

Lunar New Year Activities (Ages 0–5)

Infants (0–12 months)

1) Red & Gold Sensory Board

Skills: sensory exploration, language, attention

Materials: sturdy cardboard/foam board, red/yellow paper or fabric scraps, wide clear packing tape (or contact paper)

Setup

1. Attach red/yellow paper and fabric pieces to the board (different textures: smooth, bumpy, soft).
2. Cover edges with tape so nothing peels up.

Directions

1. Sit the baby on your lap or on a mat with the board in front.
2. Guide the baby's hand to touch one area at a time.
3. Narrate simply: “**Red**. Soft.” “**Gold**. Smooth.”
4. Pause for the baby to explore; repeat 2–3 words only.

Tip: Keep it short (1–3 minutes). Rotate textures weekly to keep interest.

2) “Lantern Lights” Calm Moment

Skills: calming routine, caregiver connection

Materials: LED tea light or small flashlight (never a real flame), simple paper lantern decoration (optional)

Directions



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1. Dim lights slightly (or simply sit in a quiet corner).
2. Turn on the LED light and hold it near a red/yellow paper “lantern.”
3. Softly say: “We’re taking a calm breath... in... out.” (The baby doesn’t have to copy.)
4. Hum or sing a quiet song for 30–60 seconds.

Tip: This works well before a nap or after busy play.

3) Mirror “New Year Hello”

Skills: social connection, early language

Materials: mirror (unbreakable classroom mirror is best)

Directions

1. Hold the baby facing the mirror.
 2. Point gently: “Hello!” “That’s you!”
 3. Add simple phrases: “New day.” “New year.” “You are loved.”
 4. Smile, pause, and copy baby sounds.
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4) Peek-a-Boo Scarf

Skills: object permanence, attention

Materials: red scarf (lightweight, breathable)

Directions

1. Hold a scarf in front of your face: “Where did I go?”
2. Pull it down: “Peek-a-boo!”



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3. Repeat and invite the baby to touch the scarf.

Safety: Keep scarf away from baby's face; adult holds it.

Young Toddlers (12–24 months)

1) “Follow the Dragon” Movement Line

Skills: gross motor, following directions

Materials: red scarf or ribbon streamer

Setup: Clear a simple pathway.

Directions

1. Hold scarf and say: “I’m the dragon. Follow me!”
2. Do 3 simple moves: **walk, tiptoe, stop**.
3. Say each move as you do it: “Dragon walks... Dragon tiptoes... Dragon STOP!”
4. Celebrate: “You stopped! Nice listening.”

Tip: Keep it 2–3 minutes. Repeat later the same day.

2) Red & Gold Color Hunt

Skills: color recognition, sorting, cleanup routine

Materials: large red/yellow paper shapes, 2 baskets

Setup

1. Place shapes in visible spots (on shelves, floor corners).
2. Put baskets in the center.



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Directions

1. Say: "Let's find **red**!"
2. Point and guide: "Pick up red and put it in the red basket."
3. Repeat with yellow/gold.
4. End with counting: "We found 1...2...3!"

Tip: If colors are hard, do "find hearts/circles" instead.

3) Dot Art "Good Wishes"

Skills: fine motor, cause/effect

Materials: dot markers or sponge stamps, red paint, paper

Directions

1. Put 1 paper per child on a table.
2. Model: "Dot, dot, dot."
3. Toddlers stamp dots anywhere they like.
4. Use a simple phrase: "We're making **good wishes** art."

Tip: Offer just one color for less overwhelm.

4) Drum & Freeze

Skills: listening, impulse control

Materials: drum, shaker, or tapping on a table

Directions



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1. Explain with actions: “When you hear the drum—move. When it stops—freeze.”
2. Tap for 5 seconds → stop.
3. Say: “Freeze!” Show the freeze.
4. Repeat 3–5 rounds.

Tip: Use this right before cleanup to transition calmly.

Older Toddlers (2–3 years)

1) Paper Lantern Craft

Skills: fine motor, creativity

Materials: construction paper, crayons, adult scissors, tape/glue, stapler (adult use), paper handle strip

Setup (Adult)

1. Pre-cut one rectangle per child.
2. Fold in half lengthwise and pre-cut 4–6 slits (not all the way to edges).

Directions

1. Children color and decorate the paper first (stickers optional).
2. Adult helps roll into a tube and staple/tape the ends.
3. Add a paper handle.
4. “Lantern walk”: children hold lanterns and parade quietly once around the room.

Tip: Skip candles entirely—just the craft and parade.



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2) Red Envelope Pretend Play

Skills: turn-taking, social-emotional, pretend play

Materials: red paper envelopes (or folded paper), picture cards, stickers, “kindness coupons”

Setup

1. Put 3–5 cards per envelope (smiley faces, “high five,” “help clean up,” “you choose the song”).

Directions

1. Show an envelope: “Some families share red envelopes as a tradition.”
2. Explain: “Ours are for **kind messages**.”
3. Children pick one envelope and open it with help.
4. They give a card to a friend: “This is for you!”
5. Practice: “Thank you!”

Tip: Keep it optional—some kids may prefer to keep their card.

3) Festival Sensory Bin

Skills: fine motor, early math, vocabulary

Materials: pom-poms (large), red/yellow loose parts, cups, scoops, tongs, muffin tin

Directions

1. Model: “Scoop... pour... dump.”
2. Offer a goal: “Can you fill 1 cup?” “Can you make red, yellow, red?”



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3. Add language: “full/empty,” “more/less,” “my turn/your turn.”

Safety: Avoid small parts if children still mouth objects.

4) Family Feast Dramatic Play

Skills: pretend play, manners, language

Materials: play dishes, chopsticks as props (optional for older toddlers), pretend food

Directions

1. Set a simple “family table” area.
2. Model phrases:
 - “Would you like some?”
 - “Yes, please.”
 - “No, thank you.”
3. Rotate roles: cook, server, guest.
4. Add clean-up: “Let’s reset the table for the next family.”

Tip: Keep language neutral: “Some families share special meals.”

Preschool (3–5 years)

1) New Year Wishes Chain

Skills: reflection, writing/dictation

Materials: paper strips, markers, stapler/tape

Directions



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1. Ask: "What is a **good wish** for our classroom?"
Examples: "Kindness," "Friends," "Helping," "Being brave."
2. Children write (or dictate) one wish per strip.
3. Link strips into a chain and hang it up.
4. Read the chain aloud: "We wish for kindness... for helping..."

Tip: Offer sentence starters:

- "I wish for ____."
 - "Our class can ____."
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2) Dragon Dance

Skills: coordination, teamwork

Materials: paper strips taped to a hoop/cardboard tube, scarves, simple instruments

Directions

1. Explain: "Some families enjoy dragon dances during Lunar New Year celebrations."
2. Choose 2–4 children to hold the "dragon" (switch turns).
3. Play a short song. Children move in a line (slow/fast/stop).
4. Add direction words: "Over/under," "around the circle."
5. End with a bow: "Great teamwork!"

Tip: Keep it short (2–4 minutes) and rotate roles quickly.

3) Red/Gold Pattern & Count (Math Center)



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Skills: patterns, counting, comparison

Materials: red/yellow shapes, glue sticks, paper

Directions

1. Model one pattern: red-yellow-red-yellow.
 2. Children create their own strip pattern and glue it down.
 3. Count together: "How many reds? How many yellows?"
 4. Extension: "Which has more? Are they equal?"
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4) "Fresh Start" Cleaning Helpers

Skills: responsibility, executive function

Materials: picture checklist (simple icons), wipes, small brooms (safe)

Directions

1. Say: "Some families clean and prepare to welcome the new year. We can do a 'fresh start' too."
2. Assign small jobs: books, blocks, art shelf, dramatic play.
3. Use the checklist and check off when done.
4. Celebrate: "Our room is ready for a new week!"

Tip: Keep it positive—no "you made a mess," just "we reset together."

5) Special Foods Picture Sort

Skills: vocabulary, sorting, cultural awareness

Materials: photos of foods (printed or drawn), plates labeled "round," "long," "greens" (or "sweet/savory")



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Directions

1. Say: "Some families eat special foods to celebrate."
2. Show 1 photo at a time and ask: "Where does it go?"
3. Sort together and count items in each group.
4. Optional: children draw one "special food" they like at home.

Tip: Keep it simple no claims like "this food always means..." since traditions vary.



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