

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.

Story book advent calendar

Create your own Christmas storybook advent calendar to keep children engaged in reading during the festive period.

Learning aims

- Develop an interest in stories and books
- Explore different ideas through story
- Support children's understanding of time
- Celebrate Christmas traditions, such as advent.

Resources

- Christmas themed books
- Wrapping paper
- Numbered labels
- A basket to store the books in.



Activity Outline

1. Choose Christmas themed stories that are appropriate for the children in your group choose stories that are popular and that you know they will love
2. Wrap each storybook in Christmas paper
3. Label each book with a number for how each day before Christmas
4. Put the books in a basket
5. Explain the activity to the children before it begins. Having the books in sight will build anticipation and excitement
6. When introducing the activity each day, ensure you look at and talk about the number on each book and what it means
7. Choose a different child each day to unwrap the book and then enjoy a group story-time
8. Once the story has been read, it can be left out for the children to enjoy again and again throughout the day. Revisiting stories allows children to benefit from learning through repetition and familiarity.

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Extending the activity

- With younger children, rhymes and songs could be used instead of books
- If you have an 'Elf on the Shelf' in your setting, maybe they could deliver the story to the children each day.

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.

