

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.

Top tips: Have yourself a child-led Christmas!

At Christmas, settings can feel under pressure to turn into production lines of cards, calendars and parents' gifts!

Here are our top tips for keeping the children at the centre of open-ended seasonal activities.

Provide a wide range of resources to support the children to explore as part of your continuous provision e.g. Christmas story books, Christmas tree in your home corner.

Plan activities based on interests, observe what excites the children about Christmas—whether it's Santa, snow, or festive stories, and plan activities to match their interests.

Set up an open-ended Christmas craft area with a selection of paper, eco-glitter, ribbons, and natural materials, and let children create freely without specific instructions.

Provide opportunities for children to use their imagination in seasonal role-play, such as Santa's workshop or a stable.

Encourage multi-sensory exploration: Add seasonal and festive items to your provision such as a winter wonderland in the water tray with frozen coloured ice shapes, Christmas treasure baskets etc.

Provide opportunities to explore sounds and movement: Play recorded seasonal songs and music, provide instruments, scarves and fabric.

Provide opportunities to explore outside: Go on a seasonal sensory walk on a frosty morning to encourage the children to use all their senses as they discover cold, frost and ice.

Follow the each child's lead as to what they choose to join in with.

You can give the parents a photo of what their child is enjoying as their Christmas gift.

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna

