



Share a story and celebrate the traditions that make this time of year special

Stories have a wonderful way of bringing people together. Gather your family, friends or nursery group for a cosy Christmas story session, then take some time to talk about the traditions and special moments you enjoy together.

Materials

- A favourite Christmas storybook
- A comfortable space to sit together
- Cushions or blankets
- Optional: soft toys or props from the story
- Paper and crayons for children to draw their favourite part

How to play

1. Let your child choose a favourite Christmas story or select a new one to discover together. Before you begin, look at the front cover and ask your child what they think the story might be about.
2. Create a comfortable space where everyone can sit together and enjoy the story without distractions. You could add some cushions, blankets or soft toys to make it feel extra special.
3. Read the story aloud, giving your child plenty of opportunities to look at the pictures, join in with familiar words and talk about what is happening. Pause during the story to ask questions and encourage children to share their ideas.
4. After the story, talk about the things your family or nursery enjoys doing at Christmas. Perhaps you decorate the tree together, bake something special, visit family, watch a favourite film or read

the same story every year. There is no right or wrong tradition. Every family celebrates in its own way.

5. Ask your child to draw their favourite part of the story or a Christmas tradition that is special to them. You could keep their picture and add to it each year to create a collection of family memories.

How Does This Benefit Children?

Language and Communication - Listening to stories introduces new vocabulary and encourages children to listen, ask questions and share their own ideas.

Imagination - Stories encourage children to imagine different characters, places and situations and develop their own ideas.

Emotional Development - Talking about familiar traditions and special memories helps children recognise and express their feelings.

Sense of Belonging - Sharing stories and traditions gives children opportunities to connect with family, friends and their wider community.

Listening and Attention - Joining a group story encourages children to concentrate, follow a sequence of events and listen to others.

Confidence and Self-Expression - Talking about their own traditions gives children the opportunity to share their experiences and understand that everyone's family may celebrate differently.

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