



CHRISTMAS ROLE-PLAY IDEAS

**Communication,
language and literacy**

Early Learning Goal

Use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences.

Group Size

Small groups.

Support and Extension

Encourage younger children to talk about what they are wrapping and to think of imaginary destinations for the toys. Invite older children to write pretend name and address labels for the toys.

Further Ideas

- Help the children to make simple hats using colourful triangles of fabric or paper. Pretend that they are elves' hats, and wear them during role-play.
- Trim two sides of a large cardboard box to make the shape of Santa's sleigh. Invite the children to decorate the outside of the sleigh using paints or collage materials. Place a floor cushion 'seat' and a sack of 'presents' in the sleigh and encourage the children to use it for seasonal role-play scenarios.
- Help the children to paint a fireplace scene, such as a log fire in a brick hearth, on to a large flat cardboard box. Place the fireplace in the home corner and invite the children to decorate the area to represent a Christmas Eve scene.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

What you need

Home corner or role-play area; low level tables; shelves (or spare tables); containers such as trays, pots and tubs; large blank banner; blank labels; a wide range of colourful gift-wrapping materials (for example, brightly coloured paper, card, tissue, ribbon, bows, shiny thread, wrapping paper); sticky tape; safety scissors; glue; pens; pencils; child-safe hole punch; Christmas cards and posters; Christmas decorations such as streamers and mobiles; toys for wrapping.



Preparation

Ask parents and carers to donate some inexpensive toys.

What to do

- Invite the children to decorate the walls of the role-play area or home corner with Christmas cards, posters, drawings, streamers and mobiles.
- Help the children to write and decorate a large banner saying 'Santa's workshop' to place above the doorway or on the wall.
- Let the children help you to fill several pots, tubs and trays with a wide range of colourful resources suitable for wrapping gifts and making gift tags. Help them to label the containers using bright, bold letters.
- Display the labelled containers in neat rows and create an area to store resources such as glue, scissors and sticky tape.
- Ask the children to display the unwrapped toys in an organised line and to keep an area clear for wrapped toys.
- Label two separate tables with words such as 'Present wrapping' and 'Gift tag making'.
- Invite the children to imagine that they are Santa's helpers or busy elves, and encourage them to join in role-play that involves wrapping gifts and making gift tags.