

**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.**

## Sensory Christmas Book

**Make an interactive book to use with the children at your nursery to explore Christmas through their senses.**

### Learning aims

- To engage children's senses through touch, sight, and smell
- To encourage creativity and exploration of festive themes
- To introduce new descriptive language related to sensory experiences.

### Resources

- Card (to form the pages of your book)
- Variety of coloured papers including Christmas wrapping paper
- Collage items such as shiny foil, ribbon and eco glitter
- Pens, pencils, scissors and glue
- Seasonal smells such as ground ginger, star anise, cinnamon stick
- Photos of the children enjoying some festive activities or festive images such as Christmas trees.

### Activity outline

#### Make your book

1. Lay out the selection of resources and talk to the children about all the items pointing out the sensory qualities of the items:
  - **Textures** - soft cotton, shiny paper, rough fabric etc.
  - **Smells** - cinnamon sticks, drops of peppermint essence, star anise etc.
  - **Visuals** - glitter, sequins, or colourful Christmas images etc.
  - **Sounds** - small jingle bells or crinkly paper
2. Provide time for the children to explore the resources, provide new vocabulary and add describing words as you talk about the items
3. Explain that they will create their own festive sensory book filled with textures, colours, and smells that remind them of Christmas
4. Lay out the card and encourage children stick in the items adding a mixture of sensory items to each page

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5. Once the glue is dry string the pages together to create a book.

### **Explore the sensory book**

6. Share the book together talking about the pages and inviting the children to share their favourite smells, sounds, sights and textures
7. Leave the book in your book area so the children can revisit it and share it whenever they want to.

### **Working with babies**

Make a similar item with babies on a large piece of paper which can be displayed at their level so they can enjoy the senses of Christmas.