

New Year's Activities for Kids

Infants (0–12 months)

1) “Pop!” Bubble Countdown

How to implement:

- Blow bubbles slowly and count: “1...2...3...pop!”
- Pause and repeat in short rounds (30–60 seconds).
- Encourage tracking with eyes and reaching.

2) Handprint “New Year Star” Keepsake

How to implement:

- Cut a big star shape from paper (adult prep).
- Add one handprint (washable paint).
- Adult writes: “Happy New Year!” + baby’s name + date.

3) Fireworks “Stamp” Painting

Materials: toilet paper roll, washable paint, cardstock

How to implement:

1. Cut small slits around one end of a toilet paper roll and gently flare it out (adult prep).
2. Dip the flared end into paint.
3. Lightly press onto paper to make “firework” bursts.
4. Adult writes: “Happy New Year!” + baby’s name + date.



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Toddlers (1–2 years)

1) “Midnight” Ball Drop

How to implement:

- Use a soft ball and a basket.
- Count down from 5: “5...4...3...2...1...DROP!”
- Toddlers drop the ball into the basket and cheer.

2) Noisemaker Craft

How to implement:

- Put dried beans or pasta into a plastic bottle or sealed cup.
- **Adult seals** (tape/hot glue) and checks tightness.
- Decorate with stickers.
- Use for a quick celebration song.

3) “New Year Clean-Up Dance”

How to implement:

- Play a short song and do a fast clean-up.
- Celebrate: “Fresh start!”
- Keep it positive: “We take care of our space.”



Preschool (3–5 years)

1) New Year's Confetti Art

How to implement:

- Provide tissue paper squares, paper “confetti,” or dot markers.
- Kids glue or stamp confetti onto “Happy New Year” paper.
- Add name + date.

2) Goal Stars: “In the New Year, I Want to…”

How to implement:

- Kids draw or dictate one goal (keep it simple):
 - “I want to be kind.”
 - “I want to try new foods.”
 - “I want to learn letters.”
- Put goals on star cutouts and display.

3) Countdown Math + Pattern Center

How to implement:

- Use number cards 1–10 to practice ordering and counting down.
- Kids create patterns with “party” counters (AB, ABB).
- Extension: graph favorite “celebration” item (hats, balloons, stars).



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School-Age (6+)

1) New Year Time Capsule (Future Me)

How to implement:

- Kids fill out a page:
 - favorite song/game
 - one thing I learned
 - one hope for next year
- Seal in an envelope to open later (end of year or in a few months).

2) Kindness Resolutions Challenge

How to implement:

- Kids pick 1–2 kindness goals:
 - include someone new
 - help without being asked
 - speak respectfully
- Make a tracking chart for the week/month.

3) STEM Party Build: “Tallest Tower by Midnight”

How to implement:

- Materials: cups, blocks, paper tubes, tape.
- Team challenge: build the tallest tower in 10 minutes.



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- Reflect: “What helped your team succeed?”



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