



Magic Tricks For The Month Of:

# December

## Change Bag:

- **Red & White strips of paper in**, candy cane out. I then put the paper candy cane in my dove pan and produce enough for everyone to have one. They suck on the little candy canes while they work on their rip and tear candy cane paper projects.
- **White pom pom, cotton ball, red triangle in**, Santa's miniature paper hat out. The children then transition to making their Ho-Ho's Hat. **(See my Christmas Art + Activities Book in December for more details.)**
- **Santa's hat in**, a stuffed Santa head out. When you toss him, his nose lights up and he says HO HO HO. Watch for novelty plush at Christmas time that's small enough to fit into your change bag. Remember you can always slit the bottom open and take the stuffing out to make it more concealable. I use this Santa to toss to the children (Catching and tossing is one of our report card standards.) When a child catches it they tell me one thing they want for Christmas.
- **Paper die cut tree in**, tiny spruce tree out. Most hobby stores have tiny dollhouse size Christmas trees that are

perfect for change bags. I use this trick to introduce my Christmas Tree stories as well as my Christmas Tree unit and Christmas tree crafts.

- **Paper blue circle, silver square, and a piece of metallic string in**, real plastic blue ornament with a silver top out. Our magic word was SPHERE. This is an introduction to their *Where Have All The Ornaments Gone?* Booklet. (See [December Ornament Unit for more details.](#))
- **Paper gingerbread boy in**, real Keebler gingerbread cookie out. I then produce enough for all of my students by putting another paper gingerbread into my dove pan. I have each of my students take just one bite and we graph where on the gingerbread boy they bit. (See [December Gingerbread Unit for more details.](#))
- **Red pom pom in**, little stuffed reindeer out. We then toss this reindeer and I ask them some other symbols of Christmas. This is also my introduction to the "Rudolph in a Blizzard" art extension that they will be doing with a red pom pom. (See [my Christmas Art + Activities Book in December for more details.](#))
- **I have a little crocheted Santa face ornament that my Grama Lydia crocheted. I put that in**, out comes a beanie bag Santa head. When you toss him he lights up and says:
  - *HO HO HO.*
  - Catching and tossing is one of our report card standards so I'll sometimes toss whatever I produce out of the change bag.
  - I'll sometimes do this trick in class, and then take the thing I produce out in the hallway to toss back and forth while we wait for the children to finish using the restroom.
  - It gives us something to do while we wait and helps us practice that standard.

- Santa saying HO HO HO makes it a bit more fun. The fact that he appeared out of no where into the change bag just adds to the magical part of the season.
- Sometimes what I produce will lead us into a song such as when I produced Rudolph we'll sing *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. When I produce Santa we'll sing *Oh You Better Watch Out*, or *Up On The Roof Top*.
- **Empty stocking in**, stocking filled with treats out. (I then give each one of my QUIET students one of the treats. Usually an M& M. or Skittle.)
- **Put in a piece of paper with a bunch of colored dots on it**, "punch" out confetti so it sprinkles on the children (use a Dust-buster for easy clean up)
- My students squeal with delight over this. I do this trick as an introduction to 2 December art activities involving confetti.
- The children decorate a green construction paper tree with garlands of white glue then sprinkle the colored confetti on top.
- They also decorate their gingerbread house roof in the same way.
- Colored confetti can be purchased by the bagful from any party store for around \$2. Or...
- Put a sign up in the room that has the binding machine (if your school has one). Ask the teachers if they can dump the contents of the binder drawer in a tub you leave in that room. Use that colored confetti for those projects. At the end of the year I have a huge tub of all different colored tiny rectangular pieces of paper.
- **I put in a white circle with a snowman's face on it, a piece of yarn, a pink and blue cap, and a piece of paper with my name on it**, I pull out a snowman ornament with my name embroidered on the cap.

- I ask my students if they would like one too. They all say "Yes!" of course. Merlin tells us that only those children who can write their name may have one.
- Of course everyone can now do that so it's time to celebrate! I put another snowman head paper circle in my Dog Pan with a list of my students' names and 20 ornaments are produced.

## Dove Pan:

As you can see from above, whenever size or number of something limits me with the change bag, I then produce more of it by writing the number I need on a paper object as was the case above with the candy canes, gingerbread men cookies and ornaments.

I also use my change bag to produce more large Christmas plush and puppets as well as a bigger Christmas tree and several small books. I have several counting books and books that I have the children sequence and I produce the number of these things as well as the pictures I want them to sequence out of the pot. I then pass them out to the children and when I come to that portion of the story they put it on the flannel board or white board.

To sequence a story using pictures from the story, I watch for an inexpensive extra copy at garage sales, cut up the pages, laminate them, then cut out sections of the picture. I put the scratchy side of a Velcro sticky dot on the back. I scan the back of the page in the book that I cut up so I have every page accounted for, then print it off in color. This works great for any ABC, Counting, Opposite and shape books, but especially at Christmas because they are prevalent with that theme.