

How to Make a Dreidel

Make your own dreidel from modeling clay with this Hannukah craft activity! After sculpting the dreidel from quick-drying clay, children can decorate it with markers. Once complete, gather a group of family or friends to play the dreidel game. Be sure to have coins or chocolate gelt on hand—and don't forget to sing at least one round of "I Have a Little Dreidel" as you work.

What You Need:

- White modeling clay
- Blunt butter knife (plastic is fine)
- Short pencil or piece of dowel, about 2 inches long
- Blue marking pen

What You Do:

1. Have your child form a piece of modeling clay into a cube about one and a half inches wide. (It may be easiest for your child to use a butter knife to cut the straight edges.)
2. Ask your child take the small pencil or piece of dowel and insert it about halfway into the cube. Make sure it is as centered as possible, so that the dreidel spins evenly.
3. Now it's time to create the pointed end of the dreidel. Have your child take another piece of clay and form it into a cone shape. Attach this to the bottom of the cube. Do your best to make sure this is firmly attached, so that it stays together as it dries.
4. Once the clay has dried, use your blue marker to make the Hebrew letters *nun*, *gimel*, *hay*, and *shin*. (See photo). Let the ink dry, and your child is ready to play!



Playing Dreidel:

Traditionally, no work is to be done while the Hanukkah candles are lit; playing dreidel with friends and family is a fun way to pass the time. Decide on the number of rounds you will play before you begin, or you will be playing long into the night!

Players take turns spinning the dreidel and collecting or giving game pieces. (You can use pennies or candies, like chocolate gelt!) If a player spins a *nun* they take nothing; *gimel* they take the pot; *hay* they take half the pot; and *shin* they put one into the pot.

The player with the most coins or candies at the end of the game is the winner.

The Dreidel Song:

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play.

Chorus:
Oh Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel
Then Dreidel I shall play.

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and then I win

Chorus

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play, now let's begin!

Chorus