

## Tree Cone Ornament

Head out to the yard to gather supplies for this Christmas craft. A clean pinecone works great as a rustic base for glue, glitter, and other art mediums. Attach string to pinecone to hang the ornament on the tree. Touching a pinecone can be an interesting sensory experience for young children and encourage two-handed coordination. This activity can be adapted for children who may not want or be able to decorate the cone without a little help.

Materials needed: clean tree cones (pine cones work the best and can be obtained at local stores or online, Elmer's glue, washable paint, paintbrushes, glitter, string and/or hook to attach to the cone, small trays/pie tins/cardboard tray

Ensure you have items close at hand on a table. If your child would not be able to hold and brush the cone, you can have glue, glitter, paint in separate tins or bowls and assist your child in dipping the cone into those containers. If your child is not interested in holding the cone, you could encourage her to wear a knitted glove to act as a barrier if the pokey cone is a little too pokey or use a large pair of tongs. Put glue on first if you plan to use glitter. Sprinkling the glitter over the cone while it is placed in a small container will keep the glitter from going all over your floor, hopefully. Let dry fully. Add string or hook to the cone by wrapping around the base or tip of the cone.

