

# Chinese Lanterns

You can make these rather smart paper lanterns as part of your Chinese New Year-themed activities, or at any time, just for the fun of it. They are both easy and satisfying to make.

## Materials

A4 sheets of black card  
A4 sheets of red card or heavy paper  
Double-sided sticky tape  
Scissors or guillotine  
Embellishments (optional): red and gold ribbon, gold foil, paint, gold braid, gold stick on jewels etc

## Method

1. Roll up a sheet of black card from the short end to form a cylinder and secure with double sided sticky tape.
2. Cut 2 sheets of red card lengthways into strips about 2cms wide. Then trim about 4cms off the end of the strips. All the strips must be the same length and 3-4cms longer than the cylinder is tall.
3. Stick one length of double-sided sticky tape around the top of the black cylinder and another around the bottom.
4. Take the first of the red strips and press one end against the sticky tape at the top, and the other end against the sticky tape at the bottom. Line up the next red strip right next to the first and stick down as before.
5. Repeat all the way around the cylinder. (You will end up with some strips left over.)
6. Stick a band of gold paper or foil or ribbon etc around the top to hide any untidy ends, and another decorative band around the bottom. (We found that a red corrugated paper border worked well for this.)  
Embellish at will! You can really go to town with stick on jewels, braid etc. Alternatively you can paint on decorations. If you want a more authentic Chinese look try to stick to a red and gold colour scheme - otherwise just let the children's imaginations run riot.
7. Finally, take one of the spare red strips and stick each end just inside the top of the lantern to make a handle.

## Areas of learning and development:

EAD (Expressive Arts and Design)

PD (Physical Development)

UW (Understanding the World)

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)



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