



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds

Early Years Service, Children's Services

Buckinghamshire Council

Nursery Rhyme Time

Before your child's bedtime have a look through the window to see the dark sky, point out the stars and sing 'Star Light Star Bright'

*Star light, star bright,
First star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have this wish, I wish tonight.*

Why not make a wish together? I wish



Star Light Star Bright

Winter is a time to celebrate across the world. Light is a theme as the nights get longer and darker. December brings the festival of Hanukkah 10th-18th December & Christmas 25th December

Lights, Lights Every Where

As the evening comes and it gets dark take your child outside for a walk or a drive around your neighbourhood.

Look at all the different lights and count how many different ones you see. Chat about your favourites and afterwards try to remember them together, this is great to help your child concentrate.

Why not look at this story about

[Ten Little Lights](#)



Hanukkah 'The Jewish Festival of Light' [CBeebies My Special Day Hanukkah](#)

This is an 8-day festival. Celebrated by Jewish families.

Look at this Menorah – count with your child the candles 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9. Each night of Hanukkah a candle is lit, the 'helper' candle in the middle is lit every day and used to light the others. This makes

9 candles in total. Each candle is the sign of a miracle when something amazing happened.

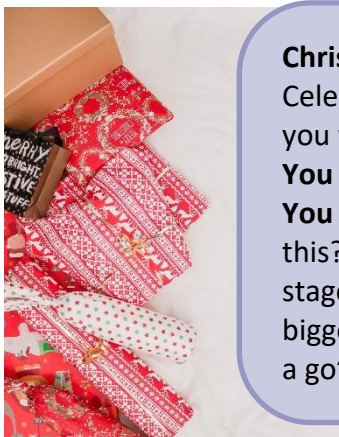
You may not celebrate this in your home but talking about this is a great way to help your child understand differences

Christmas Wrapping Up

Celebrating Christmas has become a cultural tradition in the UK, and this has developed from the Christian Religion so not everyone around you will be celebrating it. Giving presents is a part of many festivals.

You will need: A selection of boxes, packets and toys, newspaper, old wrapping paper or scrap, safety scissors and some sticking tape.

You could try: Show your child how to wrap up a present. Talk aloud what you may be thinking ... I wonder how much paper I will need for this? Will it be a small piece or a big piece? Let's test a piece to see? Oh no that's the wrong shape my present is round? Chat through the stages and how to fold the paper over and secure with the tape. Show your child how to fold the ends together to seal it up. Who has the biggest present or the smallest? Whose is the heaviest or the lightest? Can you now write a label for the parcel? Encourage your child to 'have a go' this will probably be a squiggle but ask them what it says. Talk about using scissors safely. Find out more: [Cbeebies Christmas Story](#)



Top Tips

Talking to your child about the different cultures around them and how communities celebrate differently, but together, helps your child to understand that differences are a good thing. Celebrating diversity!

Helping young children to develop an understanding of festivals through family experiences is a great place to start.

Children will learn that members of all families love one another and that they show this in different ways, for example, by caring and sharing, preparing special food and by exchanging gifts. This helps children understand we are all special, despite differences in how we look or dress, or what we eat or celebrate.

Games and activities offer a fun way for young children to learn about differences and similarities among people and to introduce the concept of diversity. All types of differences such as race, religion, language, traditions, and gender can be introduced this way.

Find out more about your Child's development

[What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents](#)

If you have any concerns about your child's development the first thing you can do is chat to your Child's Key Person at their Setting

Information for Parents/ Carers



Find out More

[CBeebies Celebrating differences](#)

[Small Talk - ideas for Parents](#)

[Hungry Little Minds Campaign](#)



Communication and Language

30-50 months

You might notice that your child can:

- Ask lots of questions and answer your questions too.
- Begin to use longer sentences with words like “because” and “and” like “I cried, I did, because I banged my foot
- Tell you about something that happened yesterday, like “remember when we went outside and saw the lights. They were pretty and sparkly”

Understanding the World

30-50 months

You might notice that your child can:

- Remember times that are special to them and talk about them, like the first day I got my scooter
- Talk about people and times that are special to them and my family and friends
- Knows that they are special and some things that they do are the same as their friends and some things are different

Mathematical Development

30-50 months

You might notice that your child can:

- I can say numbers in order from 1 to 10
- I know that numbers tell me how many things there are altogether, like 9 candles in the picture
- Begins to use words like “round” and “straight” when I talk about shapes