

Theme: Happy Diwali

Date: November 12, 2020

Hello StrongStart friends,

Today's email is put together by Ms. Sonika Khosla (from Moberly).

This year, the **festival of Diwali is on Saturday November 14th**. For those who are not familiar with this festival, Diwali is a festival of lights celebrated in all parts of India and Indians living around the world. Diwali celebrates new beginnings as it coincides with the Hindu New Year, the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.



People celebrate this festival of lights in a few different ways:

- lighting clay lamps and candles
- sharing sweet foods
- exchanging gifts
- offering prayers to gods and goddesses
- watching festive fireworks

Today, we will be making **diyas** out of playdough. Here is a simple playdough recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup of salt
- 1 cup of hot water
- 1 teaspoon of oil

Instructions:

- 1) Pour the flour into the bowl and add 1/4 cup of salt. Mix well.
- 2) Add 1/2 cup of water into the mixture. Mix it together. If it is still too dry, add more water gradually. If the flour is too sticky, add more flour.

- 3) Use your hands to knead the dough (get messy!)
- 4) Make a small hole in the middle of the playdough and add 1 tsp of oil. Knead until desired consistency!

After you've made the playdough, we will make the **diyas**!

Materials:

- playdough
- rolling pin
- small beads or sequins
- small bowl
- plastic knife
- paint or markers
- small candle (optional - can be lit or battery operated)



Instructions:

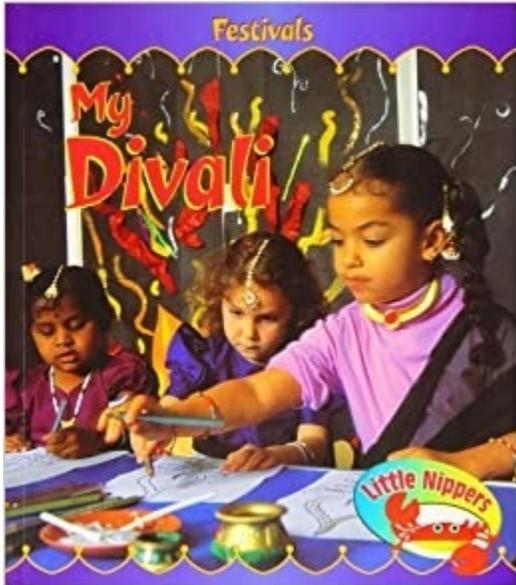
- Roll out playdough to a smooth, thin layer.
- Place a bowl upside down on top of the flat playdough and cut around the bowl to create a circle.
- Using the plastic knife, carve out any design and add colours using paint or markers.
- Set the playdough into the small bowl and decorate with beads and sequins.
- Let the playdough sit overnight to dry out.
- Once dried, you can add more paint or a candle to illuminate at night.

Once the diyas are made, let's do a counting song with the diyas!



*One little diya, waiting for you.
One joined in and now there are two.
Two little diyas, one and one, you see.
One joined in and now there are three.
Three little diyas, looking for more.
One joined in and now there are four.
Four little diyas, beautiful and alive.
One joined in and now there are five.
Five little diyas, happy and jolly.
Wishing you all a Happy Diwali!*

Finally, we will finish this email with Ms. Sonika reading a book called "My Diwali" by Monica Hughes - <https://youtu.be/M5p6nTv1AY>



Happy Diwali everyone!

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