

# NEW YEAR'S COUNTDOWN

This year, have fun throughout the day with simple activities that keep your kids playing, learning, and celebrating.

## SET UP:

To get set up, you will need balloons (at least 12, plus a few extra), some tape, and a pen and paper. Write each of the following activities on a slip of paper, then blow up your balloons, inserting one activity paper into each balloon before you tie it. Number 12 balloons 1-12 and tape them to a wall in a circle, like a clock!

## DAY OF:

When you're ready to start your day (you don't have to follow the actual time of the clock - do what's best for your family's schedule), have your kids pop the balloon marked with a 1. Read the activity out loud, then do it together. When you're ready for the next activity, pop balloon #2, and so on.

## ACTIVITIES:

- 1 Make a New Year's Crown\*
- 2 Tell each other a favorite memory from the past year
- 3 Play your kids' favorite song from the year and sing along
- 4 Tell each other about something that happened over the past year that you are grateful for
- 5 Make New Year's resist art\*
- 6 Have a New Year's treat\*
- 7 Tell each other a word that describes yourself right now
- 8 Make fireworks rings\*
- 9 Read a favorite book from the past year
- 10 Tell each other a goal you have for the new year, or what you're excited about
- 11 Play Keepy-Uppy with the extra balloons\*
- 12 Have a dance party - it's a new year!

## \*ACTIVITIES INSTRUCTIONS:

### NEW YEAR'S CROWN

Cut a strip of paper long enough to fit around your kids' heads. Have them decorate the paper, then wrap the crown around their heads and attach the two ends with tape.

### NEW YEAR'S RESIST ART

On a large piece of paper or cardboard, write out the numbers of the new year with painters tape or masking tape. Have your kids color or paint the paper. When they are finished, lift up the tape to reveal the numbers.

### NEW YEAR'S TREAT

Try milk in a fun or fancy cup; make rice cereal treats with sprinkles mixed in; or add whipped cream and sprinkles to the top of a bowl of yogurt!

### FIREWORKS RINGS

Use 3 pipe cleaners for each ring. Cut them in half so you have 6 each. To make 1 ring, gather 5 halved pipe cleaners and fold these in half, leaving a gap/circle at the bend that's large enough to fit over your kids' fingers. Wrap the last pipe cleaner around the folded 5, beneath the circle, to hold them all together. Turn the ring over so the loose ends are up top. Bend, spread, and shape them to look like a firework.

### KEEPY-UPPY

Pass a balloon back and forth to each other, but don't let it touch the ground! Start a timer and see how long you can go, or count how many times you can pass to each other.