



Craft Activity

Theme: Christmas

Intro: Christmas is an annual festival, celebrated on the 25th December. Many people give gifts, spend time with friends and family, cook special meals and decorate their houses in celebration of Christmas.

Craft activity: Jingle Bell Sticks

Children will need: Jumbo pop sticks, pipe cleaners, bells, stickers or markers, sticky tape.

Instructions:

Decorate a jumbo pop stick using stickers or markers. Thread a bell onto a pipe cleaner and wrap the pipe cleaner around the pop stick. You can join up to 3 pipe cleaners together to wrap around the whole pop stick. (You may need an adult to help you with this). You can tape each end of the pipe cleaner to hold them in place. You are now ready to make music with your Jingle Stick!

Extension Idea: Attach bells to pipe cleaners and wrap around baby's wrists or ankles as an alternative to using the pop sticks. Make Christmas bottle shakers using red and green items in a small, clear bottle.

Fact: Depending on where you live, there are many different names for: Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Christkind, Kris Kringle or Saint Nicholas. Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates. Some countries have their own Christmas traditions such as Italy's La Befana, an old woman who delivers gifts to children on January 5th.



Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.

Coordinator extension ideas and group time guide

Sensory activity: Fake Snow

You will need: Play Tray, Shaving Foam, Bi-Carb Soda, a range of Christmas items.

Instructions: Place shaving foam into a tray and slowly add some bi-carb soda. Children can mix ingredients together until they can form snow balls. Add "Christmas" items such as metallic pom poms, pine leaves from a Christmas Tree, cookie cutters, red and green pop sticks, pipe cleaners or small baubles.

Outside Activity: Christmas Skittles

You will need: Green cups, stickers, small balls.

Decorate the cups with stickers and stack into a "Christmas Tree" pyramid. Children can practice using their hand-eye coordination and Fundamental Movement Skills to throw the balls at the Christmas Tree. They can also practice rebuilding the pyramid.

Group time ideas:

- Decorate the Playgroup Christmas Tree.
- Ask the children what their favourite Christmas Carol is and practice singing them
- Read Christmas stories
- Make Magic reindeer Food to take home (Oats mixed with red and green glitter. Placed in a snack sized zip lock bag with tag template attached)
- Ask the children if they know the names of Santa's Reindeer. (Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Cupid, Comet, Donner, Blitzen)



Book Suggestions:

The Night before Christmas by Jan Brett

All I want for Christmas is rain by Cori Brooke

Spot's First Christmas by Eric Hill



Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
Through the fields we go
Laughing all the way.

Bells on bob-tail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight.

Chorus

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, Hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Reindeer Pokey

Tune: Hokey Pokey

You put your antlers in, you put your
antlers out
You put your antlers in and you shake
them all about
You do the reindeer pokey and you
turn yourself around
That's what it's all about.

Continue with:

You put your hooves in...

You put your red nose in...

You put your fluffy tail in...

You put your reindeer body in...

We Wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

