

Sensory Christmas Book

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

Resources

- Green and red card (to form the pages of your book)
- Paper, pipe cleaners and ribbon in various colours
- Cardboard box (to make present shapes) and Christmas wrapping paper (to wrap the shapes)
- Hole punch (to make holes in the pages to tie the pages together)
- Pens, pencils
- Seasonal smells such as ground ginger, star anise, cinnamon stick (firmly glued to a page)
- A small off cut of Christmas tree (you may need to use a glue gun to attach this firmly to a page)
- Various materials: shiny foil, foam shapes, felt etc. to make into shapes such as stockings and stars
- Bells (to stick to a page or threaded through the ribbon holding the pages together)
- Photos of Christmas trees, lights etc.



Activity Outline

- Make your book – the primary idea here is for the adult to make the book to use with the children as you might need to use a hot glue gun to stick some of the sensory items to the pages
- Explore the sensory book with a child or small group of children; see how the children react – do they know what some of the things are?
- Extend the activity taking the lead from the children e.g. you might take the opportunity to talk about the smells, sounds, sights and textures
- Children with a SEND may benefit from you using the book to talk about and explain some of the changes they might experience in the Christmas season
 - Make a visual timeline for children if your routines change a lot during this time
 - Remember the detail is in the planning and will mean a lot to some children – using real photos of your tree and decorations from last year will mean more than clip art type images.

Extending the activity

- Think about how you could include the sense of taste in your book
 - Add a gingerbread shape:
 - Mix and bake some gingerbread shapes with the children
- Make extra gingerbread biscuits and shapes to decorate with icing for Christmas decorations
 - Before you bake the gingerbread you will have to make a hole in the shapes e.g. with straw, so you can thread ribbon through to hang it up
- Make Playdough and add seasonal smells and sparkles to it.



Working with babies

- Add Christmas smells such as cinnamon sticks to treasure baskets
- Add plastic Christmas decorations to a basket for the babies and young children to explore (risk assessed and supervised).

Special considerations

- *Ensure that you risk assess the use of bells depending on the age and stage of children using the book and the supervision levels*
- *When creating gingerbread shapes and using Christmas smells such as cinnamon, ginger and star anise, ensure you have adequate supervision levels and a risk assessment for allergies and choking.*