

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Wrapping Christmas parcels

Get festive while children develop fine and gross motor skills by wrapping parcels. It's a great activity to encourage early mark making and to support the use of mathematical language too.



Learning aims

- Develop fine and gross motor skills
- Develop early mark making and early writing
- Use mathematical language to describe the different size, weight and shape of parcels
- Explore capacity
- Talk about their own experiences.

Resources

- A selection of boxes of different sizes and shapes
- Padded envelopes, Christmas wrapping paper, brown paper
- Bubble wrap
- String, tape, staplers, glue sticks
- Scissors
- Sticky address labels
- Pens
- Stamps and inepad
- A basket of items to wrap (dolls, teddy bears, games, etc.)
- Weighing scales
- Copies of the nursery address or children's home address.

Activity outline

1. Create a Christmas parcel workshop area. Ensure you have a range of different sizes and shapes of boxes for children to explore
2. Create stations for wrapping different sized boxes with a range of materials, tape, string, glue stick, staplers, scissors, brown paper, wrapping paper, bubble wrap, etc.
3. Work with the children to model how to measure the paper or string to fit the size of the gift, use the tape, write labels and so on

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4. Provide address labels so children can write and attach the labels to the envelopes and parcels or thick pens to write on the wrapped parcel
5. Give examples of how to write an address for children to see in the space. This could be your nursery address of the children's own home address
6. Create a weighing areas (with large weighing scales) for children to record the weight of each parcel
7. Encourage children to talk about their own experiences of sending or receiving parcels.

Extension ideas

- Leave the activity resources for children to explore their interest and continue experimenting with different sized objects and boxes
- Use a world globe to discuss how parcels travel all over the world. Find out if children have experience of sending parcels to families and friends in other countries
- Take children on a trip to the post office to send a parcel to your setting, discover how long it takes, how much it weighed and how much it cost. Take photos to create a book for the children to be able to remember and retell the activity.

Extending the activity

- Online course: ['Let's look at...' Maths: Shape, Space and Measure](#)
- Online course: ['Quality teaching in early years'](#).