Paper Chain Countdown to Christmas

You will need the following supplies from home:

- tape or glue; scissors
- marker or crayon (You **may** need a permanent marker, if you print the paper strips.)
- construction paper cut into 1 inch X 6 inch strips (or print the paper strip template)
- sticker (optional)

Instructions:

1. Look at the picture of the sample before you start your project. Colors may vary.
2. Write one date on each of your paper strips. (See below.)

1st paper strip – Dec. 14	7th paper strip – Dec. 20
2nd paper strip – Dec. 15	8th paper strip – Dec. 21
3rd paper strip – Dec. 16	9th paper strip – Dec. 22
4th paper strip – Dec. 17	10th paper strip – Dec. 23
5th paper strip – Dec. 18	11th paper strip – Dec. 24
6th paper strip – Dec. 19	12th paper strip – Dec. 25

3. Glue (or tape) the ends of the 1st paper strip together to make a ring.
4. Insert the 2nd paper strip inside the 1st ring, make a circle, and glue (or tape) the two ends together.
5. Continue the same process with the rest of the paper strips. NOTE: As you are putting the chain together, be careful to position the strips so that all the writing is going in the same direction. (See sample.)
6. If you like, attach a sticker to the link marked, "Dec. 25."
7. Now use your paper chain as an Advent calendar. On Dec. 14th, rip off the link marked with that date. On Dec. 15th, rip off the next chain. Continue doing this each day.

Historical Background:

We combined two Christmas traditions: paper chains and Advent calendars. Paper chains have long been used as Christmas decorations for trees and rooms. Advent calendars, like Christmas trees, are a tradition adopted from Germany. The first documented Advent calendar dates to 1851.

Other Ideas: Make a long chain and decorate your tree or room. Ask an adult first.

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