

**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.**

## Christmas Story Stones

**Encourage babies and toddlers to explore new sensory objects, inspiring awe and wonder through festive multi-sensory play.**

### Learning aims

- To enjoy a range of a stories and books
- To support children's creativity
- To engage in imaginative play
- To develop communication and literacy skills.

### Resources

- Stones or pebbles
- Black fine liner
- Chalk pen
- Felt tip pens
- Paints (acrylic paint works best on stones)
- Clear varnish.



### Activity Outline

Create your own Christmas story stones this festive season to provide a useful and low cost resources to enhance your Christmas stories.

1. Collect a range of pebbles and stones that are a suitable size, shape and texture for drawing on (flat grey pebbles are ideal; if stones are collected naturally, wash and dry these before use)
2. Decide which story characters you want to create. For example, to support the story of the Nativity you will need to create baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the three kings/wise men, the shepherds, sheep, an angel, a star and a donkey
3. Use the black fine liner or white chalk pen to draw the story characters on the stones (black works best on lighter stones and the white chalk pen on darker stones)

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4. Complete the characters using felt tip pens or paint and leave to dry
5. Coat with clear varnish to seal. Once dry your story stones are ready to use
6. Introduce the story stones with the relevant book and allow children to take turns playing different characters each time you read the story. Children can move the stones, acting out each part of the story as you read it.

### Extension ideas

- Place the story stones in your small world area to enhance imaginative play
- Allow children to create their own story stones for their favourite story

Take the story stones outdoors where children could re-create stories on a larger scale.

### 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.