowflakes, Snowflakes (*Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*)

Snowflakes, snowflakes, dance around.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, touch the ground.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, in the air.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, everywhere.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, dance around.
Snowflakes, snowflakes, touch the ground.



The Mittens on my Hand (*Tune: The Wheels on the Bus*)

The mittens on my hands keep me warm, keep me warm, keep me warm.
The mittens on my hands keep me warm. All winter long!
Other verses: the boots on my feet, the hat on my head