

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.

The Christmas Parcel Challenge

In this festive activity, the children will become Santa's little helpers as they have fun wrapping presents for the big day. They will practice wrapping boxes of different shapes and sizes, choosing colourful paper and ribbons, and writing special labels to go with each gift. This activity helps develop fine motor skills, creativity, and early writing skills while sparking excitement for Christmas.

Resources

- Letter from the elves asking the children to help them wrap some of Santa's presents ready for the big day (make this as magical and real looking as possible to engage the children)
- Different sized sealed boxes (Santa can add the presents magically later)
- Wrapping paper, gift tags, ribbon and bows
- Pens and pencils
- Sack
- Scissors and sticky tape
- Camera for the storyboard project book.



Activity Outline

- Tell the children you have received a very special letter from the North Pole and read the letter asking if they can help Santa and wrap some of the presents. Show the children all the boxes and wrapping paper and encourage children to have a go wrapping the presents model to the children how to fold the paper around the boxes and add sticky tape
- Talk about the sizes and shapes of the boxes providing vocabulary like big, small, corners, edges etc.
- Provide a variety of ribbons and bows so children can be creative
- Support children to add gift labels to their presents adding a short message like "Merry Christmas!" or a picture
- Take photographs of each stage and create a storyboard of the activity which can be added to your book corner for the children to re-visit or share with their families
- Once they are all wrapped put them into the sack for the elves to collect
- Write a letter back to the elves saying that you have all enjoyed being Santa's helpers and wishing them a wonderful Christmas – use the children's ideas for the letter and scribe it together you could see if the children would like to draw pictures to include with the letter.

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Extending the activity

- Add a 'Santa's Workshop' role play area to your setting for ongoing wrapping and label-writing fun. Children can choose items from the setting to wrap and during circle time, they can take turns presenting their wrapped items as a fun guessing game for their peers. Each child can describe their chosen item using clues they can then be unwrapped to reveal their contents, adding excitement and reinforcing the joy of giving and sharing.

Special considerations

- Ensure sensitivity is given to any family in the setting that does not want their child to be included in festive activities. This activity can be adapted to be a post office