

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 Treasure Baskets

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

Resources

A sturdy low sided basket (wide-based, shallow at the sides and sturdy as not to tip if children lean on it)

A variety of Christmas-themed sensory objects of different texture, colour, size, shape and weight for exploration:

- Soft textured items like a Santa hat, Christmas stocking
- Glittery shiny items such as baubles, tinsel, ribbon
- Jingle bells
- Selection of decorations made from a variety of materials, straw, felt, wood etc,
- Wrapping paper
- Different shaped items from a variety of materials such as stars, snow flakes etc.
- Pine cones
- Wooden Santa figure
- Mirrors/ mirrored ornaments
- Bags filled with spices.



Activity Outline

- Add your chosen items to your basket
- Put the basket on the floor for children to independently explore. The adult should be on hand to supervise and ensure safety during exploration of the items
- Allow the children to explore the items at their own pace. Babies might grasp, shake, or mouth the objects, while toddlers may stack, sort, or move them around. Treasure baskets inspire curiosity and concentration, which lay the foundation for learning and creativity. The adult's role is to support this exploration by being responsive rather than directive.

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Special considerations

Add items such as eco glitter and dry rice to clear plastic bottles for further exploration providing opportunities for rolling and shaking and watching items move around.