

Making A Poinsettia

Background Information: The poinsettia, which grows easily in warmer, tropical climates, is a flower for Christmas. In the stories children listened to today, they learned about Las Posadas and also the legend of the poinsettia. Today's craft is to make the poinsettia. Because you have little people who need to practice cutting, please cut apart the two flower pieces and the five leaf pieces. Please don't cut them out for them, but cut them apart to make their practice cutting easier. In addition to the shapes of the flowers and leaves, children will also practice cutting small yellow circles for the center of the poinsettia.

What you will need:

- Copies of the flower on red construction paper (pattern attached)
- Copies of the leaves on green construction paper (Pattern attached)
- Elmer's glue or glue sticks
- Scissors
- Yellow construction paper for the centers
- Gold glitter (this is optional but a lot of fun to add)

What you will do:

1. After watching the two read aloud stories and discussing them, divide the children into groups of 2-3 and distribute the supplies
2. Explain today they will be making a poinsettia that they may want to use for a decoration at home
3. Demonstrate carefully cutting out the two flower pieces and the one sheet of leaves. Also demonstrate how to cut small yellow circles (about the size of a dime, maybe a little smaller).
4. Demonstrate attaching the leaves to the largest flower so the leaves are in between the points of the flower
5. Demonstrate how the two flower pieces will come together. Remember, rotate the pieces so you don't have the petals aligned one on top of the other
6. Demonstrate gluing the pieces together, adding the yellow circle and finally, sprinkling with gold glitter. They will want to put a light coat of glue on the yellow circles so the glitter will stick
7. When finished, show children how to curl the paper slightly so the petals will stand up, giving a look of 3-dimensions.



Wrap-up Questions:

- What did you enjoy about the stories and making the poinsettia?

- What did you find challenging?
- What did you find easy?
- Would you recommend this activity to others? Why or why not?