

Getting Ready for Advent Week

Suggested Books:

God Gave Us Christmas by Lisa Bergren
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck
Merry Christmas, Curious George! By H.A. Rey
The True Gift, a Christmas Story by Patricia MacLachlan
The legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie dePaola
Room for a Little One by Martin Waddel
Dream Snow by Eric Carle
The Gingerbread Baby by Jan Brett
The Adventure of Christmas: Helping Children find Jesus
in Our Holiday Traditions by Lisa Whelchel

Vocabulary Words:

Advent, annunciation, nativity, Jesus Christ, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, Poinsettia, Legend, carols, Christmas

Songs and Fingerplays:

Call Rudolph

Eight little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
One fell down and bumped his head.
The Elves called Santa and Santa said,
"Can seven little reindeer pull my sled?"
Seven little reindeer pulling Santa's sled...
(Etc. When you get down to one,)
One little reindeer pulling Santa's sled
He fell down and bumped his head.
The Elves called Santa and Santa said,"
Call Rudolph!

Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Feliz Navidad
Prospero ano y felicidad!
(Repeat)
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas!
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas!
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas,
From the bottom of my heart!
(Repeat)

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,

And a happy New Year!

Five Little Christmas Trees

Five little Christmas Trees standing all alone
Their hearts were very sad because they hadn't found a home.
Then CHOP went the ax, and DOWN fell a tree,
And off one went with a happy family!

Four little Christmas trees standing all alone... (Etc.)
No little Christmas Trees standing all alone,
Theyr hearts were very glad because they'd all found a home!

Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star

Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star,
How I wonder what you are.
Shining high up in the skies
Show the shepherds where Christ lies
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas Star,
How I wonder what you are.

Materials to Gather:

Dramatic Play:

Robes, props, wings, shepherd's staff for enacting the Christmas story

Blocks:

Add a small nativity set to the blocks area. Playmobile makes one that is suitable for young children ages 3 and up.

Music:

Any Christmas music!

Projects:

- Advent chain: red and green paper, paste, scissors. Child cuts red and green construction paper into strips, then pastes them together, interlocking them into a chain, with as many chains as there are days until Christmas. Each day, child rips one chain link off, and watches the chain grow shorter and shorter – the last one is Christmas Eve. There are many ways to count down the days until Christmas. This is just one method.
- Rice Cake Snowmen: rice cakes, cream cheese, raisins for eyes, M&Ms for buttons, a carrot curl for a nose, etc. Make and eat.

- Toy Nativity set
- Red and green construction paper, glue, gold glitter
- Toys catalog, from Toys R Us or discount store. Paste, paper, scissors
- Coffee can, paper, markers, stickers, a short dowel rod, a rubber pencil topper. Child makes and decorates the can to be a toy drum. A rubber topped stick makes a more pleasant noise than a plain stick or hand.
- Red or green fingerpaint, glitter, fingerpaint paper (freezer paper works well)
- "Baker's clay" – ½ cup salt, 1 ½ cups HOT tap water. 4 cups of flour. Mix salt and water, then knead in flour. If too sticky, add flour. Too stiff, add water. Roll out to ½ inch thick, then cut out with gingerbread man cookie cutter. Decorate ornament. Stick a drinking straw or toothpick through the top so you can add a ribbon to hang it on the tree later. Bake in a low oven (300 degrees) until dry and hard (hour and a half). Cool, then paint. Can spray with varnish.
- Apple Slice Science- apples, knife, lemon juice, paper plates, banana, grapes. Make two faces on paper plates – using banana slices for eyes, grape for a nose, an apple slice for a mouth. Make one turned up for a smile, one turned down for a frown. Dip the smiley one in lemon juice. Leave the frown one undipped. Let the faces sit for 20 minutes, then look at them again. The dipped apple will still look fresh enough to eat, but the undipped one will have turned brown. Usually, the lemony taste isn't

that strong. Can use orange juice, but it doesn't work quite as well.

- Clothespin Counting, small paper plates numbered from one to twenty, a basket full of clothespins. Child clips three clothespins to the plate with the number three on it, etc.
- Trim the tree: If you already have your tree up, then you can give your child a green paper tree shape, and let him use bits of yarn, buttons, sequins, markers, etc, to decorate.
- When you get your Christmas Tree, many places now will make a fresh cut on the bottom of the trunk for you. If so, then ask if you can have some of the old cuts – scraps of wood cut from several different types of trees. Bring them home, let your child examine them, compare them, smell them, explore them. Then burn them in your fire place .
- A basket full of children's socks to mate. Make sure there ARE mates in the pile! But let child match his own socks, especially if there are obvious pairs – two red socks, two green striped socks, etc. Doesn't work so well if you buy a package of six pairs that all look the same.
- Cookie recipe, ingredients. Some easy ones include Rice Krispie Treats or no-bake Chocolate Oatmeal drops. Gingerbread is great, but a lot more putsy.
- Handprint wreaths: trace around child's hand multiple times on green paper. Child cuts out his hand prints, and glues around the rim of a paper plate with the center cut out, overlapping the hands to make it look like a wreath. Later, glue on dried cranberries and a red flocked bow. Hang on the door or in a window.

Advent Week: Monday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words: Advent, annunciation, nativity, Jesus Christ, Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds. Teach "Call Rudolph" fingerplay
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play lotto. Make a Christmasy lotto game with Nativity stickers, or santas and reindeer.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: If you have snow and a small hill, can your child go sledding?
11:15	Project: Make an advent chain.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Rice Cake Snowmen Decorate a couple of rice cakes with cream cheese, raisins for eyes, etc, to look like snowmen.
3:30	Outside time: Make a snowman, if you have snow.
4:30	Come inside.
4:45	Project: Set up a Nativity set, and read the Christmas story to your child. Let him help you arrange the figurines in the Nativity scene. Get as fancy or simple as your child's interest will last. Add craft straw to the mangers, or quilt batting for snow.
5:15	Clean up, read a story, free play.
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Advent Week: Tuesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Sing songs. Teach “Feliz Navidad”
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Counting Gifts. Help child make his “wish list”. He will cut out pictures of toys he likes, and paste them onto a sheet of paper. Give him a number limit –what ever you think is appropriate. Not a time to teach greed, but a good sorting, decision-making activity, with cutting practice. You can “mail” the finished picture to Santa or Grandma.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: If you have snow, you can use the sandbox toys. Pat snow into a pail and dump it out, build a wall of packed snow.
11:15	Project: Coffee Can Drum
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle, or a sled.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Fingerpaint with red or green paint. Shake a bit of glitter on the wet paint. After it dries, could use it to wrap a gift for a grandma or friend.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time. Watch or read “The Little Drummer Boy”.
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Advent Week: Wednesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words. Teach: We Wish You a Merry Christmas song. Review "Call Rudolph". Read the Gingerbread Baby.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Alphabet soup. Put a bunch of magnetic alphabet letters in a big soup pot, and give child a big soup ladle. He scoops out letters, and spells his name, or words. Or he finds matching letters. Whatever the skill level of your child.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Make Snow angels.
11:15	Project: Gingerbread ornaments.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Apple Slice science
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Advent Week: Thursday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Teach “Five Little Christmas Trees” fingerplay.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Clothes Pin Counting
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Go get your Christmas Tree. Bring it home and decorate it.
11:15	Project: Trim the Tree
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Eat Christmas Tree shaped cakes (Little Debbie markets one)
3:30	Outside time: Explore tree cuttings
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Paper Poinsettia. Tear or cut red and green leaf shapes. Cut a small circle from paper. Glue six or more green leaves around the edge of the circle. Glue six or more red leaves in a circle in front of the green leaves. Add dots of glue and some gold glitter. When dry, hang in the windows.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time Read “The Legend of the Poinsettia” by Tomie dePaola.
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Advent Week: Friday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Sing songs. Teach “Twinkle, Twinkle, Christmas Star”
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Matching socks.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time.
11:15	Project: Make cookies. Chose your favorite Christmas cookie recipe, and bake up a memory! Take pictures. You might find a great one for the Christmas newsletter.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time:
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Handprint Wreaths
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.