

## Wrapping paper

In the run-up to Christmas, get into the spirit of the season by creating an opportunity for your children to make their own wrapping paper.

### Learning aims

- Developing children's fine motor skills
- Supporting children's creativity
- Supporting mathematical development through spotting and developing patterns.

### Resources

- Paper (lining paper is the best)
- Paint, rollers, brushes, toothbrush, plastic forks
- Natural materials for printing e.g. pine cones, leaves, straw
- Marbles and marbling ink
- Christmas stampers and ink/paint
- Christmas stencils
- Balls, cars and other items to push and roll through paint
- Ribbons
- Pens, pencils, crayons
- Stickers
- Wrapping paper.



### Activity Outline

- Talk to the children about what they think they would like to put on their wrapping paper. Would they like it to be 'Christmassy' or would they prefer it to be something different?
- Offer lots of different approaches to this so the children can choose their own ideas:
- Have different samples of wrapping paper available so children can see different patterns
- Ensure you have a mix of Christmas, non-generic and birthday so all children regardless of their faith can be included.



### For older children

For older children talk about the repeated pattern and ask the children if they can see the patterns on each piece of paper:

- Can they develop their own repeated pattern using the materials on offer?
- Let the children make their own wrapping paper in their own way, this could be printing, stamping, rolling, drawing or painting
- You can also make wrapping paper by piecing together favourite photographs from the children and printing these out
  - This also supports children's IT skills and fine motor skills using the computer or tablet.



### Younger children

Younger children can make their own wrapping paper too:

- Use finger paints or whole body painting as a sensory activity on large lining paper
- Cut this up like wrapping paper
- Try a large tray with paper in the bottom and objects to push around in paint
  - This will also produce unique paper whilst supporting children's fine and gross motor skill development.

### Special considerations

*Take care to support children who do not celebrate Christmas, they can make other wrapping paper if they wish to, or use generic winter-themed ideas.*