

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.

Sharing Christmas Memories

Encourage children to share their Christmas memories, helping them connect with each other and celebrate the festive season. This activity promotes communication, listening, and building a sense of community while embracing the joy of Christmas.

Learning aims

- To support language development through the re-living of experiences
- To share memories and special moments to enhance feelings of belonging and well-being
- To learn more about how different families celebrate special events
- To use concrete objects to support the re-telling of lived events..



Resources

- Suitcase or a big chest
- Printed photos from home of children at Christmas time
- Baubles
- Photo of Christmas dinner
- Santa model or picture
- Wrapped boxes (represent presents)
- Santa hat
- Ideas from parents, e.g. child's favourite story through the Christmas period.

Activity outline

- Speak to parents/carers and share your idea for this activity. Ask them if they have any ideas for resources to include
- Fill a chest or suitcase with lots of items relating to Christmas
- Sit with the children and tell them that you want to hear all about something they enjoy over the Christmas period
- Invite the children to choose something from the case that reminds them of, or makes them think about, their own Christmas celebration

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- Choose an item and talk to the children briefly about your own experience (model sharing a Christmas memory)
- Encourage the children to take it in turns to choose an item and talk about what this means to them
- Highlight any new vocabulary and make a note of it to re-visit on another occasion
- Leave the suitcase/chest out for children to look through during free-play and to support role-play.

Extension ideas

- Have pencils and paper nearby to inspire children to draw pictures of their experiences
- Support children to re-enact their own or other children's Christmas memories based on the stories they have heard.

Special considerations

Remember that not all families in your setting will celebrate Christmas. Think of other ways to include these children, perhaps thinking more about the holiday period, rather than specifically Christmas.