

**FAMILIEN  
HOTELS** SÜDTIROL

# Craft ideas for the whole family



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There's nothing more fun than being creative with your kids. Little ones love crafting, and we adults quickly rediscover the joy of cutting shapes from paper and gluing things together. The craft ideas of Familienhotels Südtirol spark children's imaginations and connect them with nature. And who knows, maybe you parents will be inspired, too. It's a fantastic way to spend time together and create lasting memories.



## Nature picture frame

### What you need:

- Twigs, leaves, flowers, stones
- Glue or hot glue
- Cardboard or thick paper
- Scissors

### Let's start:

1. Cut the cardboard into the shape of a picture frame.
2. Glue the twigs around the edge to form the frame.
3. Decorate the frame with leaves, flowers, and stones.



# Shell and stone art

## What you need

- Shells, stones, sand
- Craft glue
- Canvas or thick paper
- Acrylic paint (optional)

## Let's start:

1. Arrange the shells and stones on the canvas or paper to create a picture or pattern.
2. Glue the shells and stones in place.
3. Optional: Paint the background with acrylics to add a splash of colour.



# Bird feeder ornaments

## What you need:

- Pinecones
- Peanut butter or vegetable fat
- Birdseed
- String

## Let's start:

1. Spread peanut butter or fat onto the pinecones.
2. Roll them in birdseed until completely covered.
3. Tie a string around the top of the pinecones and hang them outside.



# Leaf printing

## What you need:

- Various leaves
- Acrylic or finger paints
- Paper or canvas

## Let's start:

1. Paint the leaves.
2. Press the painted leaves onto the paper or canvas to create prints.
3. Let the prints dry and create a beautiful nature-inspired picture.



# Natural wind chimes

## What you need:

- Driftwood or sturdy twigs
- Shells, feathers, small stones, beads
- String or yarn
- Drill (to make holes in shells and stones)

## Let's start:

1. Drill small holes in the shells and stones.
2. Attach the shells, stones, feathers, and beads to the driftwood or twigs with string.
3. Hang your wind chime outside and enjoy the sounds.





# Coloured sand bottles

## What you need:

- Clean glass bottles or jars
- Different colours of sand
- Funnel or folded paper for pouring in the sand

## Let's start:

1. Layer the different colours of sand inside the bottle.  
Use a funnel or folded paper to carefully pour in the sand.
2. Seal the bottle and use it as decoration.



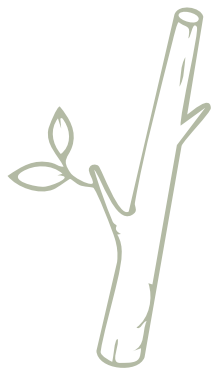
# Colourful rice

## What you need:

- Rice
- Vinegar
- Food colouring

## Let's start:

1. Put 1 cup of rice into a container with 1 teaspoon of vinegar and a few drops of food colouring, then close the lid and shake well.
2. Repeat the process until you have as many colours as you wish.
3. Leave the container with the rice to stand overnight.
4. The colour dries onto the rice and only comes off in contact with water.



# Nature collage

## What you need:

- Various natural materials (leaves, flowers, small twigs)
- Thick paper or cardboard
- Craft glue

## Let's start:

1. Arrange the materials on the paper or cardboard to create a picture or pattern.
2. Glue the materials down and let the collage dry.



# Hand and footprints

## What you need:

- Finger paints or non-toxic acrylic paints
- Paper or canvas
- Paintbrushes
- Wet wipes (for clean-up)

## Let's start:

1. Paint your hands and/or feet.
2. Press them onto the paper or canvas to create prints.
3. Let the prints dry and decorate them however you wish.



# Homemade soap

## What you need:

- **Glycerine soap base** – available in craft shops or online
- **Soap dyes** – Food colouring or special soap dyes
- **Essential oils** – your favourite scents (e.g. lavender, lemon, mint)
- **Soap moulds** – silicone moulds in various shapes and sizes
- **Microwave-safe container** – for melting the soap base
- **Stirring stick** – for mixing the ingredients
- **Alcohol spray** – to remove air bubbles
- **Optional** – glitter, dried flowers, herbs, mica powder (for shimmer)

## Let's start:

### 1. Prepare materials

- Prepare your workplace. An old newspaper or oilcloth will keep the work surface clean.

### 2. Melt soap base

- Cut the glycerine soap base into small chunks.
- Place the soap pieces into a microwave-safe container.
- Melt the soap base in the microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until it's uniformly melted.

### 3. Add colour and scent

- As soon as the soap base has melted, add a few drops of soap colour dye and stir well.
- Add a few drops of essential oil (about 5-10 drops per 100g of soap, depending on how strong you prefer the scent).
- Optional: Add glitter, dried flowers, or mica powder for additional effects.

### 4. Pour into moulds

- Carefully pour the liquid soap mixture into the soap moulds.
- Spray some alcohol on the surface of the soap to remove air bubbles.

### 5. Allow soap to harden

- Leave the soap at room temperature until it's fully hardened. Depending on the size of the moulds and the room temperature, this can take around one to two hours.
- To speed up the process, you can also put the moulds in the fridge.

#### 6. Remove the soaps from the moulds

- Once the soap has hardened completely, carefully remove it from the moulds.
- If the soaps don't come out of the mould easily, press the silicone mould carefully from the bottom upwards.

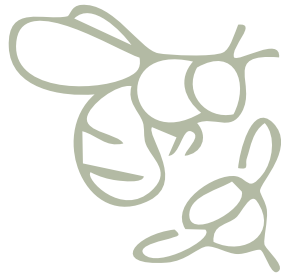
#### 7. Pack and store soap

- Pack the soaps in cellophane, in small bags, or wrap them in wax paper to keep them fresh.
- Make sure to store the soaps in a cool, dry place.

### TIPS AND TRICKS

- **Layered soaps:** Pour a coloured layer, let it slightly harden, then pour the next for beautiful multi-coloured effects.
- **Embedded objects:** Place objects like small toys in the moulds before pouring the soap.
- **Soap stamps:** Use soap stamps to imprint designs onto the soap surface.





# Beeswax wraps

## What you need:

- **Cotton fabric** – 100% cotton, pre-washed and cut to the desired size
- **Beeswax** pellets or grated wax
- **Jobba oil or coconut oil** – to make the wrap more supple
- **Baking paper**
- **Pastry brush**
- **Baking tray**
- **Scissors**
- **Optional** – resin (e.g. pine resin) for better adhesion

## Let's start:

### 1. Prepare the fabric

- Cut the cotton fabric to your desired size. Typical sizes include 20x20cm, 25x25cm, or 30x30cm.
- Trim the edges neatly; pinking shears help prevent fraying.

### 2. Prepare the baking tray

- Place a piece of baking paper on a baking tray to protect the tray from the wax and make cleaning easier.

### 3. Mix the beeswax

- Measure out around 20-30 grams of beeswax per wrap.
- Mix the beeswax with 1-2 teaspoons of jojoba or coconut oil per wrap.
- Optional: To increase adhesiveness, add 1-2 teaspoons of finely ground resin.

### 4. Apply the wax

- Place the fabric on the prepared baking paper.
- Evenly distribute the beeswax on the fabric (either sprinkle on the hard wax or melt it and apply it with a brush).

### 5. Melt and spread the wax

- Preheat the oven to 80-100°C.
- Place the tray in the oven and watch the wax melt – this takes just a few minutes.
- When the wax has completely melted, take the tray out of the oven and spread the wax evenly over the entire fabric using a pastry brush.

### 6. Let the wrap dry

- Allow the wax to cool slightly, but remove the wrap from the paper before it hardens completely to prevent it from sticking.
- Hang the wrap up or lay it flat on a clean, dry surface, and it should have fully hardened within a few minutes.



# Wood carving

## What you need:

- **Wood-carving knife** – a sharp knife specifically for wood carving; beginners should use a small, versatile knife.
- **Wood** – Softwood like linden, pine, or poplar is ideal for starting out.
- **Sandpaper** – Various grits (e.g. 120, 220, 400) for smoothing surfaces
- **Wood block** – for stability when carving
- **Safety gear** – Carving gloves or thumb guard, safety glasses

## Let's start:

### 1. Preparation:

- Prepare your workspace: Work in a well-lit area with a stable work surface..
- Select and prep the wood: Choose a piece of cut it to a manageable size, and remove any bark.

### 2. Design

- Choose a design: Beginners can start with simple shapes like spoons, hearts, or animals.
- Sketch the outline: Lightly draw the design onto the wood with a pencil.

### 3. Rough cut

- Carve the basic shape: Begin removing large sections to form the basic shape, working slowly and carefully.
- Carving direction: Always carve away from your body and with along the grain to prevent injuries and splintering.

### 4. Adding detail

- Refinements: Use smaller carving knives or detail knives to shape finer features. Ensure cuts are smooth and controlled.
- Curves and contours: Smooth edges and the outline of the design.

### 5. Fine-tuning

- Sanding: Use sandpaper to smooth out the surface. Start with a coarse grit and work your way up to a finer grit for ultimate smoothness.
- Check: Take a good look over your work and smooth out any remaining unevenness.

### 6. Surface treatment

- Oiling or waxing: To protect the wood and enhance the grain, you can treat it with a natural oil (such as linseed oil) or wax. Apply the oil or wax evenly and allow it to absorb well.
- Polishing: Once dry, polish the piece with a soft cloth for a smooth, glossy finish.

## SAFETY TIPS

- **Always cut away from your body, never towards it.** This minimises the risk of cutting yourself.
- **Safety gear:** Wear protective gear like carving gloves or a thumb guard and safety glasses.
- **Keep tools sharp:** A sharp knife is safer and easier to control than a blunt one.
- **Work with focus:** Work slowly and attentively to avoid mistakes and injuries.

## Easy carving projects for beginners

Carving takes patience and practice, but it's a rewarding activity with results that are both creative and practical.

### 1. Spoon:

a classic project that's both decorative and functional

### 2. Heart:

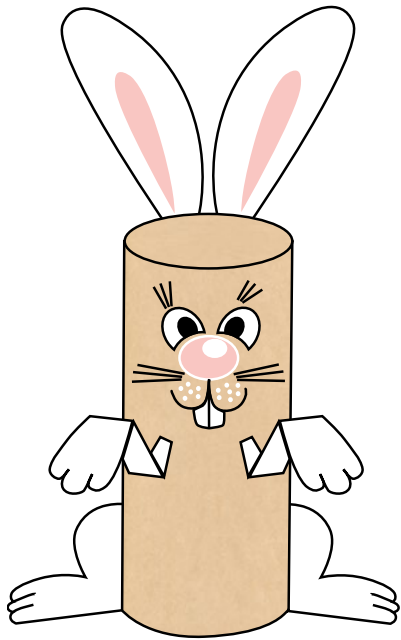
a simple yet lovely gift or decoration

### 3. Animal figures:

small carvings like fish, birds, or turtles make great practice pieces

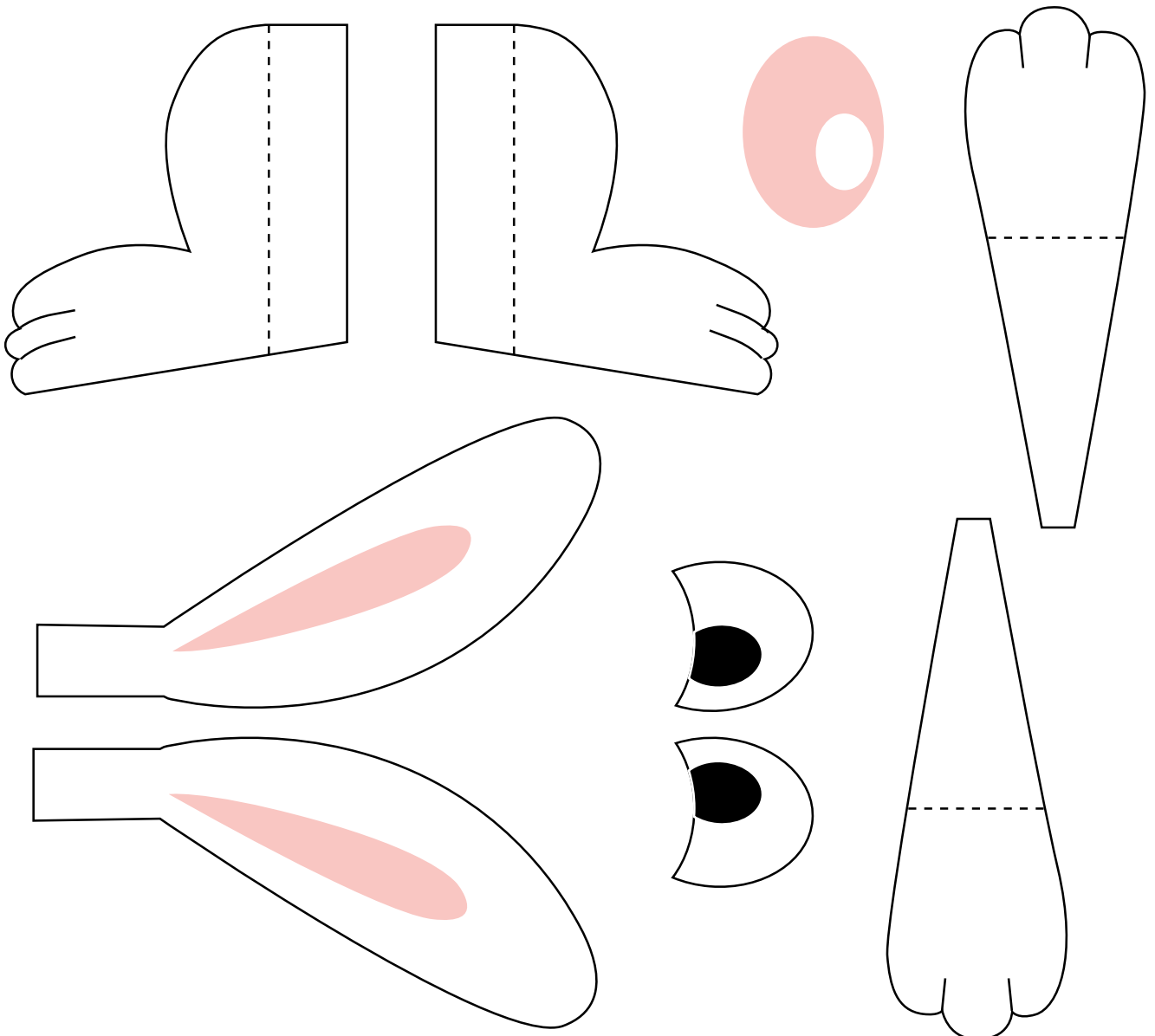
### 4. Keychains:

small, simple shapes that are easy to carry around



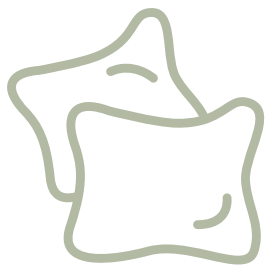
# Craft bunny

Draw the bunny parts on a sheet of paper, cut them out, and glue them onto a toilet paper roll.



## Winter craft tips

When the snow is falling softly outside and the candles are flickering inside, it's the perfect time for doing arts and crafts as a family. And because we love nature here in South Tyrol, we use real natural materials from the surrounding area for our crafts. Glittering ice lights, homemade tea bags, little works of art made from pine cones, and mountain wool ... What will be your first creation?



# Herbal pillow with South Tyrolean scents

Natural fragrances like lavender, camomile, spruce needles, or mint have a calming effect that helps you fall asleep. How about turning them into a scented pillow made from leftover fabric? Alternatively, you can fill your pillow with alpaca wool, cherry stones, or pine shavings.

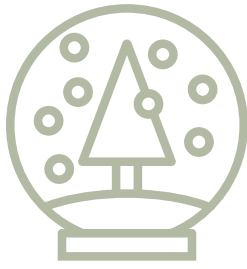
### What you need:

- Small piece of cotton fabric or old cushion cover
- Needle and thread or hot glue gun
- Dried herbs
- Label to write on
- Optional: small felt heart as decoration

### Let's start:

1. Cut the fabric to around 15×15cm and sew or glue three sides together.
2. Add your mixed herbs through the open side (1-2 tablespoons are plenty).
3. Afterwards, sew or glue the fourth side closed and decorate your cushion with felt or fabric markers. If you like, you can add a label with information about the filling.
4. Now, all that's left to do is pop the pillow on your bed and enjoy sweet dreams!





# A jar of winter magic:

## **Shake and make a wish.**

Would you like to spread good cheer on dark winter days? Then this homemade snow globe is just the thing. A family wish list, an uplifting message, a little glitter, a touch of magic – and everyone will be smiling in no time.

## **What you need:**

- Screw-top jar with lid
- Mini figurine or Christmas decoration (e.g. animal, tree)
- Distilled water with 1 tsp glycerine
- Glitter or artificial snow
- Laminated wish list or mini note with family messages

## **Let's start:**

1. Attach your winter figure to the inside of the lid using a glue gun.
2. Fill the jar with water, glycerine, and glitter.
3. Laminate the wish list, fold it, and put it inside.
4. Screw the lid on tightly.
5. And that's it: your magic wishing jar is ready! All the lucky recipient has to do is shake it – and smile.



# Homemade teabags

Everyone has their own favourite fragrances and flavours. Follow the instructions to make your very own winter blend of dried flowers, dried fruit, and herbs.

## What you need:

- Empty tea filters or thin muslin cloth
- Dried herbs and fruit (e.g. apple, marigold, rosehip, lemon balm)
- Needle and thread or stapler
- Paper and coloured pencils for labels

## Let's start:

1. Fill the filters, fold the tops down, and seal them well.
2. Use some thread to attach a homemade label, e.g. with the name or a design of your choice.

**Tip:** These tea bags make an ideal gift!



# Magically colourful candles

Make your own candles – a creative winter project for little hands and big eyes. Candles bring warmth, light, and a cosy feeling to your home. And they spread even more joy when they're homemade – the perfect gift or reminder of a special time. Each candle is unique and colourful, with your own personal touch.

## What you need:

- White or light-coloured dinner candles
- Pieces of old wax in different colours or coloured wax remnants, e.g. from broken candles
- Tall containers for dipping, e.g. old glass bottles or jars
- A heat-resistant bowl or bain-marie to melt the wax in
- Spoon or wooden stick for stirring
- Old newspaper or a craft mat
- Gloves or apron for small children

### Optional:

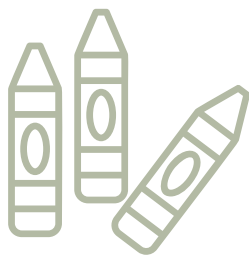
- Glitter wax or powder
- Essential oils of your choice
- Labels to write on

### Let's start:

1. Find a safe workspace and cover it with newspaper.
2. Cut your coloured wax remnants into little pieces and melt them in a bain-marie (not directly in the pan). Use one colour per jar or container or melt the colours one after the other so that they're layered on top of each other.
3. Dip the bottom end of your white candle into the coloured wax for a few seconds.
4. Take it out, leave it to cool briefly, and then try the next colour, creating a rainbow effect, striped patterns, and beautiful colour blends. Tip: if you tilt the candle sideways, you'll get diagonal colour gradients.
5. Place the finished candles on a piece of baking paper. Once they're completely cool, you can decorate them with name labels, wax decorations, or little pendants.

**Important:** Make sure that no wax goes down the drain. Children should always be supervised when working with hot wax.

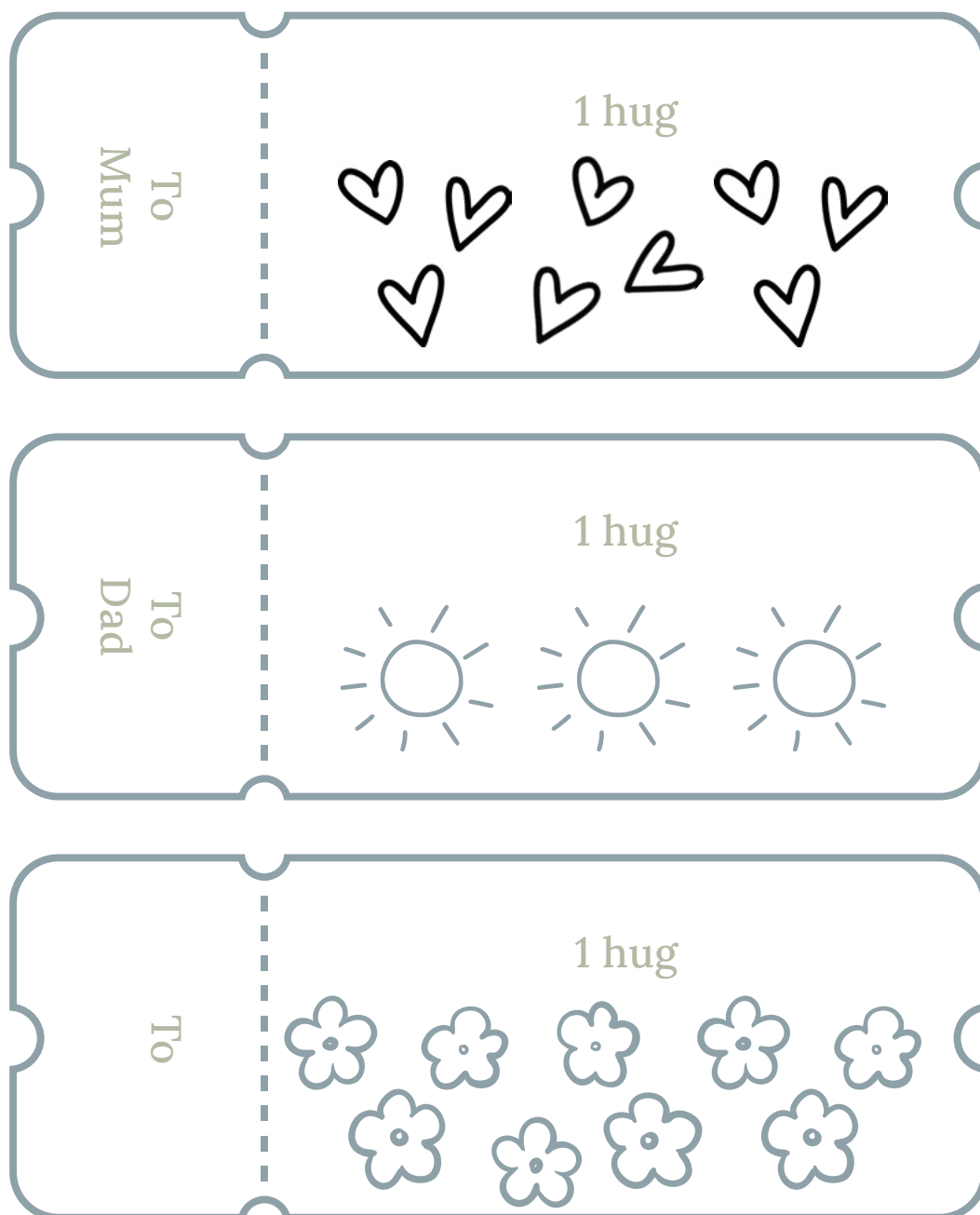


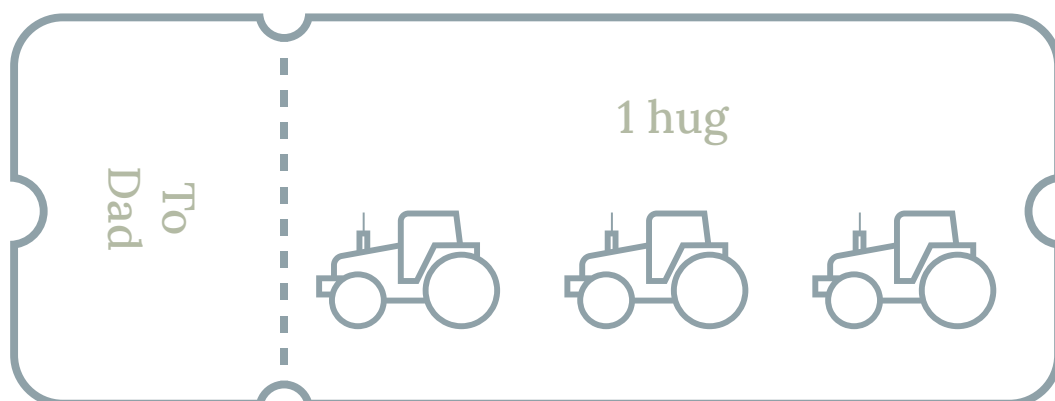


# Warm hugs for cold winter days

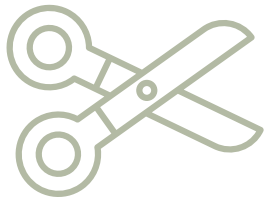
Is it icy cold outside and you're longing for warmth? For genuine, loving warmth? Then give these vouchers to your mum, dad, grandpa, big brother, favourite aunt ... and spread a little love!

**Vouchers to colour in and cut out**



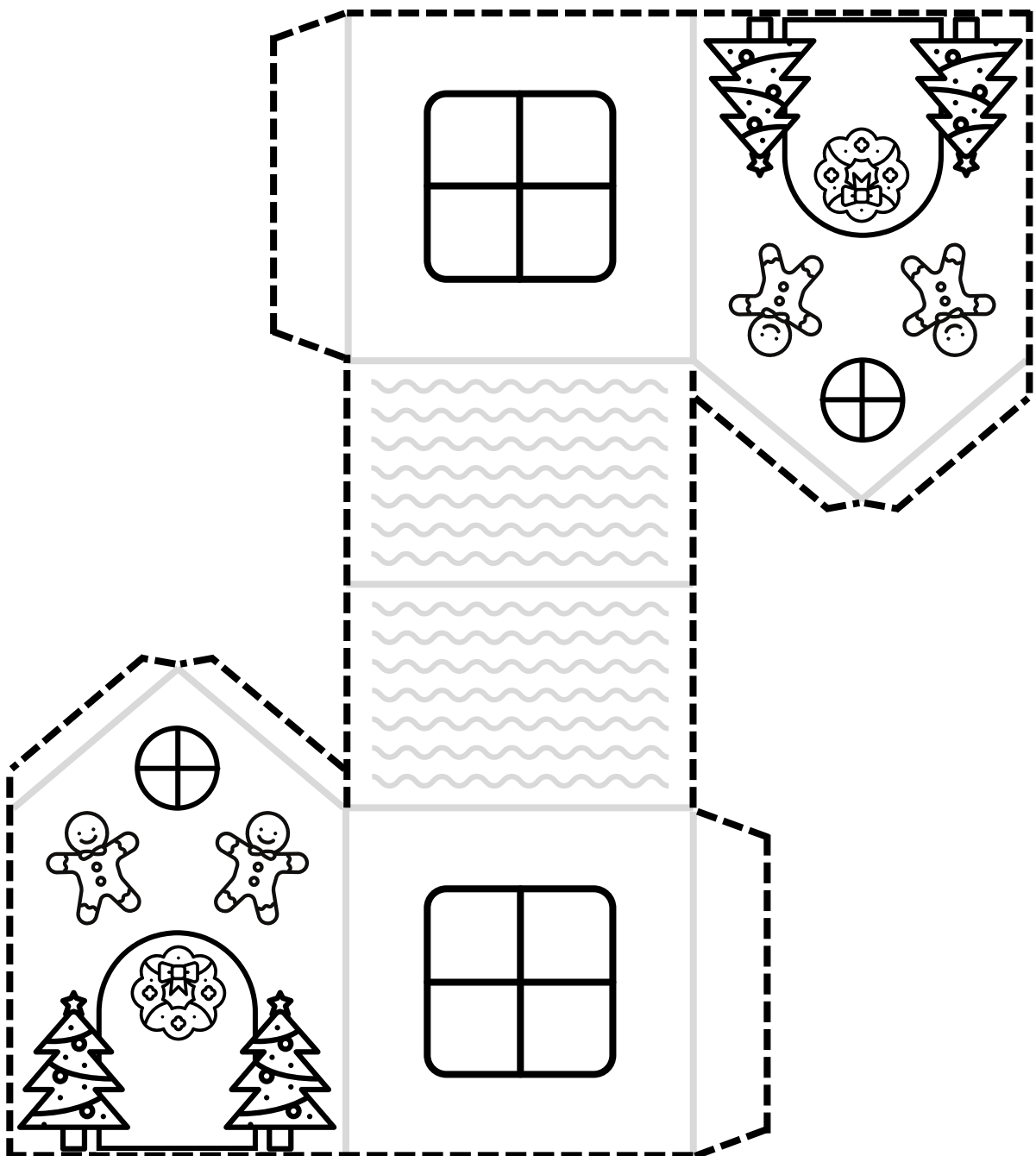






# A gingerbread house dream

Okay, it's not actually made of gingerbread, but it is made of long-lasting materials like paper or card – and features all your favourite colours! Simply cut out this template, colour it in however you wish, fold it, and glue it together at the flaps. What will you fill your gingerbread house with?



**Grab your craft supplies  
and let your creativity  
run wild!**

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