

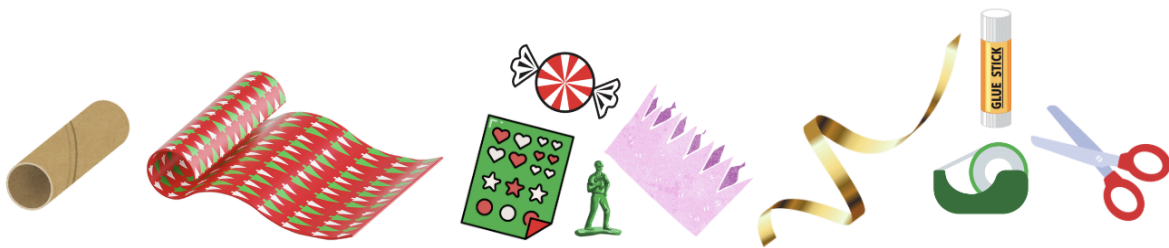
Play & Learn: Twas The Night Before Christmas

✨ **Make Your Own Christmas Cracker!** ✨

Christmas crackers are a fun tradition from England. They're colorful tubes filled with little surprises that make a "pop" sound when pulled apart during holiday meals. They were invented over 150 years ago by a man named Tom Smith, who wanted to make Christmas even more exciting!



What You'll Need:



- Empty toilet paper roll or paper towel roll cut in half
- Wrapping paper or tissue paper
- Small treats or toys (stickers, mini candy, small erasers, jokes, etc.)
- Ribbon or string
- Sticky tape or glue
- Scissors
- Optional: Cracker snap strips (for the popping sound, available at craft stores)



STEP 1: Fill the Roll

Take an empty toilet paper roll and place small treats, a toy, or a handwritten joke inside. If you have a cracker snap, tuck it inside the roll so the ends stick out a little.

STEP 2: Wrap the Cracker

Cut a piece of wrapping paper large enough to wrap around the roll, leaving extra paper on both ends. Roll the paper around the tube and secure it with tape or glue.

STEP 3: Tie the Ends

Twist the ends of the paper on either side of the roll, like a candy wrapper. Tie each end with ribbon or string to secure the surprises inside.

STEP 4: Decorate Your Cracker (Optional)

Add stickers, draw designs with markers, or glue on glitter for extra sparkle!



STEP 5: Crack your Christmas cracker with your loved ones!

At your next holiday meal or gathering, pull one end of your cracker with a friend or family member. If you included snaps, you'll hear a pop when you pull hard enough!