

Kwanzaa Classroom Activities

Infants (0–12 months)

1) Handprint “Unity Wreath”

How to implement:

- Cut a large circle “wreath” shape from cardstock (adult prep).
- Paint baby’s hand with washable paint (one color at a time).
- Stamp handprints around the circle to form a wreath.
- Adults write in the center: “Unity (Umoja)” and “We belong together.”
- Display as classroom art or send home.

2) Rhythm & Rock “Unity Beat”

How to implement:

- Rock gently while tapping a slow, steady rhythm on your knees (or a soft drum).
- Add simple words: “together...together...calm.”
- Repeat for a soothing routine.

3) Footprint “Community Quilt Square” (Class Collage)

How to implement:

- Cut square papers (one per baby).
- Add one baby footprint in washable paint.



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- Once dry, adults add simple shapes/patterns (stripes, dots).
 - Label each square with the child's name (or "Our Class").
 - Combine squares into a big classroom quilt collage.
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Toddlers (1–2 years)

1) Dot Sticker Kinara Craft

How to implement:

- Draw a simple kinara (candle holder) with 7 "candle" spots.
- Toddlers place dot stickers on the spots.
- Count together or name colors.

2) "Together Drum" Call-and-Response

How to implement:

- Adult taps a simple rhythm (tap-tap-pause).
- Toddlers copy.
- Keep it short and playful, focusing on listening.

3) Kindness Picture Match

How to implement:

- Use picture cards showing helping actions: sharing, hugging (ask first), cleaning up, comforting.



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- Toddlers match pictures or choose one to practice that day.
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Preschool (3–5 years):

1) Seven Principles Picture Chart

How to implement:

- Choose 3–4 principles to focus on (simplify language), for example:
 - **Unity** (being together)
 - **Cooperation** (working together)
 - **Creativity** (making and building)
 - **Purpose** (doing our best)
- Kids draw one picture for each and share their ideas.

2) Community Quilt Collage (Class Art Project)

How to implement:

- Give each child a paper “quilt square.”
- Kids decorate using patterns, shapes, and Kwanzaa colors (or any colors).
- Connect the squares into one large classroom quilt display.

3) “Creativity” Maker Station

How to implement:

- Set out open-ended materials: blocks, recycled boxes, tape, paper tubes, markers.



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- Prompt: “Create something that helps our community.”
 - Kids explain what they made.
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School-Age (6+ years)

1) Principles in Action Challenge

How to implement:

- Assign one principle per day (or pick 3 for the week).
- Students write one action they’ll do:
 - Unity: include someone
 - Cooperation: work as a team
 - Responsibility: help clean up
- Reflect at the end: “What did you do? How did it feel?”

2) Pattern Art & Symbols

How to implement:

- Show examples of geometric patterns (general, not copying sacred designs).
- Kids design a border pattern using repeating shapes and colors.
- Add a short written meaning: “My design shows unity because...”

3) Community Spotlight Research

How to implement:



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- Kids learn about a community leader/creator (artist, inventor, author, local leader).
- Create a poster: who they are, what they did, how they help community.
- Emphasize: culture is living and present today.



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