

Story book advent calendar

Create your own Christmas storybook advent calendar to keep children engaged in reading during the festive period.

Learning aims

- Develop an interest in stories and books
- Explore different ideas through story
- Support children's understanding of time
- Celebrate Christmas traditions, such as advent.

Resources

- 24 books (or enough for the days your setting is open until Christmas)
- Wrapping paper
- Numbered labels
- A basket to store the books in.



Activity Outline

1. Choose 24 stories that are appropriate for the children in your group. These could be Christmas-themed or just popular stories that you know they will love. They do not need to be brand new, they could be books that have been lurking in the back of a cupboard!
2. Wrap each storybook in Christmas paper
3. Label each book with a number from 1-24 (if you are going to carry on until Christmas Eve)
4. Put the books in a basket, in the correct order
5. Explain the activity to the children before it begins. Having the books in sight, this will build anticipation and excitement
6. When introducing the activity each day, ensure you look at and talk about the number on each book and what it means (where appropriate)
7. Allow the children to unwrap the book and then enjoy a group story-time
8. Once the story has been read, it can be left out for the children to enjoy again and again throughout the day. Revisiting stories allows children to benefit from learning through repetition and familiarity.

Extending the activity

- With younger children, rhymes and songs could be used instead of books
- If you have an 'Elf on the Shelf' in your setting, maybe they could deliver the story to the children each day
- If 24 books are tricky to find, you could do this for 12 days, using the 12 days of Christmas theme instead.



Special considerations

Not all children and families celebrate Christmas and it is important to think about this when planning activities to ensure your practice is inclusive and all children can benefit.