



THE CHILD CARE EXTENSION

CHRISTMAS

PINECONE CHRISTMAS TREE



Supplies:

- Pinecones
- Mini Wood slices
- Mini pom poms
- Green paint,
- Cotton balls
- Gold glitter foam or paper
- Glue (both regular and hot glue)

Steps:

1. Use green paint to paint the pinecone as well as you can. They are bumpy and can be a bit tricky. It doesn't have to be perfect. |
2. Let the pinecones dry completely.
3. Trim off any of the little "sticks" on the bottom of the pinecone. This is important so you'll be able to glue it down flat. Hot glue (adults only) your pinecone to a wood slice.
4. Take a few cotton balls and carefully stretch them out. Then glue it around the base of the pinecone tree so it looks like snow.
5. After the pinecone has dried, start gluing the little pom poms all around the tree and cut out a gold glitter star from the foam or paper & glue it to the top of the tree

Craft from [MadeToBeAMomma](#)

SANTA'S SNACK MIX



Ingredients: (makes 7 cups)

- 2 cups HoneyNut Cheerios
- 2 cups chow mein noodles
- 1 cup honey roasted peanuts (optional)
- 1/2 raisins
- 1/2 cup holiday M&M's
- 1/2 cup peanut butter chips
- 1/2 white chocolate chips

Recipe from: [Taste of Home](#)

HANUKKAH

HANUKKAH MENORAH SNACK



Snack from: [Pre-K Pages](#)

Ingredients:

- Banana
- Skinny pretzel sticks
- Chocolate chips
- Peanut butter OR cream cheese

Instructions

- **Step 1:** Start by slicing the bananas into different heights.
- **Step 2:** Then, have the kids arrange the banana slices on their plate with the tallest piece in the middle.
- **Step 3:** Next, give the children the pretzel sticks and a bowl of peanut butter, or cream cheese. Invite the children to swipe one end of each pretzel stick in the peanut butter. The peanut butter (or cream cheese) will serve as the "glue" to attach the flame to the end of the pretzel sticks.
- **Step 4:** Now, invite the children to place a pretzel in the top of each banana slice with the peanut butter "glue" on top to represent the candles.
- **Step 5:** Finally, the children can add one chocolate chip to the top of each pretzel stick for the flame. You could also use raisins for the flames if you prefer.

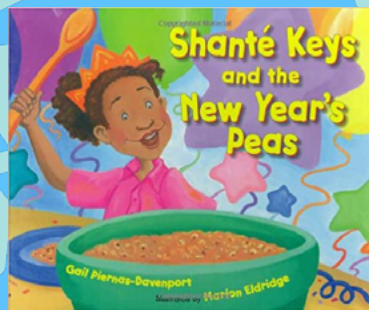
NEW YEARS! BOOK IDEAS



Happy New Year, Spot!
by Eric Hill

Ages: 3-5 years old

"Spot isn't old enough to stay up until midnight, but he finds a way to celebrate the New Year early with his family. Bring your party hats and noisemakers as you join Spot in celebrating the new year!"



Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas

by Gail Piernas-Davenport & Marion Eldridge

Ages: 4-8 years old

"Shanté Keys loves New Year's Day! But while Grandma fixed chitlins, baked ham, greens, and cornbread, she forgot the black-eyed peas! Oh no—it'll be bad luck without them!"



The Night Before New Year's
by Natasha Wing and Amy Wummer

Ages: 3-5 years old

"It's the night before New Year's, and the whole family is determined to stay up until midnight! Everyone's stocked up on sparkly streamers and festive party hats, but after a night filled with card games and too many cupcakes, the little ones are getting sleepy. Can they make it until the clock strikes 12?"

VALENTINE'S DAY

STRAWBERRY HEART MAN SNACK



Ingredients:

- Strawberries
- Toothpicks
- Wilton Candy Eyes
- Pretzel Sticks
- Mini Marshmallows
- Conversation Hearts

Instructions

Step 1: Start by cutting of the green strawberry top and then cutting the strawberry in half length-wise. Using your toothpick, attach the sides together to form a heart.

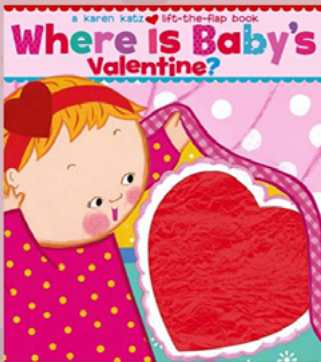


Step 2: Add pretzel sticks for the arms and legs, then attach mini marshmallows for the feet and hands.

Step 3: Top the Strawberry Heart Man with candy eyes and a conversation heart as a mouth. *You can use a small dot of honey to "glue" the mouth on, especially if they are not going to be eaten right away.

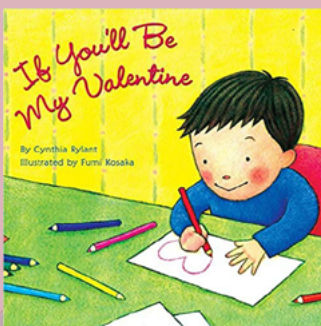
Recipe from: TheCraftingChicks.com

BOOK IDEAS



Where is Baby's Valentine? by Karen Katz
Ages: 1-4 years old

Baby made a valentine for Mommy. Where could it be? Is it behind the lamp? It's a shiny, glittering delight as you lift the sturdy flaps to help Baby find her very special valentine.



If You'll Be My Valentine by Cynthia Rylant
Ages: 4-8 years old

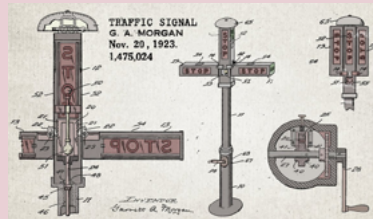
What kind of valentine would you send to a puppy or a kitten or your mother or big brother? Enjoy and be inspired by a young boy's special way of making cards that no loved one can resist.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

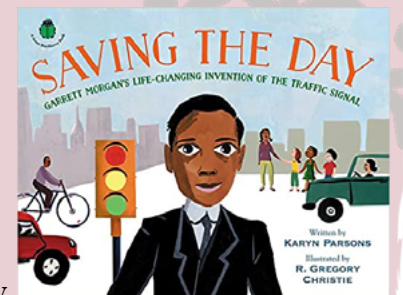
GARRETT A. MORGAN

Black History Month is an annual celebration in February, of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Garrett Augustus Morgan was born in March of 1877. While Morgan owned his own sewing-machine repair business, created a tailor establishment, personal-grooming products company, and a newspaper *'The Cleveland Call'*, he is most famous for patenting the first traffic signal in the United States. "Morgan, himself an automobile owner, witnessed a crash between a car and a buggy. This event supposedly convinced the inventor to create the stoplight. On November 20, 1923, Morgan received his patent. His traffic signal was mounted on a T-shaped pole. It had three different types of signals stop, go, and stop in all directions. The stop in all directions signal was to allow pedestrians to cross streets safely. Morgan eventually patented this device in Canada and Great Britain as well. He sold his patent to General Electric Corporation for forty thousand dollars (ohiohistorycentral.org)."



A suggested activity to do within your classroom is read the book *"Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal"* by Karyn Parsons and R. Gregory Christie and print out a green, yellow, and red stop light sign and play "red light, green light". *"Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal"* is about Morgan becoming a successful inventor and saving countless lives with his creations. He was a little boy with a head full of ideas on how to make life better for everyone.



At a tumultuous time filled with racism and discrimination, Garrett became a prominent business man and skilled inventor who produced the traffic signal, a gas mask, and other objects still used today. This second book from the award-winning children's film series founded by Karyn Parsons, *Sweet Blackberry*, comes a little-known story about a man whose talent would be a gift to the world."

INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT



Lourdes Yanez

Program Technician - Child Care Technical Assistance Coordinator

Hello, My name is Lourdes Yanez. I graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Child Development. I was an Infant and Toddler teacher for several years. In 2015 I went abroad and taught English in South Korea for two years! It was such a wonderful experience. Sadly I didn't learn any Korean. When I came back I went back to teaching infants. Afterwards I became an administrative assistant for a Child Care Center in Bentonville where I worked for 2 ½ years. This was where I was able to learn more about Better Beginnings and Minimum Licensing.

I look forward to using the knowledge that I have gained as a child care teacher and administrator to offer my assistance to county agents and child care facilities across Arkansas. At least for the first 6 months or so of 2022 my main focus will be on helping centers reach Better Beginnings level 2 so that they may keep accepting vouchers to continue serving their families in their community.

I am here to help you out in any way that I can so If you have any questions let me know! My email is lyanez@uada.edu or you can reach me at (501) 671-2025 Some interesting tidbits about me are that I have two little dogs named Ziggy and Gizmo and they are my babies. I am OBSESSED with collecting Starbucks cold cups. I think the best part of that is that I don't drink coffee at all.

Best Care: www.uaex.uada.edu/bestcare

Best Care Connected: www.uaex.uada.edu/bestcareconnected

Guiding Children Successfully: www.uaex.uada.edu/guidingchildren

Best Care Out of School Time: www.uaex.uada.edu/bestcareschool

Personal and Family Life Resources: www.arfamilies.org

Childcare Resources page: www.uaex.uada.edu/childcareresources

The Child Care Extension Newsletter
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University of Arkansas
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Family Life Team:

Dr. Brittney Schrick, Rebecca Simon,
Ashley Foster, Amy Cofer, Lourdes
Yanez & Sophie Banks

Newsletter Designed by:
[Sophie Banks](#)

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